





DRDO successfully tests new generation nuclear capable missile Agni-P



40.845 mucormycosis cases reported in second wave: Harsh Vardhan



U.S. carried out air strikes against Iran-backed militias in Iraq, Syria

rallies past Draper Page 13

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**NEARBY** 

### Delhi HC to continue virtual hearing till July 23

The Delhi High Court on Monday said it will continue to hold court proceedings through videoconferencing till July 23. "Considering the threat of Delta Plus, a variant of concern, the full court has, therefore, resolved to adopt a policy of wait and watch, and to act cautiously, particularly in view of the loss of precious lives," the court said CITY ▶ PAGE 2

### **Punjab Congress, AAP** engage in war of words

Ahead of Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party convener Arvind Kejriwal's visit to Chandigarh on June 29, AAP and the ruling Congress were on Monday embroiled in a sharp exchange of words over denial of permission to the leader's 'press conference'.

### Farmer leaders unite against 'politics of hate'

NORTH & EAST ▶ PAGE 4

GURUGRAM Krantikari Kisan Union president Darshan Pal on Monday said farmer leaders would visit Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand apart from other States to expose the Narendra Modi government, which happens to be the most "anti-farmer" and "authoritarian". The farmers' fight is for "zameen (land) and zameer (conscience)", he said. NORTH & EAST ▶ PAGE 4



## NIA, NSG find no debris of drones at Jammu IAF base

Two drones fired upon at Jammu military installation: Army

PEERZADA ASHIQ

With no wreckage of unmanned vehicles found at the technical airport of the Indian Air Force (IAF), Jammu Air Force Station, a National Security Guard (NSG) team joined the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday to investigate the possibility of the use of a long-distance launching pad to send in drones with payloads of explosives.

Amid the development, the Army said two drones were spotted and fired upon at a military installation in Jammu on the midnight of June 27-28.

Official sources said the teams of the NSG and the NIA failed to find any debris of drones from the two blast spots at the IAF base. They



On high alert: Army personnel on vigil after drones were spotted at the Kaluchak military station on Monday. • PTI

were working on both the angles, the use of a local launch pad and a long-distance one to fly in the drones. So far, no spot had been identified as a launch pad near the base, which is just 16 km from the International Border.

It seems the drones may

have managed to drop the payload and escape from the spot. Drones, which require an open field or a building top for achieving flight, are frequency controlled and easily evade traditional radar systems.

**CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 8

# Govt. unveils ₹6.28 lakh crore stimulus post 2nd COVID wave

### Easier credit for healthcare investments

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday announced some fresh relief measures for the economy, the first such package after the second COVID-19 wave. focusing largely on extending loan guarantees and concessional credit for pandemsectors investments to ramp up

healthcare capacities. The government pegged the total financial implications of the package, which included the reiteration of some steps that were already announced, such as the provision of foodgrains to the poor till November and high-

### **Relief measures**

HEALTH / BALM FOR COVID-HIT SECTORS **■** ₹50,000 ■ Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme expanded by **₹1.5 lakh crore** crore credit guarantee for new and ongoing

- **₹60,000 crore** loan projects outside metros guarantees and ■ Interest rate capped concessional credit for at **7.95%** some sectors
- **₹15,000 crore** for ■ 25 lakh small borrowers public projects to to get guaranteed cheap augment paediatric loans worth ₹7,500 crore care, ICU beds, oxygen through micro-finance supply and medical

■ Fresh loans to over 11,000 tourism agents and guides to resume work

■ EPF sops for new jobs with salaries less than **₹15,000** per month extended till March

for first five lakh

2022 ■ Free tourist visas

er fertilizer subsidies, at ₹6,28,993 crore.

Economists, however, noted that the elements of direct stimulus in the package and its upfront fiscal costs in 2021-22, are likely to be limited. More steps may be needed to shore up the economy through the rest of the year, they said.

Calling the measures an effort to stimulate growth, exports and employment as well as provide relief to CO-VID-affected sectors, Ms. Sitharaman announced an expansion of the existing **Emergency Credit Line Gua**rantee Scheme by ₹1.5 lakh crore. She also announced a new ₹7,500 crore scheme for loans up to ₹1.25 lakh to small borrowers through micro-finance institutions.

### Beating the heat



Splashing around: Youngsters bathing in a canal on a hot Monday afternoon at Magura in Malda district of West Bengal. PPI

## 10-month dosage gap boosts antibodies, says Oxford study

Report on delayed second shot of AstraZeneca vaccine

ЈАСОВ КОЅНҮ NEW DELHI

Two doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine, administered 44-45 weeks apart, generated nearly four times the level of antibodies than when the doses were given 8-12 weeks apart, says a report by the Oxford Vaccine Group, the developers of the vaccine, on Monday. Antibody levels remained elevated for nearly a year and a third booster dose of the vaccine, given to a subset of volunteers, also significantly boosted antibody levels to twice that after a

"A single dose of ChAdOx1 nCoV-19, with a second dose given after a prolonged period, may, therefore, be an effective strategy when vaccine supplies are scarce in the short term. A third dose results in a further increase in immune responses, including greater neutralisation of variant SARS-CoV-2 viruses, and could be used to increase vaccine efficacy against variants in vulnerable populations," the authors report in a pre-print publication. This means that the study is yet to

A group of vaccine volunteers, who got their second dose 15-25 weeks after the first, saw average antibody levels at nearly twice those in the 8-12 week interval, suggesting that lengthening the duration between doses appeared to be boosting antibody count.

Thus, average IgG (immunoglobulin G) levels for 8-12, 15-25, and 44-46 weeks were 923, 1860 and 3738 units respectively, when measured 28 days after the second dose.

## Dialogue not at cost of national security, says Rajnath

Defence Minister recalls sacrifice of soldiers in Galwan clash

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Stating that the country will never forget the supreme sacrifice of those who laid down their lives in the Galwan clash last year, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday reiterated India's commitment to resolving disputes with neighbouring countries through dialogue. However, he assured that the security of the nation will not be compromised.

"Efforts should be made to find a solution through dialogue with neighbouring countries. The intention should be clear. Our Army has the capability to give a befitting reply to every chal-



Rajnath Singh

lenge," Mr. Singh said. He interacted with officers and soldiers of the 14 Corps at Karu Military Station.

Mr. Singh is on a threeday visit to Ladakh to review the security situation as India and China prepare for the 12th round of Corps Commander talks to take forward the disengagement process in eastern Ladakh. This is also his first visit to the region since the first phase of disengagement in February, in which both sides pulled back thousands of troops, tanks and armoured vehicles from Pangong Tso.

"We are the priests of world peace. Even when we take up weapons, that is to establish peace. Till date, India has neither attacked any country nor have we captured an inch of land of any country," the Minister said.

**CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 8

## Himanta defends move on population control

'Disincentives should balance sops'

RAHUL KARMAKAR GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, who has cracked down on the drug trade since taking charge on May 10, said disincentives should balance incentives in the government's approach population control.

He also defended the drive against encroachers on government, forest and monastery land, and said it was unfortunate that some saw the effort through a communal lens. He said it was accidental that some evicted people belong to the religious minority group.

"Muslim population in Assam has been growing at 29% and Hindus are grow-



ing at just 10%. This means there will be a lot of poverty and illiteracy among Muslims. We need certain measures for slowing down population growth, but we will ensure Muslims themselves take the initiative," he told The Hindu.

INTERVIEW ▶ PAGE 9

## Colleges, schools in Bihar likely to open after July 6

Classes to restart in a phased manner

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Educational institutions in Bihar are likely to reopen in a phased manner after July 6. All government and private educational institutions across the State have remained closed since April 5.

"If the COVID-19 situation keeps improving like this and remains stable, all government and private educational institutions across the State will be reopened in a phased manner after July 6,"

State Education Minister Vijay Kumar Choudhury said. On July 6, 'Unlock-3' will

end across the State. In the first phase, all universities and colleges would be allowed to open with 50% students adhering to COVID protocol. In the second phase, senior secondary and secondary classes would resume and Classes 1 to 5 would start functioning in third

phase, the Minister said. Coaching institutes too would be opened.

## Leopard killed in road accident

Feline hit by speeding vehicle near Asola Bhatti sanctuary

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT FARIDABAD

A two-vear-old female leopard was fatally knocked down by a speeding vehicle on Surajkund Road here on Monday. Chief Conservator of For-

ests (Wildlife) Mahender Singh Malik said the accident took place near Asola Bhatti wildlife sanctuary in the early hours. A board of doctors has been set up for autopsy. A video taken after the accident showed the leopard lying dead by the roadside with injuries to its face.



found dead on Surajkund Road. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mr. Malik said the leopard strayed onto the road to hunt and was hit by a vehicle. Though there were walls on both sides of the road, the fe-

line could easily scale them. Two leopards, including the present one, have died in road accidents in Faridabad in less than a year, said Mr. Malik. Similarly, two-three leopard deaths have been reported in road accidents in Gurugram's Manesar as well. Besides leopards, other

wild animals such as jackals, monkeys and neelgais have died or sustained injuries in accidents in Gurugram and Faridabad over the past few years while crossing the roads passing through the Aravalis.



### IN BRIEF

#### 'No admission denial over single parent's name'

The Directorate of Education on Monday issued an order directing heads of schools not to deny admission to candidates who have filled details of even one of the parents in the application form while taking admission Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia tweeted the order and said: "No school in Delhi shall deny admission to a child on the grounds that the child is declaring name of his/her single parent only."

#### DU to begin registration for PG courses in July NEW DELHI

Delhi University is likely to begin registrations for admission to entrance-based and postgraduate courses in the third week of July, at least a week prior to starting the process for the remaining merit-based UG courses, a senior official said

### **'Kisan Metro'** service to ferry protesters

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Protesting farmers have started a service they call 'Kisan Metro' as the tractor will take protesters from one protest site to the

The service has been started by Swacch Kisan Morcha and Life Care Foundation. "The Kisan Metro will take farmers from the Singhu border to the Tikri border and back every weekend. For now, it is only the Singhu and Tikri but eventually, it will go to Ghazipur border protest site as well," said Avtar Singh, who runs the makeshift hospital under Life Care Foundation.

He said that protesters want to go to different sites but they don't have any conveyance to go. Hence, the service was started

A 25-year-old man allegedly

tried to kill his parents in east

Delhi's Kalyanpuri on Mon-

day morning. While the fath-

er succumbed to injuries, the

mother is battling for life, pol-

ice said, adding that the ac-

Deputy Commissioner of

Police (East) Priyanka Kash-

cused has been arrested.

STAFF REPORTER



Patients being evacuated after a fire at the Emergency Department of AIIMS in Delhi on Monday. • THE HINDU

# Fire breaks out in room near operation theatre at AIIMS

No injuries reported; seven fire tenders pressed into service to extinguish blaze

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A fire broke out in a room adjacent to the operation theatre of the Emergency Department at AIIMS here on Monday morning, Delhi Fire Service said. No one was injured, they said.

A call was received at 5.04 a.m. about a blaze at the premise and seven fire tenders were rushed to AI-IMS, Delhi Fire Service Director Atul Garg said. The fire was brought under control quickly, he said, adding that it broke out in the sto-

yap said that the accused has

been identified as Vishal. He

allegedly stabbed his father

Devender, a Delhi Jal Board

worker, and his mother Man-

Police said that a PCR call

was received at 6.33a.m.

wherein the caller said he

had stabbed his parents.

When the police reached the

spot, they found a man and a

ju at their residence.

The situation is normal and under control. The casualty area has been reopened for patients

ATUL KUMAR THAKUR

reroom adjacent to the operation theatre.

According to police, a PCR call was received at Hauz Khas police station at around 5.15 a.m. about the blaze, and on reaching AI-IMS, sparking and smoke were observed in a dummy

woman lying in a pool of

blood with multiple stab inju-

ries on their bodies. They

were taken to Lal Bahadur

Shastri Hospital where De-

vender was declared dead

and Manju was further re-

ferred to Safdarjung Hospital,

where her condition is said to

Police said that Vishal was

apprehended from the spot

room near the casualty Deputy Commissioner of

Police (South) Atul Kumar Thakur said: "All the patients in the vicinity were evacuated. Seven fire brigade vehicles reached the spot and extinguished the

The situation is normal and under control, and there has been neither any casualty nor injury to any person, he said. The casualty area has been reopened for patients, the police said, adding an investigation is

and it was revealed that he

himself had attacked his pa-

rents following a quarrel.

"During preliminary investi-

gation, it was found that Vish-

al was unemployed for the

last seven-eight months and

before that as well, he wasn't

fully employed. He used to

ask his parents for money

and they used to refuse. Whe-

never they used to ask him to

Unemployed youth kills father after tiff; mother battling for life

work, he would fight," Ms.

under way to ascertain the

Another minor blaze was

reported at Safdarjung Hos-

A call was received at

7.58 a.m. about a fire near

the canteen area of the hos-

pital. Three fire tenders

were rushed to the spot,

said Mr. Garg. The fire

broke out in an under-

ground cable. It was

brought under control very

quickly and no injuries

were reported, he said.

exact cause of the blaze.

**Another minor blaze** 

pital, fire officials said.

Kashyap said. Police said that the accused didn't flee from the spot and made the PCR call. His brother also called the police. The DCP said that a case under Section 302 (punishment for murder) and 307 (attempt to murder) of the IPC has been registered and Vishal has been arrested.

### 'The full court has resolved to adopt a wait and watch policy' STAFF REPORTER The Delhi High Court on Monday said it will continue to hold court proceedings using videoconferencing system till July 23 in

the COVID-19. "Considering the threat of Delta Plus, a variant of concern (VoC), the full court has, therefore, resolved to adopt a policy of wait and watch, and to act cautiously, particularly in view of the loss of precious lives of judicial officers, advocates and court staffers,"

view of the looming threat

of the Delta Plus variant of

### **Hearing dates**

the High Court said.

The order, released by Registrar General Manoj Jain, also said that all the pending routine or non-urgent matters listed in the High Court between July 3 and July 23 shall be adjourned en bloc to corresponding dates between August 21 and September 9.

A similar order was

HC to stick to virtual hearing till

July 23 over Delta Plus threat

passed by the High Court with regard to the functioning of district courts here, stating that all the judicial officers shall take up urgent matters and 'final arguments cases' of their respective courts through videoconferencing till July 23 while the order matters shall be adjourned.

### **Utmost precaution**

The administrative order said that despite decline in the number of COVID-19 cases in the national capital, utmost precaution needs to be taken in view of the predicted third wave and limited availability of vaccines. The order also ad-

vised the stakeholders to get themselves vaccinated at the earliest.

After the imposition of the first nationwide lockdown, the High Court started conducting hearings through videoconferencing from March 24 last year to contain the spread of the pandemic.

Over five months later, the High Court resumed physical hearing of court proceedings initially with five of its Benches on a rotation basis from September 1. The number of Benches conducting physical hearing was increased gradual-

The HC later commenced complete physical functioning from March 15 this year, which was interrupted due to the second wave of the COVID-19. In April, taking a serious view of the "alarming rise in CO-VID-19 cases" in the Capital, the High Court decided to take up court proceedings through virtual mode only

## Man wanted in R-Day violence case arrested from Punjab

Accused was carrying a reward of ₹1 lakh on his arrest

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Delhi Police's Special Cell has arrested a man from Punjab in connection with the Red Fort flag hoisting case, officials said on Monday. The accused has been identified as Gurjot Singh, they said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Sanjeev Kumar Yadav said Singh was arrested from Amritsar in Punjab. A reward of ₹1 lakh was declared for his

### Produced before court

He was arrested on Sunday and was taken to Delhi and produced before a court. He will be handed over to the Crime Branch of Delhi Police who is investigating the case, police said.

He was involved in the violence that took place at Red Fort on Republic Day.



entered the monument during the R-Day protest. • FILE РНОТО

After the incident, he came outside and spoke to the media where he disclosed about his role in the incident. On that basis, he was wanted in the case and a reward of ₹1 lakh was announced on his arrest, the DCP said.

Thousands of farmers protesting against the Centre's new farm laws had

clashed with the police during a tractor parade on January 26. Many protesters, driving tractors, reached the Red Fort and entered the monument. Some protesters even hoisted religious flags on its domes and a flagstaff at the ramparts, where the national flag is unfurled on Independence

## Govt. official held for bid to run over policeman

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

A 55-year-old government official has been arrested for allegedly trying to run his car over an on-duty Noida traffic police personnel, officials said on Monday.

Accused Ajay Singhal, who works at the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), had allegedly parked his car on the road while his son bought vegetables near the Khoda Tiraha in Sector 58 police station area on Sunday evening.

"While his car was on the road, I saw a motorcycle coming on the wrong lane and took out my mobile phone to take his picture. Wrong lane driving and illegal parking are a very common offence in Khoda area," the traffic police constable who lodged the complaint said.

"Next I saw the car speeding towards me from which I had a narrow escape. The car driver, Ajay Singhal, was outraged as he thought I was taking his picture," the constable

## Plea to direct CBSE schools to give info on assessment

'Publish details on websites before finalising Class 10 results for transparency'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

A plea in the Delhi High Court on Monday sought direction to the CBSE-affiliated schools here to publish on their websites the rationale document of assessment criteria for Class 10 students before finalising results for greater transparency.

The Vacation Bench of Justices C. Hari Shankar and Subramonium Prasad said the matter be listed before another Bench not comprising Justice Shankar. It listed

the matter for hearing before another Bench on June 30.

The application for the interim relief was filed in a pending petition in which the petitioner NGO, Justice For All, has sought to modify CBSE policy for tabulation of marks of Class 10 Board Exams 2021 based on internal assessment conducted by the

The application, through advocate Khagesh B Jha and Shikha Sharma Bagga, sought an interim order to direct all the schools affiliated by the

Board to publish the rationale document for devised criteria for the assessment of students of Class 10 on their respective websites, before calculating the result and uploading the same on the CBSE portal, to bring transparency.

It said the students should be able access the document and raise grievances with the CBSE well in time along with the sagacious grievance redressal mechanism by the Board for the students. The application said that after issuance of notice by the court on June 2, a fresh FAQs have been published by the CBSE on June 9, and it became clear that there is no modification in their alleged arbitrary policy of moderation of marks yet, which is in violation of Article 21 (right to life) of the

"The present policy is absolutely discriminatory, unfair, illogical and would result in huge manipulation of marks by schools, based on the performance of the senior batch of students," it said.

## rob sister to meet alcohol expenses

Woman, PUBG partner

CCTV footage helped to nab accused

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A 21-year-old woman and a man she met while playing PUBG have been arrested for allegedly robbing the woman's sister to fuel her alcohol addiction, police said on Monday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer) Parvinder Singh said the accused have been identified as Jyoti alias Pari, a resident of Rajapuri, and Sunny (24), a resident of

Police said that on June 26, they received a call at Nihal Vihar Police Station stating that two boys have robbed a woman at gunpoint at Nilothi Extension. When the police reached the spot, they met the victim Shashi, who stated that around 1p.m. two boys came to her house and asked whether her husband Brijesh is at home.

### Barging, threatening

"She opened the door thinking they were friends of her husband. After they entered the house, one of them pointed the pistol at her head and the other closed her mouth and forced her to the ground. The boy with the pistol searched the house and ran away after locking the house from outside. Neighbours gathered hearThe boy with the pistol searched the house and ran away after locking the house from outside

PARVINDER SINGH

ing the victim's cry," Mr. Singh said.

During investigation, with the help of CCTV footage, the police identified the scooty of the accused, which they failed to take while fleeing. When one of the accused returned to take it, police apprehended him. He

was identified as Sunny. During interrogation, Sunny allegedly disclosed that the plan was hatched by victim Shashi's sister Jyoti who knew that there would be ₹50,000-60,000 at her sister's house. As they needed money, they hatched a conspiracy to rob them and divide the money.

Subsequently Jyoti was also arrested. Jyoti allegedly told the police that she had lost her job a few months ago and was addicted to alcohol. To meet the needs, she decided to rob her married sister. On the day of the incident, she was near the sister's residence till her friends carried out the rob-

# City gyms ready to scale up operations after easing of norms

Vaccination mandatory to enter some facility while a few are offering discounts, incentives and new training methods

SHINJINI GHOSH

NEW DELHI With further easing of the lockdown guidelines, gymnasiums in the city resumed operations on Monday. Apart from the usual sanitisation and temperature checks of members, several gym owners said that vaccination has been made mandatory while some others added that those vaccinated will get incentives in terms of membership deals.

Chirag Sethi, vice-president of the Delhi Gym Association said: "The SOPs were already drafted. This time we have also advised members of the association to promote vaccinations and give dis-



People working out at a gym that opened in the Capital on Monday after over two months of lockdown. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

counts. We are not making it mandatory but are trying to incentivise. The staff members are also vaccinated.

There are about 5,500 gyms in the city and around 1 lakh people are employed directly or indirectly. The lockdowns owners as well and many also had to shut down."

have increased burdens on

**Novel training** 

Siddharth Singh of Crosstrain Fight Club, however, said that vaccination of members have been made mandatory. Mr. Singh also added that with only five months of operations in the last 14 months, novel training methods were being devised to improve the business.

"We are into combat sports and it is usually difficult to maintain social distancing while training. So we have created a special programme where members will get 30 minutes of personalised workout. It will be circuit training and there is no fixed time. Members can visit whenever they choose to. Usually we used to train 50 people in a group which is not ideal right now," said Mr. Singh while adding that this was in addition to the regular protocol that are followed.

Improved revenue Stating that despite the un-

precedented situation, it was important to re-innovate and hope for improved revenue, Mr. Singh said: "The last year has definitely affected revenue but we are keen to solve the issues. We have to evolve and survive so that once there is a boom, we have benefits to reap. We are confident that our new programme will be effective." Some also said that along with reopening of centres, online classes will continue.

Rupali Kapoor of BoxFit said: "We will be opening our centre next week. Currently, we are having a thorough sanitisation process. We have a studio where only personal training will be practised. One has to book a particular slot and sanitise prior to and after training. The multiple lockdowns did affect us a lot. But initially, people did not know about online training but now it is better. So we will continue with our online

training as well."

Safdarjang

**Delhi Weather** Delhi City

**Delhi Palam Today** 40°C Moderate dry winds during day likely. Uneasy hot day and warm evening would

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow** 41°C The weather will be hot & humid with uneasy afternoon Moderate winds with dust raising winds to prevail. Night will be slight warm.

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THE HINDU



Govt. sanctions 324 schemes for villages

Delhi Village Development Board has sanctioned 342 schemes, including improving of roads, drains, waterbodies, community centre, parks, at a cost of ₹235 crore, authorities said on Monday. Development Minister Gopal Rai instructed for a time-bound progress in village development projects and said that the Delhi government is committed to provide facilities to people living in village areas.

### 'First' public toilet for third gender inaugurated

The New Delhi Municipal Council on Monday said that the "first" public toilet exclusively for third gender in the city was inaugurated by members of third gender in presence of the NDMC chairman Dharmendra. The public toilet has been started of India close to Shastri Bhawan, the NDMC said.

### 34 dengue cases in city this year till June 26

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thirty-four cases of dengue have been reported in the national capital this year, according to a civic released Monday.

The count of dengue cases for the period between January 1 and June 26 is also the highest this year since 2017 when the count was 55 in that same duration.

Dengue mosquito larvae breed in clear, standing water, while those of malaria thrive even in dirty water.

Cases of vector-borne diseases are usually reported between July and November, but the period stretch mid-December.

According to the civic report issued by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation, the nodal agency which tabulates vectorborne diseases report for the entire city, 34 cases of dengue have been recorded till June 26 this year.

The month-wise distribution of cases are - January (0), February (2), March (5), April (10) and May (12), and June (5), it

However, no deaths have been reported due to dengue till now, it said.

## Over 250 fined per hour during Unlock 4

This is double the number of people penalised for COVID violations compared with the first phase

JATIN ANAND NEW DELHI

More than double the number of people were fined for not adhering to COVID-appropriate behaviour during the fourth consecutive instalment of the unlock process in the Capital last week, as compared to the first.

From 124 residents being challaned every hour during Unlock 1, over 251 were fined every hour during Unlock 4 with as many as 6,502 singleday prosecutions on June 27, a Sunday.

According to Delhi government records, almost one-third of these prosecutions - for offences ranging from not wearing masks, or wearing them improperly, not following social distancing and spitting in public were recorded during the seven-day period from June 21 to June 27.

After consistently declining for three weeks straight, the number of citizens testing positive for COVID-19, too, increased during the interval. However, this slight increase is attributed to the addition of over 600-old cases to the city's cumulative tally of infections.



No worries: People shopping at a weekly market at Outer Ring Road on a hot Monday afternoon in New Delhi. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

From the beginning of the unlock process towards the end of May, Delhi government teams prosecuted 1,29,493 people for not following COVID-appropriate behaviour over four weeks of the unlock process from May 31 to June 6.

As many as one-third of these violations, a total of 42,275, were observed and led to prosecution, last week

were issued and 3,321 infecwhen restaurants and bars among most other economic and commercial activities the week. were allowed to resume af-

### Phases of unlock

Only construction and industrial activities were allowed during the first phase of unlock between May 31 and June 6; 20,966 fines

ter a series of lockdowns

between mid-April and May.

tions were recorded during

The second week of unlock between June 7 and June 13, during which the Delhi Metro was permitted to ply and shops at city markets were allowed to open on an odd-even basis, a total number of 29,343 people were prosecuted while the number of infections went

Between June 14 and June 20, when the Delhi Metro continued to function and all shops and city markets were allowed to open irrespective of the odd-even criterion, the number of violations soared to 36,909 even as infections reduced to 1,106.

### Recorded a surge

The fourth phase of the unlock process, during which bars and pubs were added to the list of permitted activities, the number of violations recorded an increase of over almost 15% while the tally of COVID-19 cases witnessed a surge of almost 10% with 1,215 infections during the week.

Government sources said the increase in the tally during the week was because of the addition of 477 old cases on June 23 and 170 cases to the tally on June 27. According to government records, the highest number of challans, 6,889, was issued in the South East district followed by 5,995 in Shahdara; at 2,245, the South West district accounted for the least number of fines.



A beneficiary gets a COVID-19 vaccine dose at a centre in Jahangirpuri in north Delhi on Monday. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

## 59 new cases in Capital as testing comes down

This is the lowest daily rise this year

STAFF REPORTER

With fewer tests being done, the Capital reported only 59 new COVID-19 cases in the past 24 hours, taking the total cases to 14,33,993, according to a health bulletin released by the Delhi go-

vernment on Monday. This is the lowest daily cases since April 15 last year when 17 cases were reported in a day. Also, only two deaths were reported and the total number of deaths stood at 24,967. A total of 58,895 tests were done in a day and that test positivity

rate (TPR) was 0.10%. Tests done as per bulletins on Mondays are usually less as it reflects tests done on Sunday. Of the total cases, 14,07,473 people have recovered and there are 1,553 active cases.

Delhi has a vaccine stock for the next three days, as per a vaccination bulletin. Also, as government vaccination centres were shut on Sunday, only 9,563 doses were administered due to it, as per the bulletin.

A total of 73.3 lakh doses have been administered in the city so far.

## Training course launched to tackle possible third wave

5,000 individuals will be trained in COVID-related care

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Monday launched a certificate course for health assistants, also known as community nursing assistants, to train 5,000 individuals in COVID-related

The course, which was announced earlier this month, has been launched with an aim to tackle a possible third wave and once trained, these people will assist doctors and nurses in treating patients.

The two-week long course launched by Delhi government will include 500 trainees in the first batch, who will be taught about life support, heart functioning, CO-VID-care, blood testing, sampling, first aid, home care and other procedures.

'The trainees will be taught how to measure oxygen, blood pressure, how to

STAFF REPORTER

The Aam Aadmi Party on

Monday alleged that BJP

councillor and Leader of the

House in South Delhi Munici-

pal Corporation, Inderjeet

Sehrawat, has "illegally"

constructed a hotel 'The

Orient' in Mahipalpur and

the hotel is working without

any licence from the SDMC.

Saurabh Bharadwaj alleged

that Mr. Sehrawat has also

"illegally" constructed the

third and fourth floors of a

DDA flat in Vasant Kunj, but

the municipal corporation

did not take any action on a

complaint lodged regarding

it. About the hotel, Mr. Bha-

radwaj said, "The High

AAP chief spokesperson

We want to create a model youth force in Delhi which will be equipped with all the basic skills and knowledge to fight

any medical crisis

MANISH SISODIA

inject medicines as well," an official statement said. The two-week long course is divided into two stages: The first week will be demonstrative training while in the second week, trainees will receive a practical experience.

Nine hospitals have been roped in to train them and the Delhi government has disbursed ₹5 crore for this initiative. "We want to create a model youth force in Delhi which will be equipped with all the basic skills and knowledge to fight any medical crisis. Not only will our

BJP councillor illegally constructed

hotel in Mahipalpur, claims AAP

'Civic bodies' paperwork shows construction has stopped'

Court, too, has asked the

municipal corporation to

take action and submit an ac-

tion report on it. If I show

you the status of the con-

struction today, the hotel has

been fully constructed and is

now ready. However, accord-

ing to municipal corpora-

tion's paperwork, this hotel

has been booked and all the

construction activities the-

rein have been stopped. And

according to the police re-

port, this building has been

that this property is worth

around ₹20 crore, but neith-

er the property nor the hotel

was mentioned by Mr. Sehra-

In a related development,

wat in his election affidavit.

The AAP leader claimed

demolished.'

youth be prepared to fight any crisis, they will also be able to provide medical assistance to their family and people in their community," Mr. Sisodia said.

"Within a matter of four days, 1.5 lakh people applied to be a part of this training programme. This indicates that people are enthusiastic to be a part of this course and learn. We plan on scaling this and making it a longterm, ongoing initiative," he

Health Minister Satyendar Jain, who was also present, further stated that this course is extremely important to tackle any medical crisis in the future. "This course will be able to provide individuals with employment opportunities considering there is an increasing need of health assistants in hospitals who will be able to assist nurses and doctors," Mr. Jain said.

AAP leader Durgesh Pathak

said that Delhi can be a

world-class city only when

both the Delhi government

and the municipal corpora-

tions are governed by the

Delhi BJP spokesperson Pra-

termed "shocking" that AAP

leaders were levelling "base-

less charges" on BJP counci-

lors to allegedly tarnish the

BIP's political image. "It is

surprising that AAP leader

Saurabh Bharadwaj is raising

objections on a BIP council-

lor's property which he has

fully recorded and shown in

his IT returns," Mr. Kapoor

Shankar

'BJP shocked'

## Govt. reduces COVID-19 beds

Decision comes after rise in demand for non-COVID beds

STAFF REPORTER

The Delhi government on Monday reduced the number of beds for COVID-19 treatment in government facilities and allowed for reduction of such beds in private hospitals, according to official orders.

On April 18, the Delhi go vernment had directed all private hospitals and nursing homes providing CO-VID-19-related treatment in the city to reserve at least 80% of their ICU bed capacity and 80% of their ward bed capacity for COVID-19related treatment, the order

"It has been observed that there are 22,220 COVID beds vacant and there is a rising demand for non-CO-VID beds for treatment of non-COVID patients. Hence, keeping in view the large number of unoccupied CO-VID beds, the competent authority decided that private hospitals having bed capacity of 100 beds or more,

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The BJP president on Mon-

day staged a protest at Jan-

tar Mantar here demanding that Chief Minister Arvind

Kejriwal and his Cabinet col-

leagues be booked for

"creating" an oxygen shor-

tage during the second wave

of COVID-19 infection which

led to the loss of thousands

Adesh Gupta declared that

the BJP would continue to

stage demonstrations and

protests till a criminal case

in this regard was registered

against Delhi government

Ministers and till such time

Kejriwal was

Delhi BJP president

NEW DELHI

of lives.

that Mr.



Outside Lok Nayak Hospital in New Delhi. • FILE РНОТО: SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

oxygen beds may be reduced to 30% of their total bed capacity or three times of occupancy as on June 16, whichever is more. Further, for private hospitals having bed capacity of less than 100 beds will have an option to keep COVID beds in their hospitals," an order issued

on Monday read. A separate order regarding government hospitals, said that due to the "reduction of COVID-19 cases" and "vacancy" of designated CO-VID-19 beds, the government has decided to reduce

Will continue to protest till

Kejriwal is booked, says BJP

Leaders protest over oxygen 'misuse' during second wave

the number of COVID-19 beds in the hospitals and COVID health centres under the government. The number of COVID-19

beds in Delhi governmentrun Lok Nayak Hospital has been reduced to 700 from 2,000, Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital to 150 from 650, GTB Hospital to 600 from 1,800, among others. In total, beds in 20 go vernment-run hospitals and COVID health centres have been reduced to a total of 3,000 beds and 1,620 ICU beds, as per the order.

### Central Delhi second rain deficit district in country

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

As the southwest monsoon continues to evade the Capital, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Monday released data that showed that Central Delhi which has recorded 8.5 mm rainfall so far this season is the second-most rain-deficient district in the country.

The deficit of 84% comes behind Kistwar district of Jammu and Kashmir that has recorded 5 mm precipitation, a short-

Other parts of the Capital have also received less that normal rainfall with East Delhi recording a deficit of 64%, North East Delhi a shortage of 61% South Delhi a shortage of 58%, South West Delhi and New Delhi and shortage of 50%. North Delhi and North West Delhi have received 33% and 22% less than normal. Only West Delhi has received normal rainfall so

The MeT Department has forecast a hot week ahead as conditions are not favourable for the advancement of the monsoon over Delhi.

The normal date for the monsoon to reach Delhi is June 27. However, this year, westerly winds have been blocking its advance into Delhi. On Monday, the maximum temperature settled at 40.2 degrees Celsius which is three degrees warmer than normal.

The minimum settled at 27.6 degrees Celsius which was one degree lower than normal.

The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to settle between 41 and 27 degrees Celsius respectively on June 29.

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## Harassment issue resolved with officer under inquiry, woman IPS informs HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

A woman IPS officer who complained of sexual harassment against Director General of Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D) and claimed that the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) was not properly constituted, has told the Delhi High Court

that she has resolved the

matter with the officer under

Bench of Justice Anup J. Bhambhani was informed by the woman that a conciliation note has been drawn up and filed along with an application seeking disposal of the petition.

inquiry. A single-judge Vacation

"Consequent to what was

recorded in last order dated June 21, 2021, counsel ap-

form the court that the complainant and the officer under inquiry have resolved the matter inter-se; and that a conciliation note has been drawn up and filed today along with an application seeking disposal of the petition.

pearing for the parties in-

"However the conciliation note and application are not on record. Let the same be

brought on record," the judge said.

**Next hearing** The matter has been listed for next hearing on July 5.

The High Court on June 21 had issued notice to the Centre on the petition by the senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer and suggested that in the meantime, the counsel may attempt resolu-

tion of the matter, if possible. Senior advocate Rebecca John, appearing on behalf of the petitioner, had told the court that proceedings in the complaint made are underway before the ICC constitut-

"Delhi is the only State

where during the second

COVID wave, the entire

healthcare system was

crumbling. And the irony is

despite all this, Kejriwal was

The lawyer had submitted that all the members of the ICC are subordinate in rank to the DG against whom the sexual harassment com-

ed by the Bureau.

plaint has been made. "This is in the teeth of a

still claiming about Delhi

having world-class health fa-

cilities," Leader of the Oppo-

sition in the Delhi Assembly

Ramvir Singh Bidhuri al-

BJP leaders stage a protest at Jantar Mantar on Monday. • PTI

verdict of a coordinate Bench of this court in Rashi vs Union of India, which mandates that an internal complaints committee must not comprise members who are subordinate in rank to the person who is the subject matter of the complaint before such committee," Ms. Iohn submitted.

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THE HINDU

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### **PERSONAL**

CHANGE OF NAME I, Pappu Yadav S/O Mahesh Prasad Yadav, R/o. B-138 JJ Colony Bharat Vihar Kakrola Sector-15, New Delhi -110078, have Change my Name from Pappu Yadav to Piyush Yadav

I, Rahul S/o Dr. Rash Lal Yadav R/o 216, Second Floor, Tagore Park, De-lhi-110009 have changed my name to Rahul Yadav for all purpose.

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is hereby informed to the General Public that I, Gauri Mehta, D/o Lalit Mehta, R/o Star Court 8 Jaypee Greens Greater Noida, have los the Original Provisional Allotment Letter No. JGGVOO753 dated April 11, 2008 issued by Jaiprakash Associated Limited in respect to Unit bearing No. 901 in Star Court 8 project, situated at Jaypee Greens Greater Noida on 23 June 2021 Anyone finding the said documents is requested to kindly return the

Gauri Mehta, 901 Star Court 8. Jaypee Greens, Greater Noida

MADRAS RACE CLUB CIN: U74999TN1922NPL001455 Regd. Office : Post Box No.2639, Guindy, Chennai 600032

Website: www.madrasraceclub.com Tel. No.: 91-44 22351171/2/3/45 & 22350774 NOTICE OF ANNUAL

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting ('AGM') of the MADRAS RACE CLUB ('the **Club**') for the year 2020-2021 is scheduled to be held on Friday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2021 at 5:00 p.m (IST) through Video Conference ("VC") / Other Audio Visual Means ("OAVM") to transact the business, as set out in the Notice of the AGM only

through e-voting facility.
The AGM will be held only through VC/OAVM in compliance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs The instructions for joining the AGM electronically are provided in the Notice of the AGM.

Notice of the AGM along with the Annual Report 2020-21 has been sent through electronic mode to those Members whose e-mai addresses are registered with the Club and hard copy has been posted to those do not have or who have not furnished the email id and will also be available on the Club's website at www.madrasraceclub.com and on the website of KFin Technologies Private Limited (Kfintech), the service providers for conduct of e-AGM at www.kfintech.com

Club Members are requested to register / update their email addresses by writing to the Club with details of their membership number and attaching a self-attested copy of PAN card as identity proof and self-attested copy of any document (viz. Driving License, Election Identity Card, Passport) in support of the address of the member at secretary@madrasraceclub.com
or to K fintech at

meetings@kfintech.com The Club has engaged the services of Kfintech as the authorised agency for conducting of the e-AGM and for providing e-voting facility. Members can cast their vote online from 10.00 A.M (IST) on Tuesday, the 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2021 to Thursday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2021 till 5.00 P.M. (IST). At the end of remote e-voting period, the facility shall be disabled. Facility for e-voting shall also be made available shall also be made available during the AGM to those Members who attend the AGM and who have not already cast their vote. The Members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting prior to the AGM may also attend/ participate in the AGM through VC/OAVM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again.

Only those members, whose names are recorded in the Register of Members as on the 'cut-off date' i.e. 20th June 2021 only shall be entitled to avail of the facility of remote e-voting. In terms of Articles of Association

of the Club, no Club Member shal be entitled to vote at or take part in any meeting of the Club until all moneys due to the Club by him have been paid. Hence, Club Members are requested to settle all their dues on or before Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2021, in order to cast their vote through e-voting facility.

Queries/grievances, if any with regard to e-voting, may be addressed to the Secretary, Madras Race Club through e-mail at secretary@madrasraceclub.com OR may please visit Help and FAQs section available at K fintech's website www.kfintech.com OR contact toll free No.1800 345 4001 / 1800 309 4001.

By Order of the Committee of Management of MADRAS RACE CLUB

S.NIRMAL PRASAD

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Tender Notice No.: 01104 FSLR-II-2021-06. Notice Date 16.07.2021. To be treated as

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### Optimism over tiger sighting in small Assam sanctuary

It covers 26 sq. km bordering Bhutan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI

One of Assam's smallest wildlife sanctuaries could be the newest home of the tiger in the State.

Wildlife specialists have the first photographic evidence of a tiger inhabiting the 26.22 sq. km Barnadi Wildlife Sanctuary straddling northern Assam's Baksa and Udalguri districts and bordering Bhutan. The tiger was captured in camera traps

during an exercise for more than a month up to May 10.

"We had set up the first camera trap in 2014 but could only see pug marks. The Forest Department too recorded pug marks in 2016. The images this time augur well for the small habitat well connected to a corridor between the Royal Manas National Park and the Jomotshakngkha Sanctuary," WWF-India's Sunit Das told The Hindu.

### OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

**IN MEMORIAM** 



D.O.B. 08.02.1935 D.O.D. 29.06.2019 Padma Shri Dr.Jaya Arunachalam You still live in our hearts, thoughts & deeds Remembered Forever by

Family - Yashovardhan - Nandini Azad, Ramesh Arunachalam - Janaki, Mithila - Dhananjaya Dendukuri Indira Arjun Dev

Indian Cooperative Network for Women Ltd., Vidya Bharathi Kalyana Mandapam ndependent Commission for People's Rights and Developme Rabo Home & Kamaraj Illam

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20.09.1938 - 29.06.2014 W/o Late C.N.MARGAM "Heaven's light our quide"
"It's this day 7 years ago you left us to the ence being felt / guidance' Your ever-loving Children & Grandchildren

K.RATHINAVELU (72), Retired Senior Technical Assistant (Composing) Technical Assistant (Composing), The Hindu, Chennai. Passed away on 28-06-2021. Address: 61, Stalin Nagar, Anakaputhur, Chennai For enquiries on

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### No. KPCL/2021-22/PS/WORK\_INDENT 11253 **BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION** (Through e-Procurement Portal) Competent bids are invited through e-tender platform i.e. https://eproc.karnataka. gov.in from the agencies who meets PQR, adequate financial resources and experience for the work of Routine Sample preparation, conducting analysis of

Rake coal samples of Loading and Unloading end, Station coal, Bottom Ash, Fl Ash, Pulverized Mill Samples, Oil and Mill reject and Up-keeping Coal Laborator Equipments and Instruments and Preparation of Reports of Fuel Manageme system AND Collection, loading, transportation and Unloading of Coal Lump and Mill reject at BTPS Unit 1, 2 & 3. Total Tender Amount: Rs. 3,47,29,794/-. EMD: NIL The bid documents will be processed only to those bidders who meet the stipulated gualification requirements. Tender documents may be downloaded from the Gol e-procurement website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/clarifications: 08.07.2021 upto 11.00 Hrs. Date & Time for Pre-bid meeting 14.07.2021 @ 11.00 Hrs. Last Date & Time for receipt of completed bids through e-portal: 26.07.2021 upto 16.00 Hrs. Date & Time for opening of Technical Bid: 27.07.2021 @ 16.30 Hrs. Further details can be had from the office of the Executive Engineer (Fuels)/ AGM(C)FMBTPS, KPCL, Kudithini-583 152, Bellary (Dist. Mob: +91 94808 49649/ 94482 90744.

### KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION – e-TENDER

### **ABRIDGED NIT**

The Director General (Roads), KMC invites tender online percentage rate two bid system for following work:

NIT No.: KMC/ROADS/NORTH/008/2021-2022 (1st Call) Name of Work: Repairing of damaged road surface & drainage ancillaries disturbed by Water Supply Department at Keshab Chandra Sen Street from Biplabi Pulin Das Street to A.P.C. Road in Ward No.-38 under Br.-IV. Estimated Amount (incl. GST, Cess): ₹ 17,86,450.74 (excl. Contingency Amt.). Earnest Money: ₹ 35,800/-. Period of Completion: 45 days. Last Date and Time of submission of Bid: 20.07.2021 - 12.00 noon. The bid forms and other details are available on and from 30.06.2021 (12.00 noon) from the website: https://etender.wb.nic.in

The D.G. (T.P. D.D), The Kolkata Municipal Corporation invites e-Tender through online for the following work: NIT No.: KMC/TPDD/AC/BAD/2021-22

Name of Work: Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of split type AC machines with copper pipe and other allied accessories including power distribution for Assessment-Collection (Br.-XI) Department in the Baghaiatin Market Complex (Unit-4). Estimated cost ₹ **12,62,264.16**. Earnest Money: ₹ **25,250/-.** Period of Completion: 30 (Thirty) days. Last Date and Time of submission of tender: 14.07.2021 at 4.30 p.m. Date of Opening of Tender: 16.07.2021. The bid forms and other details are available on and from 29.06.2021 (4.00 p.m.) from the website: https:// etender.wb.nic.in

## Farmer leaders unite against 'politics of hate'

'We will visit U.P., Uttarakhand and other States to expose the authoritarian and anti-farmer Modi govt.'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Krantikar Kisan Union president Darshan Pal on Monday said the farmer leaders would visit Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand apart from other States across the country to expose the Modi government which happened to be the "anti-farmer" and "authoritarian", adding that the farmers fight was for "Zameen (land)" and "Zameer (conscience)".

Mr. Pal was speaking at "Kisan Mazdoor Bhaichara Panchayat" at Sunhera in Nuh on Haryana-Rajasthan border. The public meeting was held in the background of two recent tragedies in the area the kidnapping and murder of Asif, a local youth, and the death of another young man, Junaid, allegedly due to the



KKU chief Darshan Pal and AIKS Haryana vice-president Inderjit Singh at the farmers' meet in Nuh. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

injuries inflicted in the custody of Faridabad Police - and alleged attempts to communalise the atmosphere.

Swaraj India national president Yogendra Yadav exhorted the people to "foil the designs of the BJP and the RSS to disrupt the unity of Mewat region that had very deep historical roots of common saand common heritage". After having been unsuccessful in its other machinations to suppress the ongoing farmers agitation they were desperate to disrupt the social fabric by inciting communal violence which was their last resort keeping also in view the impending Assembly elections in some States including Uttar Pradesh, said Mr. Yadav. Bharatiya Kisan Union

(Charuni) leader Gurnam Singh Charuni explained that the toiling people remained poor because they were divided on caste and religion. All-India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) president Ashok Dhawale referred to the freedom struggle which had martyrs from different religious communities -Hindu, Muslim, Sikhs – and even tribals that formed a cultural mosaic which was facing its test and needed to be preserved.

AIKS Haryana vice-president, Inderjit Singh stated that Mewat region was penalised out of vengeance for its

rebellious character first by Britishers and later by successive regimes after Independence in all development matters including irrigation, education, employment and excesses by the police.

### 'BJP organised riots'

Young farmer leader Abhimanyu Kohar accused the BJP of organising communal riots in Muzaffarnagar in 2013 and cashing it in 2014 Lok Sabha election.

Jagjit Singh Dallewal, Satyawan, Ibrahim Khan, Zafar Yaduvanshi, Ranjit Raju, Satbir Singh and Maulana Saleem were also present.

A resolution was passed at the meeting by raising of hands that politics of hate and division will not be allowed to succeed and farmers movement will be strengthened.

## Ahead of Kejriwal's Punjab visit, Congress, AAP in war of words

Govt. has denied permission for Delhi CM's press meet: AAP

VIKAS VASUDEVA

CHANDIGARH Ahead of Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convener Arvind Kejriwal's visit to Chandigarh, AAP and the ruling Congress were on Monday embroiled in a sharp exchange of words over denial of permission to Mr. Kejriwal's 'press conference'

Punjab president AAP Bhagwant Mann said Mr. Kejriwal would visit Chandigarh on June 29, where he would announce a roadmap for the State's development in the run-up to the Assembly polls, due early next year. Mr. Mann said Mr. Kejri-

wal would be making 'big announcements' about Punjab. "Mr. Kejriwal will an-

nounce benefits for the people of Punjab on the lines of unlimited facilities being

provided to the people of Delhi. He could also promise to provide free electricity to the people of Punjab and to save them from the costly electricity at present," he said.

Mr. Mann said in Punjab every section of society was suffering due to inflation, but women were the worst

### 'More facilities'

"Mr. Kejriwal would release his plan to provide more facilities to women and arrangements for their savings. The government had failed to provide facilities to the people due to which every section was feeling cheated. At present paddy sowing is in full swing but due to nonavailability of electricity, farmers are not able to do so properly. Mr. Kejriwal will also present his formula for overcoming the power crisis in Punjab," he added.

Mr. Mann alleged that the Punjab government refused permission for Mr. Kejriwal's press conference at Punjab Bhawan. "Mr. Kejriwal is coming to expose the lies of Captain Amarinder Singh's government, and this has scared the government," he said.

However, Capt. Singh, through the official Twitter handle of the Chief Minister's Office, said the allegation of denying permission to the press conference was "totally not true. We let @ArvindKejriwal address a rally here just few days back so why should we stop him now from having a press conf. If he wants I'd be happy to arrange his lunch too. @AamAadmiParty wants to do drama even if it means lying."

## HC dismisses plea against Jaipur Mayor's suspension

'State govt. decision not arbitrary'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Rajasthan High Court on Monday dismissed a writ petition filed by Somya Gurjar challenging her suspension as the Mayor of Jaipur Greater Municipal Corporation earlier this month on charges of manhandling the local body's Commissioner. Upholding the decision

for Ms. Gurjar's suspension, a Vacation Bench comprising Justice Pankaj Bhandari and Justice C.K. Songara directed the Rajasthan government to expedite the judicial inquiry initiated against her and complete it within six months. The court held that the Mayor was not required to be heard before passing of suspension order. The court also upheld

the constitutional validity of Section 39 of the Rajasthan Municipalities Act,

2009, which empowers the State government to suspend a Mayor. The State government had suspended Ms. Guriar and three municipal councillors - two of them elected on the BJP ticket - on June 6, saying their continuance in office could influence the judicial inquiry.

### 'Move without malice'

"We are of the considered view that the decision has been taken after due deliberation and application of mind. After considering the preliminary inquiry report, the decision cannot be said to have been passed arbitrarily or with malice," the Bench observed in its 31page order.

The Congress government had appointed BJP leader Sheel Dhabhai as the interim Mayor after Ms. + Gurjar's suspension.

### Ten dead, 2 hurt as vehicle falls into gorge in Himachal

SHIMLA

Ten people died and two others were injured as a vehicle fell into a deep gorge in Himachal Pradesh's Sirmaur district on Monday, an official said.

A pick-up van carrying members of a marriage party fell into the gorge near Pashog in Shillai sub-division, Shillai Sub-Divisional

General Public is hereby informed that

an unidentified dead body of a male

Namely Unknown S/o Unknown, R/o

Unknown Age: about 30 years,

Height: 5'7", Complexion: Shallow,

Face: Long, Built: Thin, Wearing:

white & Black coloured T-shirt, Green

coloured pant and Red slipper in feet,

Magistrate Suresh Singha

The spot is located on the border of Paonta Sahib and

The Shillai SDM told from the spot that nine persons died on the spot while one died on way to a Paonta Sahib hospital.

A total of 12 persons were in the ill-fated vehicle, he

## said.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

Shillai sub-divisions.

## completing inoculation by July 31 95% of targeted population has already taken the first jab

Bhubaneswar marching towards

SATYASUNDAR BARIK

With vaccination drive accelerated across Odisha, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Monday exuded confidence that it would complete inoculation of all its eligible population by July-end.

The fast-paced drive in the capital city is likely to achieve the target of vaccinating 9 lakh people in a little over month - the first among urban centres in the country.

The confidence stems from the fact that 8,47,004 persons have already taken the first dose, which is close to 95% of the total targeted population to be covered under vaccine programme.

Similarly, 4,79,647 persons have been administered the second dose con-



People standing in queue for vaccination in Bhubaneswar •

stituting 54% of the total targeted population. The targeted beneficiaries of 18 years and above are 9 lakh. The BMC announced to inoculate the rest of the population with the second dose in a month time.

"We are targeting to inoculate 28,000 persons aged 18-44 per day by July 3. We intend to complete vaccination of first dose in next five days. Many persons in this group, who are part of health workers and frontline workers, have already been vaccinated. If we complete first dose by July 3, the vaccination in all likelihood will be completed by July 31," said Mr. Singh.

'50% vaccinated' "We are the city with highest

percentage of vaccination target already achieved. More than 50% of the eligible population in Bhubaneswar has been vaccinated while in other cities, the vaccination is in the range of 25%," he said.

"Our coverage has been very strategic. We have taken innovative approach by identifying vulnerable groups and potential spreader groups. We have inoculated them in separate camps," said the BMC Commissioner.

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**ZONAL OFFICE, PATNA ZONE** 1st Floor, Chanakya Place, R-Block, Patna-800001

Possession Notice (for movable Property)

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the BANK OF INDIA under the Securitisation and Reconstruction o Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002 issued a demand notice as detailed in the table nereunder written calling upon the below mentioned borrowers to repay the amount shown in the respective notice nentioned against their names in the table, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice he borrowers/guarantors mentioned below having failed to repay the amount shown in the respective notices issued u/s

13(12) within the stipulated time, notice is hereby given to the aforementioned borrowers/guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property/ies (Secured Assets) described in the table given below in exercise of powers conferred on me under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 9 of the said rules on

the date(s) mentioned against the respective property. The aforesaid borrowers/guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the

l	N.	Borrower/Guarantor	Amount as per Notice u/s 13(2)	Details of property	of Assets					
		M/s Rahul Enterprises Prop.: Mr. Manoj Kumar S/o Late Ram Chandra Prassad, Sai Chak, P.S: Beur, P.O: Anisabad, Patna-800002 Guarantor: Mrs. Priyanka Kumari W/o Mr. Manoj Kumar, Sai Chak, P.S: Beur, P.O: Anisabad, Patna-800002	Branch, (ii) Demand Notice Date : 31.12.2020, ₹ 75,14,064.32 + interest and	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Residential Land standing in the name of Mr. Manoj Kumar S/o Late Ram Chandra Prasad, Sai Chak, P.S: Beur, P.O: Anisabad, Patna-800002. The property is situated at Mauza: Saichak, Beur, Patna details of	28.06.2021					
which are as under: Deed No. 13161 dated 05.05.2010, Tauzi No. 5068, Thana No. 32, Khata No. 44, S. Plot No. 225, Mauza: Saichak, P.s: Beur within the Registration Sub District: Patna Sadar and District: Patna, Bounded: On the										

North by: Shri Nawal Rai & others, On the South by: Plot of Lallu Prasad, On the East by: Supporting Road, On the West by: Supporting Road. \*With further interest at applicable rate till repayment. Authorized Officer

was found dead on 24.06.2021 at 09:43 AM in front of Traffic Training Park, Near Bangla Sahib Gurudwara on Footpath, Baba Kharak Singh Marg, New Delhi. In this regard a FIR/DD No.27-A, dated 24.06.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Parliament Street, New Delhi. If any one having any clue about deceased male may kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers. P.S. Parliament Street. New Delhi Ph.: 011-23361100, 23342700

### DP/290/NDD/2021 Mob.: 8750870521 **SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED**



R/o: J-147, Prem Nagar, Lal Kuan Pul Prahlad Pur, New Delhi has been kidnapped since 18.03.2021 from the area of PS Pul Prahlad Pur, New Delhi. In this regard FIR No. 99/2021 dated 19.03.2021 has been lodged at Police Station Pul Prahlad Pur, Delhi. The description of

Name: Pratima, Age: 16 Years, Height: 5' Feet, Face: Long, Complexion: Shallow, Built: Thin, Wearing: Pink and White Checkdar Suit, White Salwar and School

Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 SHO Police Station, Pul Prahlad Pur, Delhi

DP/79/SE/2021

General public is hereby informed that a girl namely Pratima, D/o: Sh. Hari Narayan,

missing girl is as under:

If anyone has any information about this Missing girl please inform P.S. Pul Prahlad Pur, Delhi. Web: http://cbi.nic.in, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in

Ph: 011-26366800, 8750870934

property/ies mentioned in the table hereunder written and any dealings with the said property/ies will be subject to the charge of the **BANK OF INDIA** for the amount shown in the respective column of the table and interest thereon. (i) Branch, ii. Date &

### IN BRIEF



### 6 of family found dead in farm pond in Karnataka

Six persons, including four children, belonging to the same family were found dead in their farm pond in Doranahalli village of Karnataka's Yadgir district on Monday. Quoting villagers, the police said, unable to bear financial difficulties, Bheemaraya, 45 and his wife might have decided to end their lives, along with their children.

(Those in distress can call 104).

### HC dismisses plea for bannning WhatsApp

The Kerala High Court on Monday dismissed a PIL seeking a directive to the Centre to ban the operations of WhatsApp if it does not co-operate with the lawful authorities in the country. The petition was filed by K.G. Omanakuttan from Idukki

## CBI seeks to record Narayanan's statement

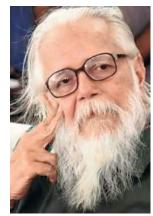
Central agency's team is in Kerala to probe police frame-up that resulted in the ISRO spy case in 1994

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A Central Bureau of Investigation team was here to investigate the police "frameup" that allegedly resulted in the infamous "ISRO spy case" in 1994.

Last month, the CBI filed an FIR marked as classified in the Chief Judicial Magistrate court here accusing four former law enforcers of "wrongful arrest, custodial torture, and unjustified incarceration" of former ISRO scientist Nambi Narayanan and others.

It had named retired Director General of Police Siby Mathews, who headed the Special Investigation Team (SIT) that probed the ISRO scandal, his deputies K.K. Joshua, S. Vijayan, and Thampi. S. Durgadutt, and the then Deputy Director, Intelligence Bureau, R.B. Sreekumar, as accused in the FIR. Recently, a district court



Nambi Narayanan

here had granted anticipatory bail to Mr. Mathews in the

According to sources close to Mr. Narayanan, the CBI had contacted the former scientist and sought time to take his statement on Tuesday. They said the agency had spoken to him on the phone. Mr. Narayanan reportedly told the investiga-

### Former police officers move anticipatory bail plea

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

An anticipatory bail petition was filed on Monday before the Kerala High Court by S. Vijayan and Thampi S. Durgadutt, former police officers and accused in a case registered by the CBI for torturing and hatching a

conspiracy to frame ISRO scientist Nambi Narayanan in the ISRO espionage case. The petitioners said they had not done any excesses on anyone. Nor had the two foreign women made any complaint against the police when they were produced before the court.

tors that he was ready to give his statement.

However, the agency had not fixed the interview venue. It was not immediately known whether the CBI had contacted the accused in the case. They have also moved the court for anticipatory

The grim chapter in the annals of police investigation

in Kerala has its provenance

in a case registered at the

Vanchiyoor station on No-

vember 13, 1994. Based on a "dubious" special branch report, the police had booked two Maldivian women for overstay and violation of the provisions of the

The charging officers accused the women of attempting to entrap ISRO scientists involved in the cryogenic engine procurement project. In addition, they alleged the women had spirited out high-end space secrets out of India for a foreign power.

Soon, newspapers were awash with "ill-informed and salacious" reports about honey traps, stolen rocket designs, ensnared scientists, complicit politicians, and conniving police officers. Mr. Narayanan, fellow scientist D. Sasikumaran, and two IS-RO consultants K. Chandrasekhar and Sudhir Kumar Sharma were caught up in the vortex of the stormy scandal

Opposing factions in the then ruling Congress exploited the scandal to settle scores. The ISRO spy case led to the resignation of then Chief Minister K. Karunakaran. The CBI had registered the case at the behest of the

ample by donating 800 acres of their family land for distri-

bution among the poor, Mr.

Prime Minister when the

country's economy was in a

state of bankruptcy with the

RBI's gold reserves mort-

gaged to overcome the fo-

reign exchange problem,"

Mr. Chandrasekhar Rao said,

adding that the credit of her-

alding economic reforms in

the country and allowing fo-

reign investments to create

large-scale employment op-

portunities would go to the

Dr. Tamilisai Soundarara-

jan said the real tribute to

the first Prime Minister from

the south would be to follow

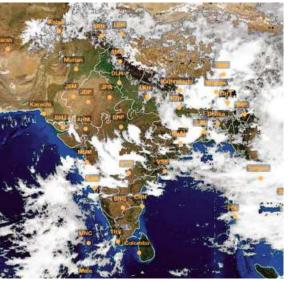
his ideals and continue his

late Narasimha Rao.

"He [PV] took over as the

Rao said.

Allah



Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Gangetic West Bengal and Bihar. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, central Maharashtra, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Lakshadweep

rtala32.027.4	Kozhikode		31.6	24.
nedabad32.627.7	Kurnool	. 15	.32.9	.24.
ıwl24.722.9	Lucknow	–	.35.3	.28.
habad36.627.7	Madurai		36.6	.26.
galuru 0.427.620.8	Mangaluru	3.7	.29.9	.24.
pal – 35.2 24.0	Mumbai	. 20	31.4	.24.
baneswar 2.234.026.5	Mysuru		.30.9	21.
ndigarh – 38.8 27.0	New Delhi		.40.2	.27.
nnai 34.333.323.7	Patna	. 29	34.6	.25.
nbatore 532.423.0	Port Blair	3	.32.8	.25.
radun – 33.7 25.1	Puducherry		34.2	.25.
gtok 4.420.717.7	Pune	3.8	31.6	21.
	Raipur	0.1	34.5	.25.
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hal327.122.4	Srinagar		31.0	.28.
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kata 1434.527.4	Visakhapatnam	6	34.6	.25.
infall data in mm: temperature in Co	alsius)			

# ...204 .230

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

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

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

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

### Customs arrests prime suspect in gold case

Charged with abetting smuggling

The Customs team probing the Karipur gold smuggling case arrested prime suspect Arjun Ayanki, with alleged links to the ruling CPI(M), after interrogating him here on Monday.

The Kannur resident was learnt to have been arrested for abetting smuggling of 2,332 gm of gold with a market value of ₹1.11 crore. A Customs officer said the agency suspected the involvement of over 30 people belonging to multiple gangs in the spree of gold smuggling incidents and allied incidents such as kidnapping of suspected carriers.

The statement of Mohammed Shafeeque Melethil, a native of Malappuram, recorded by the Customs after it arrested him for allegedly smuggling in 2,332 gm of gold on June 21 by an Air India flight from Dubai, contained the names of Saleem, Jaleel, Muhammed and Arjun (Ayanki) as having been involved in the operation.

Upon the agency's request, Shafeeque Melethil was on Monday remanded by the additional chief judicial magistrate (economic offences) of Ernakulam in seven days' Customs custody for interrogation.

## PV a pioneer of economic reforms: KCR Telangana CM

lauds role of former PM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan and Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao paid rich tributes to former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao at the concluding event of his birth centenary organised by the State government here on

A statue of Narasimha Rao was unveiled on the occasion; Necklace Road was renamed after him as PVNR Marg and an announcement was made to establish P.V. Narasimha Rao School of Literature in Kakatiya Universi-



Celebrating centenary: A statue of former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao was unveiled in Hyderabad. • RAMAKRISHNA G

ty, Warangal. A PV Memorial would also be established at P.V. Gnana Bhoomi here.

Eight books published to commemorate the occasion, including the coffee table book brought out by Sanjaya Baru on Narasimha Rao, were released at the event.

Mr. Chandrasekhar Rao said the land reforms taken up by Narasimha Rao during his time were pioneering as they were not possible but for a strong resolve considering the litigations on land is-

Besides, he had set an ex-

OMAR RASHID

Bahujan Samaj Party chief

Mayawati on Monday re-

next year Uttar Pradesh As-

sembly polls - "U.P. ko ba-

chana hai, bachana hai.

U.P.... We have to save all

sections of society... We have

to bring the BSP to power]".

that her party's focus was on

the Assembly polls and not

Ms. Mayawati emphasised

LUCKNOW

# NORTH & WEST

## Maharashtra's recoveries outweigh new Mayawati coins slogan for U.P. election cases; active tally drops below 1.20 lakh

State reports 6,727 COVID-19 cases, 101 fatalities; 611 fresh infections in Mumbai

In a positive reversal, Maharashtra's recoveries outpaced its cases, with the State reporting 10,812 recoveries against a surge of 6,727 new COVID-19 cases on Monday. The State's active case tally has dipped below 1.20 lakh to reach 1,17,874. A total of 287 deaths were

added to the State's 'progressive death toll' of which 262 were part of the Health Department's ongoing 'reconciliation' process. As many as 86 deaths occurred in the last 48 hours and a further 15 were from the past

The State's total death toll has climbed to 1,21,573 with the State's case fatality rate



at Wadia Hospital in Mumbai on Monday. • EMMANUAL YOGINI

rising to 2.01%

The State's total cases have touched 60,43,548 while its cumulative recoveries have gone up to 58,00,925 with the recovery rate rising again to 95.99%.

"Of a total 4,12,08,361 laboratory samples tested thus far, 60,43,548 (with the average case positivity falling incrementally to 14.65%) have returned positive with over 1.64 lakh samples being tested in the last 24 hours," State Surveillance Officer Dr. Pradeep Awate said.

Pune reported more than 700 new cases taking its total case tally to 10,52,646. As per the State Health Department figures, 15 deaths were recorded as the toll rose to 16,672. According to district authorities, the active cases crossed 9,500 while the fatality toll has reached 17,834.

Mumbai recorded 611 new cases to take its total tally to 7,20,960 while the active cases stood at 12,446. Eighteen fatalities took the city's death count to 15,414.

Kolhapur in western Maharashtra added more than 1,300 new cases pushing its total cases to 1,53,331 of whom 10,875 are active.

elections. She defended her deci-

chayat

She emphasises BSP's focus is on Assembly poll and not on zilla panchayat polls leased a new slogan as part of her preparation for the Sarvajan ko bachana hai,

bachana hai, BSP ko satta mein lana hai va zaroor la-Mayawati. • na hai [We have to save

sion to not field candidates for the zilla panchayat chairperson posts, saying that winning the seats depended on "sale and purchase" and "misuse" of the state machinery.

on the ongoing zilla pan-The BJP government was chairperson adopting the ways of the previous SP (Samajwadi Party)



government and the polls were not independent, she alleged.

'Strengthen party'

Ms. Mayawati told her party workers that instead of spending time and energy in these polls, they should invest on strengthening the orcrease its support base among 'sarvasamai' or all communities.

### SP video

A day earlier, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav released a 138-second promotional video targetting Adityanath-led government's handling of the CO-VID-19 crisis.

"Sukh dukh mein saath nibhaya hai. Sukh dukh mein saath nibhaenge," he tweeted lines of the song.

The video features people struggling for oxygen and hospital beds, references to bodies floating in rivers and images of migrant workers returning home.

### Ministers flayed for parking cars at athletic track

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE

The Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government faced criticism from the BJP which accused State Ministers as well as Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar of using a sports track at Pune's Shree Shivchhatrapati Sports Complex for parking their cars during a review meeting on Sunday.

After Pune BJP MLA Siddharth Shirole posted images taken from a vernacular news report of MVA leaders parking their vehicles on the track, the incident drew flak from other BJP leaders, including Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju.

## Doctors hold day-long strike in Punjab

They allege govt. wants to destroy public healthcare system

VIKAS VASUDEVA CHANIDGARH

Doctors in Punjab government hospitals observed a day-long strike on Monday against certain recommendations and implementation of the 6th Pay Commission, which they said would destroy the public healthcare system.

Elective surgeries and telephone-based consultations were suspended in most of the government hospitals. Emergency services and surgeries etc. were, however, not affected.

The strike was observed on the call given by the Punjab Civil Medical Services Association (PCMSA) supported by the Punjab State Veterinary Officers Association (PSVOA), the Punjab

Dental Doctors Association, the Homeopathic Doctors Association, the Ayurvedic Doctors Association, the Rural Medical Officers Association and the Punjab Medical and Dental Teachers Association.

'Against delinking NPA'

PCMSA senior vice president Dr. Gagandeep Shergil said if their demands were not fulfilled by July 1, then doctors will be forced to intensify the agitation. "The government wants to destroy the public healthcare system by defunding it and then rendering it defunct. The people will then turn against the government system and the government will hand over the system to the corporate

sector. Our struggle is to

save the public healthcare system," Mr. Shergil told The Hindu.

are protesting against the State's 6th pay commission recommendations over delinking of Non-Practicing Allowance from the basic pay. The pay commission has recommended reduction in the NPA from 25% to 20%. This is not acceptable," said Mr. Shergil.

The government doctors had on June 25 observed strike in support of their demands.

The State government had on June 18 decided to accept the majority of the recommendations of the 6th pay commission, and decided to implement them from July 1, with retrospective effect from January 1, 2016.

### STATE BANK OF INDIA STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH (SARB)

2nd Floor, Patna Main Branch Building, West Gandhi Maidan, Patna-800001 Phone No.:- 0612-2200968, 2219385, Fax No.: 0612-2219387, E-mail: sbi.05176@sbi.co.in

Publication of Notice regarding Possession of property u/s 13(4) of SARFAESI Act 2002

and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, a demand notice was issued on the dates mentioned against each account and stated hereinafter calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date o

The Borrower/Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of power conferred on him/her under Section 13 (4) of the said The Borrower/Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will

be subject to the charge of the **STATE BANK OF INDIA** for an amount and interest thereon

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the

	Name of Proprietor/ Partners/Guarantors /Owners of Property etc.		Amount Outstanding	Date of Demand Notice Date of Possession
M / s Janki Construction, Prop: Mr. Sarvindra	Kumar S/o Late	(1) All that plot of land measuring 01 Katha 12 dhur located at Mouza- Mohsinpur, Thana-Khusrupur, Sub-registry Office at Patna City, Sadar Registry-Patna, Dist Patna, Bihar. This	Thirty Four Lac Seventy Two	26.05.2020
Kumar, Address: Vill.: Mosimpur, Khusrupur, Dist.: Patna		land is covered under Touzi No. 2105, Thana No. 142, Khata No. 04, Khesra No. 306 (part) and registered in the name of Sri Sarvindra Kumar s/o Late Ram Uchit Singh vide Sale Deed No. 6390 date 06/11/2012	26/05/2020 plus accrued	25.06.2021

(2) All that plot of land measuring: 7.50 Decimal located at Mouza- Mohsinpur, Thana- Khusrupur, Sub-regtstry Office at Patna City, Dist.- Patna, Biha This land is covered under Thana No. 142, Khata No. 169, Khesra No. 303 and registered mortgage by Sri Sarvindra Kumar s/o Late Ram Uchit Singh vide Registered Mortgage Deed no. 8661 date 18/11/2016. The Boundaries of the land are:- North - NH-30, South - Ram Pravesh, East - Prahlad Prasad, West-Arvind Singh & Road. Date: 28.06.2021 (Authorized Officer)

The Boundaries of the land are: North - Kharidar Vasika Haza, South - Plot Haza Nij Mokir, East - Plot Haza Nij Mokir, West - Ram Pravesh Noniya.

State Bank of India, SARB, Patna Place: Khusrupur

### A case of no case

The trend of imputing seditious design to criticism of the government is disturbing

The sedition case against Lakshadweep film-maker Aisha Sultana has all the undesirable indicators of the misuse of the penal provision: intolerance towards any strident criticism of policy, tendency to discern non-existent threats to the state and deliberate resort to it despite the absence of any ingredient of the offence. Therefore, it comes as no surprise that the Kerala High Court has granted her anticipatory bail mainly on the ground that neither Section 124A, which penalises seditious speech or writing, nor Section 153B, which seeks to punish imputations against national integration, is attracted. There may be some cause for those in the Lakshadweep administration to feel aggrieved that the film-maker, in the course of a heated discussion on the policy changes sought to be brought about by the Administrator, accused the authorities of unleashing a "bioweapon" against the people by relaxing quarantine rules for those entering Lakshadweep. However, as the court has rightly pointed out, there is nothing in use of the term that tended to create disaffection against the government or incite the people against it. It ought to have been clear to everyone except the administration, its police and the BJP functionary who complained against her speech that there was no malice or motive to subvert the government established by law. Of course, it is noteworthy that the police did not rush to arrest her, but only issued a notice to her to appear before the police to explain her remarks, indicating that there may not have been a threat of arrest.

Yet, the very institution of the case is questionable. It is disconcerting that courts are repeatedly called upon to reiterate that strong speech or writing against government policy is not enough to book someone for sedition, and that only incitement to violence or an inclination to cause public disorder amounts to such an offence. The court considered the political context in which the vehement criticism of the administration has come about. There is much debate about the administrative changes introduced by the Administrator, Praful Khoda Patel, since he assumed office last December. The context, indeed, was the criticism of the modified operating procedure, under which the mandatory provision for quarantining visitors to Lakshadweep was given up. Many attribute the exponential rise in COVID-19 cases to this modification. Another Bench of the High Court has stayed the administration's order to close down dairy farms run by the Animal Husbandry Department and remove meat from the menu for school mid-day meals. When controversial orders are made, they do have a propensity to attract vehement protests and strident criticism. Unfortunately, the tendency to accuse critics and detractors of having a design to provoke disaffection against the government is spreading among authorities across the country. It is clear the problem lies in the continuance of questionable provisions such as the one on sedition on the statute book.

### War of words

Govt. should require Twitter to follow rules, but not be vindictive for political reasons

T Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad's censure of Twitter, after it temporarily blocked his account upon receiv-Ling a notice for copyright violation last week, is valid, but only to an extent. Mr. Prasad was right in calling out Twitter, as he did over a series of tweets, for not giving him prior notice of the blocking, as required by India's IT Act rules. The blocking was triggered because Twitter had reportedly received a notice for violations under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA), filed by the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry, the content in question being A.R. Rahman's song 'Maa Tujhe Salaam'. Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, who is also the Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology, replied to Mr. Prasad, saying he had a similar experience. "Locking is a foolish response to a DMCA notice; disabling the video (which they've now done) should be enough," Mr. Tharoor wrote. Having raised the issue, however, Mr. Prasad went on a needless attempt to make the issue look more than what it really is. One of his tweets in this regard was this: "It is apparent that my statements calling out the high handedness and arbitrary actions of Twitter, particularly sharing the clips of my interviews to TV channels and its powerful impact, have clearly ruffled its feathers."

It is quite likely that this is just a case of a global platform struggling to adhere to the laws of multiple jurisdictions where it has substantial interests. Mr. Tharoor's point in this regard needs highlighting. He tweeted, "But getting a notice from a UK-based organisation, citing @Twitter's role as a 'service provider' under a US law, points to the challenges of @TwitterIndia's operations in India." Nothing more needs to be read into it. Mr. Prasad's outburst is a pointer to the level of deterioration in the relationship between Twitter and the Indian Government. Their already strained relationship has worsened further after Twitter's defiance in not accepting all of the Government's takedown requests from time to time. The problematic new IT rules have also contributed to this unease. But then Twitter also has to share some blame. It has opened itself up to attacks from all sides because of its inability to pull down or label problematic content consistently. It has also come across as being indifferent in adhering to the requirements of the new IT rules, including the timely appointment of a grievance officer. On the other hand, it would be best for the Government to just let the rules do the talking rather than take every opportunity to raise the pitch. This only makes it look inefficient and cantankerous.

## The law of sedition is unconstitutional

An urgent review of the Kedar Nath judgment is necessary as 'sedition' violates the basic right of speech and expression



P.D.T. ACHARY

n Vinod Dua's case (2021), the Supreme Court of India has reaffirmed the law of sedition laid down in Kedar Nath Singh (1962) and directed governments to adhere to it. This reaffirmation seems to be a little problematic. The Kedar Nath judgment upheld the constitutional validity of sedition as defined in Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code. And the Court read down the provision by holding that only writings or speeches which incite people to violence against the Government will come within the mischief of sedition. So, as per this judgment, unless speeches or writings tend to cause violence or disorder, there is no sedition.

### Issue of 'disaffection'

Section 124A of the IPC, which contains the law of sedition, categorises four sources of seditious acts. They are, spoken words, written words, signs or visible representations. The gist of the offence is: bringing or attempting to bring the government into contempt or hatred, or exciting or attempting to excite disaffection towards the government. There are three explanations attached to this section. The first explanation says that 'disaffection' includes disloyalty and all feelings of enmity. The second and third explanations say that one can comment on the measures of the government or other actions of the government without bringing or attempting to bring it into contempt or hatred or exciting or attempting to excite disaffection towards the government. These explanations do not convey anything different from what the defining section says.

Here is an illustration. If a person writes that the Government is very good but the vaccine policy is bad, perhaps he may not attract the charge of sedition as per the explanations. But he should invariably state that the government is very good. If he only says that the policies and actions of the government are consistently bad and does not say that the government is very good, he is liable to be charged with sedition. The recent examples of sedition cases amply prove this point.

The Supreme Court's assertion in Kedar Nath that there is sedition only when writing or speech can lead to violence or disorder has consistently been ignored by governments all these years, and citizens of all ages have been charged with sedition for merely criticising the authorities. The Lakshadweep case is the latest example.

The problem actually lies in the fact that the law of sedition was not struck down by the Supreme Court in 1962 as unconstitutional. There was every justification for doing that because sedition, as defined in Section 124A of the IPC. clearly violates Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution which confers the Fundamental Right of freedom of speech and expression, the most valuable right of free citizens of a free country.

### Not a reasonable restriction

Further, this section does not get protection under Article 19(2) on the ground of reasonable restriction. It may be mentioned in this context that sedition as a reasonable restriction, though included in the draft Article 19 was deleted when that Article was finally adopted by the Constituent Assembly. It clearly shows that the Constitution makers did not consider sedition as a reasonable restriction. However, the Supreme Court was not swayed by the decision of the Constituent Assembly.



It took advantage of the words 'in the interest ... of public order' used in Article 19(2) and held that the offence of sedition arises when seditious utterances can lead to disorder or violence. This act of reading down Section 124A brought it clearly under Article 19 (2) and saved the law of sedition. Otherwise, sedition would have had to be struck down as unconstitutional. Thus, it continues to remain on the statute book and citizens continue to go to jail not because their writings led to any disorder but because they made critical comments against the authorities.

#### A few ironies

A great irony here is that the law of sedition, which should have gone out of the Statute Book when the Constitution of India came into force, was softened through interpretation and made constitutionally valid by the Supreme Court. This law was enacted by the British colonial government in 1870 with the sole object of suppressing all voices of Indians critical of the government. James Stephen, the author of the Bill, had clarified then that not only critical comments but even a seditious disposition of a person will attract this penal law. It was the policeman who would decide whether a person's disposition was seditious.

The history of this most draconian law during colonial rule would reveal that the basic propositions laid down by Stephen have been followed by courts in all cases on sedition before Independence. In the Bangobasi case in 1891, Bal Gangadhar Tilak's case in

1897 and 1908 and Mahatma Gandhi's case in 1922, the High Courts, and ultimately the judicial committee of the Privy Council, consistently held that incitement to violence or rebellion is not a necessary part of sedition under Section 124A of the IPC and a mere comment which the authorities think has the potential to cause disaffection towards the government is seditious and the person can be arrested and put on trial. **Justice Arthur Strachev, while stat**ing the law of sedition before the iury in Tilak's case, had made it absolutely clear that even attempts to cause disaffection would attract the provision, meaning thereby that rebellion, disorder or violence are not an ingredient of sedition. This statement of law by Justice Strachey was approved by the Privy Council.

The Supreme Court, while dealing with Kedar Nath, faced a tricky situation. On the one hand, there was the overwhelming judicial opinion saying that in order to attract sedition, a critical comment which causes disaffection towards the government or bring the government into hatred or contempt, is all that is necessary. If this opinion were followed by the Supreme Court, sedition in the IPC would have become unconstitutional. But the top court, for some unexplained reason, did not want to hold it unconstitutional. So, it adopted the reasoning given by the Federal Court in Niharendu Dutta Majumdar vs Emperor in 1942 in which it was held that the gist of the offence of sedition is public disorder or a reasonable apprehension of public disorder. In fact the Privy Council's statement of law of sedition had clearly held that public disorder was not an ingredient of sedition. The Supreme Court itself admits that the Federal Court did not have the advantage of seeing the Privy Council's statement of law, otherwise it would have affirmed the Privy Council's

Here we cannot miss the irony that the Supreme Court's attempt to read down Section 124A, to soften it and make its application conditional on public disorder, has made this colonial law constitutionally valid which otherwise it is not. On the other hand, if the judicial opinion on sedition given during the colonial period had been accepted, it would have been held unconstitutional and free India's citizens would not have been thrown into jails for criticising the governments.

### **Impacting rights**

In the ultimate analysis, the judgment in Kedar Nath which read down Section 124A and held that without incitement to violence or rebellion there is no sedition, has not closed the door on misuse of this law. It says that 'only when the words written or spoken etc. which have the pernicious tendency or intention of creating public disorder' the law steps in. So if a policeman thinks that a cartoon has the pernicious tendency to create public disorder, he will arrest that cartoonist. It is the personal opinion of the policeman that counts. The Kedar Nath judgment makes it possible for the law enforcement machinery to easily take away the fundamental right of citizens.

In a democracy, people have the inalienable right to change the government they do not like. People will display disaffection towards a government which has failed them. The law of sedition which penalises them for hating a government which does not serve them cannot exist because it violates Article 19(1)(a) and is not protected by Article 19(2). Therefore, an urgent review of the Kedar Nath judgement by a larger Bench has become necessary.

P.D.T. Achary is former Secretary General,

# Reopen the files, reconsider privatisation

In the backdrop of an economic contraction, it is prudent to revisit the aggressive privatisation of public enterprises



AJAY SHANKAR

rivatisation of the public sector, including banks, has been part of the wish list of economic reformers since 1991. This was at the core of the 'Washington Consensus'. The private sector is inherently more efficient. The ground realities of democratic politics in India, however, kept coming in the way of actual privatisation, though progressive disinvestment of the shares of public sector undertakings in the market has been taking place over the

The National Democratic Alliance in the early 2000s did undertake some privatisation but had to pause because of political backlash. This was never in the United Progressive Alliance agenda. For six years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also did not consider it important. But it is now being pursued with vigour, has high priority with extremely ambitious targets, reminiscent of the Thatcher era in the United Kingdom.

India is right now going through its worst economic crisis. The highest-ever contraction in the economy took place last year, unemployment has risen, incomes for growing numbers are falling, bank non-performing assets (NPAs) may be ballooning, and the fiscal deficit is rising. In these circumstances, it would be prudent to think through the pros and cons of the aggressive privatisation of public enterprises that is on the anvil. There are three categories of public sector enterprises, with each needing its own analysis.

### Categories, issues, solutions

There is the category of enterprises which have been sick for a long time. Their technology, plants and machinery are obsolete. Their managerial and human resources nave atrophied. Reviews have come to the same conclusion: these are beyond redemption. They should be closed, and assets sold. But this has been difficult with successive governments as the labour in these enterprises have had a political constituency which has prevented closure. With its political strength, the Government should be able to close these in a time-bound manner with a generous handshake for labour. After selling machinery as scrap, there would be valuable land left. These land values have become high. Prudent disposal of these plots of lands in small amounts would yield large incomes in the coming years. All this would need the creation of dedicated efficient capacity as the task is huge and challenging. These enterprises may be taken away from their parent line Ministries and brought under one holding company which should have the sole mandate of speedy liquidation and as-

Then there are enterprises which have been financially sick but can be turned around. Their difficulties can be traced to ministerial micromanagement especially in enterprises with a direct consumer interface. Where private management through privatisation or induction of a strategic

partner is the best way to restore value of these enterprises, this should be pursued on priority. Air India and the India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) hotels are good examples. But these need bold decisions. Air India should ideally be made debt free and a new management should have freedom permitted under the law in personnel management to get investor interest. Once debt free, management control with a 26% stake may be given. As valuation rises, the Government could reduce its stake further and get more money. If well handled, significant revenues would flow to the Government.

### The Chinese model

Then there are many profitable enterprises. Pragmatism instead of ideology should guide thinking about them. The Chinese chose to nurture their good state-owned enterprises as well as their private ones to succeed in the domestic and global markets by increasing their competitiveness in cost, quality, and technology. In the Fortune 500 list, the number of Chinese enterprises is 124, and of these, 91 are state-owned enterprises (https://bit.ly/2Ud8dH6). The Chinese chose to promote

both their public as well as their private sector enterprises to rise. Both have made China the economic superpower that it is today.

With profitable public enterprises, the Government can continue to reduce its shareholding by offloading shares and even reducing its stake to less than 51% while remaining the promoter and being in control. Calibrated divestment to get maximum value over the medium term after considering market conditions should be the goal instead of being target driven to get a lower fiscal deficit number to please rating agencies. In correct accounting practice, asset sales should not be classified as revenue income for computing the fiscal deficit.

In parallel, managements may be given longer and stabler tenures, greater flexibility to achieve outcomes, and more confidence to take well-considered commercial risks. It was done in the past when, say, Maruti was set up. It can be done again. Many have the potential of becoming global champions. They can also be asked to invest patient capital in strategic areas where risk is high and where risk averse private investment may not be easily forthcoming. The Chinese have done

### Redirect the private sector

Outright privatisation has other implications. First, the number of Indian private firms which can buy out public sector firms are very few. Their limited financial and managerial resources would be better utilised in taking over the large number of private firms up for sale through the bankruptcy process and where a paucity of

buyers is slowing down the muchneeded rapid turnaround of these firms to give a higher growth momentum to the economy. Then, these successful large corporates need to be encouraged to invest and grow both in brownfield and greenfield modes in the domestic as well as international markets. This would be better for India entering a higher growth trajectory with an increase in investment rates which have been falling, than in using their scarce resources for taking over government enterprises with no real value addition to the economy in the near term. Sale at fair or lower than fair valuations to foreign entities, firms as well as funds, has adverse implications from the perspective of being 'Atma Nirbhar'. Again, greenfield foreign investment is what India needs and not takeovers.

Then, there are broader considerations. These enterprises provide for reservations in recruitment. With privatisation, this would end and unnecessarily generate social unrest. In dealing with the novel coronavirus pandemic crisis, the Government has been able to use its ownership to get banks and public enterprises to do so many things on an immediate basis. A similar option does not exist with private enterprises. Would it be in India's interest to lose the strategic capacity that its ownership of public enterprises including financial ones provide it? It would be better to think carefully now. These are one-way streets where one cannot retrace one's steps easily.

Ajay Shankar is former Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Government of India

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It is the opposite in many

### 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.

### 'Drone' attack

The report, "Suspected drone attack on IAF Jammu station leaves 2 injured" (Page 1, June 28), only leaves one shocked. One cannot help but contrast this with a report, "DRDO successfully tests new generation nuclear capable missile Agni-P" (Online edition, June 28) Though there is an explanation (Inside pages, June 28) about how difficult it can be to detect drones, a reader is left wondering about our state of readiness and the grave dangers drones can

pose to other vital and sensitive installations. MANOHARAN MUTHUSWAMY,

■ As is usual when a peace or political process is on to resolve the Jammu and Kashmir issue and usher in peace, those elements opposed to peace seem to have raised their ugly heads vet again. One can only draw the conclusion of this being a result of activity from across the international border. The needle of suspicion points to anti-India syndicates. The ingenious modus operandi

now does not require manpower and the perpetrators are less traceable. India does need to heighten its security. NALINI VIJAYARAGHAVAN,

■ As the incident shows, sabotage and violence are gaining momentum, which should not be allowed to grow. We cannot rest content that this attack resulted only in injuries. And, what has happened to our intelligence? SRAVANA RAMACHANDRAN, Chennai

### **Clearing court cases**

It is to be appreciated that the Madras High Court is considering the appointment of ad hoc judges to clear the backlog of nearly six lakh cases. As far as only civil cases are concerned, ad hoc judges could be appointed as it is common that litigants go in for arbitration in civil matters and where retired iudges are usually involved as arbitrators. It is not advisable to have this formula for criminal cases. The elephant in the room is the alarming level of judicial vacancies. There should be

no vacancies at all when it comes to judicial fora which is a sine qua non for the enforcement of the rights of the people.

### **Police excesses**

The move by the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister to grant compensation of ₹10 lakh to the family of a victim of police brutality in Salem only highlights the fact that there is falsehood to the hackneyed statement often bandied about: the police is your friend and not your foe.

cases and this is the sorry state of affairs in India. The higher-ups do need to go through the police manual frequently, if there is one, and not hesitate to add or delete clauses. Police excesses are still etched in the mind – the case in Tamil  $\,$ Nadu, in 2020, of a father and his son being brutally manhandled and losing their lives, and the Bhagalpur blindings of 1979-80.

MANI NATARAAJAN,

Chennai







# Keeping alive conversations about AIDS

We can draw key lessons from chronic epidemics such as HIV/AIDS to stymie the COVID-19 pandemic



Four decades ago, on June 5, 1981 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported an unusual fungal infection of the lungs (pneumocystis carinii pneumonia) in five gay men in Los Angeles. That was the first time the world learnt about the devastating infection caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) in people with a weak immune system.

We are in June of another decade and another century, and another virus is haunting us. Clioepidemiology is the study of information from past epidemics for advice about the present. We have dealt with the HIV infection for 40 years. What stops us from drawing from the collective experience of the past and entering this new battlefield against COVID-19 well-armed?

### Falling short of targets

It is widely acknowledged that India scripted one of the biggest success stories in fighting HIV/AIDS between 1997 and 2010, after the infection hit the shores in 1986. The achievement of "controlling AIDS" was flagged by the Centre in 2012 as a small victory in the long journey of accepting, understanding and fighting the disease. But soon, we fell short of our targets.

The aim of the World Health Organization, of which India is a member, was to ensure that 90% of the people living with HIV/AIDS are on anti-retroviral therapy by 2020. The target has been pushed by at least five years. Similarly, the 2017 National Health Policy and the UN Sustainable Development Goals aim to end AIDS by 2030. This goal too looks like it may take longer to achieve. Former Union Health Secretary and National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) Director, J.V.R. Prasada Rao, who helmed India's AIDS response programme till 2017 as Special Envoy to the Secretary General of the United Nations on HIV/AIDS for the Asia Pacific region, fears that the country is at risk of losing hard-won gains.

When the COVID-19 outbreak



AIDS, with 98% of new infections in

the high-risk groups. This happened

because the campaign to educate

and empower the vulnerable com-

munities - MSM (men who have sex

with men), IDUs (Injecting Drug Us-

ers), migrant and sex workers, and

truck drivers – was losing steam. An

entire new generation had grown up

on Internet knowledge. They were

downloading dating apps and hook-

ing up with no awareness of AIDS.

Natural desires and sexual behaviour

cannot be changed; yet discussions

with adolescents on safe sex were bu-

The pioneers of the AIDS movement

understood that a strong political

leadership, financial support, advo-

cacy and activism were non-negotia-

ble in the successful handling of the

movement. "When the HIV reality

was unfolding in India, we did not

look at short-term interests but took

a long-term view of AIDS beyond the

health sector and the socio-econom-

ic impacts of the epidemic," writes

Mr. Prasada in his book Celebrating

Small Victories: My Journey Through

Two Decades of AIDS Response. India

needs to keep the conversation going

and focus on the broad coalition of

economists, scientists, doctors, re-

searchers, technicians, civil society

representatives and policymakers,

he says. He stresses on the need for a

multi-sectoral and multi-pronged

strategy to contain AIDS. To fight any

medical crisis, we can trust the same

formula of supporting science-driven

responses, good quality data and em-

pirical evidence; and consolidating

new HIV infections by 2030; we only

"There is a road map for reducing

guidelines.

Trusting the same formula

shook the world last year, transferring the blame for unmet targets got easy. But AIDS had actually fallen off the radar long before. And if it is further flushed out of public memory, it will be difficult to check progress on controlling it.

### **How India slipped**

After years of debate and hard work, India had everything going for it to escalate the fight against HIV/AIDS. The information and education campaigns of the 1990s helped to check the transmission of HIV infection through two routes: mother to child, and blood transfusions. Strict antenatal protocols were established and blood banks were upgraded with superior testing facilities. The sale of blood was banned. Excellent awareness programmes and intensive follow-up action plans led to significant decline in incidence, but the reduced visibility of the disease led to plateauing of efforts. While politics let AIDS slip from being priority health news, arrogance and complacency of governments between 2013 and 2019 slackened the implementation of AIDS control programmes country-

Post-2014 elections, the government was keen to show the world that it was close to beating AIDS, says Mona Mishra, strategic planning consultant (HIV/AIDS project), UNDP. The HIV infection diagnosis rate dropped from 60% in 2010 to 23% in 2019, the mortality rate doubled and new cases spiked five times more during the period. According to NA-CO's annual HIV Estimates report of 2019, there were over 58,000 AIDSrelated deaths and over 69,000 new HIV infections added to the pool of 2.3 million people living with HIV/ need to repurpose it," says Ms. Mishra. Good data and information from scientific investigations have to be combined and the Centre needs to provide resources to scale.

The nationalised AIDS treatment plan is a perfect example of how early detection, diagnosis and treatment saved many lives. It gave a head start to the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) when every State and Union Territory established its own AIDS control organisation and was given a free hand and funds to monitor the epidemic and work on integrated action plans under NA-CO's supervision.

Universal precaution and prevention were NACP's bedrock. Experts say the NACP's experience in dealing with HIV needs to be tapped into. The existing workforce in 21,000 Integrated Counselling and Testing Centres (ICTC) is well-equipped. They can help in early detection of infections, provide basic information on modes of transmission, promote behavioural change, reduce vulnerability and link people with care and treatment services. A majority of the ICTCs has an excellent outreach in the interiors. The staff can also be easily utilised for dealing with CO-VID-19 now.

At the core of every exit strategy is a strong surveillance system. The government needs to rejig its priorities and re-energise the ICTCs along with the 32,000-plus primary and urban health centres to uphold the right to treatment and the dignity of individuals affected by diseases - AIDS, COVID-19 or any other. For that, acknowledging the existence and enormity of the problem is crucial. Using the available tools in the healthcare system is the best way to mainstream health crises. By integrating education and awareness outreach programmes and re-allocating and releasing funds on time, any chronic (TB/HIV/malaria), acute (cholera/ plague) or new outbreak becomes easier to deal with.

There is no dearth of experiences to draw from if only we are inclined to learn from our past, rather than forget and be "condemned to repeat it", in the words of writer-philosopher George Santayana. And that is also why AIDS needs to be back on the

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## Rattling foreign investors

India's failure to honour adverse international judicial rulings hurts its image as an investment destination



PRABHASH RANJAN & PUSHKAR ANAND

On August 15 last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid down his vision for an Atma-Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan (self-reliant India initiative). He said that India is emerging as a major destination for foreign direct investment (FDI) and is shifting its focus from 'make in India' to 'make for the world'. In pursuit of this ambition, the Commerce Ministry recently reported that India attracted the highest ever FDI of \$81.72 billion in 2020-21. However, several economists argue persuasively that the surge in FDI inflows is driven by unprecedented short-term portfolio investment inflows and a few major acquisition deals involving select corporations.

An important factor that propels investors to invest in foreign lands is that the host state will keep its side of the bargain by honouring contracts and enforcing awards even when it loses. But when the host state refuses to do so, it rattles the investors, shakes their confidence in the host state's credibility towards the rule of law, and escalates the regulatory risk enormously. Sadly, to an extent, this has been India's story over the last few years.

### **Defiance of awards**

Last year, India lost two high-profile bilateral investment treaty (BIT) disputes to two leading global corporations - Vodafone and Cairn Energy - on retrospective taxation. The responsibility for these two adverse arbitral awards lies at the door of the United Progressive Alliance-2 (UPA-2) government that startlingly amended the tax law retrospectively after losing a case to Vodafone at the Supreme Court. The current government, instead of remedying the past mistake by honouring both the arbitral awards and restoring India's lost credibility in the eyes of the investor community, continues to exhibit the same defiance. India has challenged both the awards at the courts of the seat of arbitration. While India is well within its rights to do so, it continues to maintain that it 'never agreed to arbitrate' a tax dispute an argument that the Cairn tribunal rejected unequivocally, and rightly so.

As India drags its feet on the issue of compliance, Cairn has launched legal proceedings in the U.S. to enforce the arbitral award of \$1.2 billion by seizing the assets of Air India. This not only puts Air India in dire straits, especially when the government is at-

tempting to privatise it, but also harms India's reputation in dealing with foreign inves-

### The interminable Devas saga

The other set of high-profile BIT disputes which stick out like a sore thumb for India arose from the cancellation of an agreement between Antrix, a commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation, and Devas Multimedia, a Bengaluru-based start-up, for the lease of satellite spectrum. The UPA-2 government annulled this agreement arbitrarily on the grounds of national security. This annulment led to three legal disputes a commercial arbitration between Antrix and Devas Multimedia at the International Chambers of Commerce (ICC), and two BIT arbitrations brought by the Mauritius investors in Devas Multimedia under the India-Mauritius BIT and by Deutsche Telekom, a German company, under the India Germany BIT. India lost all three disputes. The ICC arbitration tribunal ordered Antrix to pay \$1.2 billion to Devas after a U.S. court confirmed the award earlier this year. India challenged the Deutsche Telekom tribunal award in the Swiss Federal Tribunal (being the court of supervision of the arbitration) requesting for annulment, but lost the case.

After the ICC award, Indian agencies started investigating Devas accusing it of corruption and fraud. In what seemed to be a case of pulling a rabbit out of the hat, last month, the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) ordered the liquidation of Devas on the ground that the affairs of the company were being carried on fraudulently. Further, the NCLT directed the official liquidator to prevent Devas from perpetuating its fraudulent activities and abusing the process of law in enforcing the ICC award. This has led to Devas issuing a notice of intention to initiate a new BIT arbitration against India, sowing the seeds for complex legal battles again.

Indisputably, transgressions by foreign investors should be dealt with firmly. But a closer reading of these cases reveals that whenever India loses a case to a foreign investor, immediate compliance rarely happens. Instead, efforts are made to delay the compliance as much as possible. While these efforts may be legal, it sends out a deleterious message to foreign investors. It shows a recalcitrant attitude towards adverse judicial rulings. This may not help India in attracting global corporations to its shores to 'make for the world', as Mr. Modi correctly aspires.

Prabhash Ranjan will soon join the Jindal Global Law School as a Professor and Vice Dean. Pushkar Anand is an Assistant Professor of Law at Delhi University. Views are personal

The Ma Bindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 29, 1971

Constitutional revolution

Calicut, June 28: Mr. Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer

at the Kerala High Court said here last even-

ing that political freedom by itself was not

sufficient to complete the revolution to

which the Indian people had dedicated

themselves. A ballot, he said, was not a

bread. It could only bring bread. Speaking

on "Fundamental rights under the Indian

Constitution and social revolution" at a sym-

posium organised in memory of Mr. C.K. Go-

vindan Nair at the Town Hall, he said that he

had always felt when hearing politicians de-

nouncing courts that the judges were more

sinned against than sinning. The judiciary

did and must occupy the highest place in the

constitutional set-up and must play its role

in bringing about a constitutional revolution

through law so that there might not be any

attempt at insurrection by unruly elements

in defiance of law. He said the people had

waited for long for changes. The signs of ide-

ological violence were symptoms of a deep

disease. The challenge of disorder could be

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FROM THE JUNE

Malegaon, June 24: The further hearing of

the Malegaon riots case in which 127 accused

are charged with murder, arson and rioting

was proceeded with before Mr. H.V. Brah-

met only by a constitutional revolution.

 $28\ \text{edition}$  as there is no edition for

Malegaon riots case

quette of his profession.

## Entering the CAPF's turf

It makes no sense to appoint Army officials as advisers for anti-Maoist operations in the Home Ministry

In recent times, whenever personnel of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) have suffered reverses, there has been an immediate hue and cry, particularly from Army veterans, that the training and skills of CAPF personnel need to be honed. They follow it up with preposterous suggestions that ex-servicemen from the Army should be inducted into the

Unfortunately, a majority of TV channels invite Army veterans and at times even Air Force veterans to give their 'expert opinions' when some attacks by Maoists take place, as was the case in Bijapur on April 3, 2021. In that incident, five security personnel were killed and over 12 injured in an encounter with Maoists. Even senior IPS officers who may never have been involved in combating Maoists in field situations appear on channels to air their 'expert opinions'.

### On the battlefront

The allegations that CAPF personnel are not well-trained falls flat when we look into the history of these paramilitary forces. Border Security Force (BSF) and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel were in the battlefront in the 1971 India-Pakistan war and won medals.

As part of the Indian Peace Keeping Force in Sri Lanka, CRPF personnel fought the militants there.

Every year, CRPF personnel observe April 9 as Valour Day in commemoration of the incident at Sardar Post in the Raan of Kutch in 1965 when a small contingent repulsed a Brigade strength attack of the Pakistan Army. The CRPF contingent killed 34 Pakistani soldiers and captured four of them alive. Though six CRPF men sacrificed their lives while holding on to the post until reinforcement arrived, the incident found entry into the annals of war history wherein a paramilitary force could inflict heavy casualties on a regular Army Brigade.

If the north-eastern States enjoy peace and tranquillity these days, the credit goes in large measure to the CAPF personnel deployed in every State in the region. Though some insurgent outfits are still active in certain parts, they do not pose a very serious threat.

In the Punjab, it was the CRPF alongside the Punjab Police that brought the situation under control.

Several operations conducted jointly by the CRPF and the Kashmir Police resulted in many losses for the militants and caused little damage to the security forces. This brought a modicum of order in the region. As Deputy Inspector General of Police (Operations) of CRPF in the Valley, this writer along with CRPF Battalions and the Special Operations Group of the Kashmir Police was involved in several operations. In almost all these operations, the security forces emerged unscathed. The Army was never associated in any operations in Srinagar then.

### A versatile force

It is absurd to appoint Army officials as advisers for anti-Maoist operations in the Ministry of Home Affairs. What exposure and experience do they have to combat Maoists? The Army has never fought against the Maoists. What sort of advice can they be expected to render to the experts of the CAPFs in the field who have spent a major part of their lives combating insurgents and extremists?

Trained initially by State police officers, the Greyhounds, a specialised commando outfit of erstwhile Andhra Pradesh, was able to inflict heavy casualties on Maoists forcing them to migrate to neighbouring States. The elite Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) has played a stellar role in killing some top Maoist leaders and continue to be dreaded by the Maoists.

The CAPFs have well-established training centres across the country with instructors of high calibre. Let us not cast aspersions on their training or competence. The fact that they  $\,$ are able to tackle terrorism in Kashmir, fight the Maoists in left wing extremism-affected States, combat insurgency in the Northeast, ensure smooth conduct of elections and control riots across the country speaks volumes about their versatili-

M.P. Nathanael is Inspector General of Police (Retd), CRPF



**DATA POINT** 

### Spending more, eating less

The prices of edible oils and pulses have increased significantly in June. An analysis of retail prices of 21 essential items across India shows that to buy 1 kg of each, a consumer has to spend ₹500 more in June 2021 than its average cost between 2016 and 2019 in the same period. This expense comes at a time when income levels have decreased due to stringent lockdowns. The Hunger Watch Report<sup>^</sup> found that 27% of the respondents lost their incomes due to the national lockdown and 24% saw their incomes reduce by half by October 2020 compared to pre-lockdown levels. As a result, at least 64% of them said that their consumption of pulses had decreased "a lot or somewhat" by October 2020 compared to March 2020. The second wave and its associated local lockdowns might have worsened the situation further.

By Sumant Sen, Jasmin Nihalani and Vignesh Radhakrishnan

1. INFLATED BILL | The table lists the retail prices of 1 kg/1 litre\* of an essential commodity in two time periods: on June 25, 2021, and the average price between 2016 and 2019 on the same day. For instance, 1 kg of sunflower oil cost ₹172 on June 25, 2021. Its average price on the same day between 2016 and 2019 was ₹96

			Fi	gures in ₹/	kg or ₹/litre
Item	June 25, 2021	2016- 2019 avg.	Item	June 25, 2021	2016- 2019 avg.
Sunflower Oil	172	96	Urad Dal	109	99
Tea	277	206	Milk*	49	42
Soya Oil	152	87	Rice	36	30
Mustard Oil	171	108	Wheat	31	26
Palm Oil	131	73	Jaggery	47	44
Vanaspati	134	78	Salt	18	15
Groundnut Oil	181	130	Gram dal	77	74
Moong dal	105	83	Potato	21	19
Masoor dal	87	70	Sugar	40	40
Arhar Dal	107	94	Tomato	23	32
Onion	28	17	Total	1.997	1.461

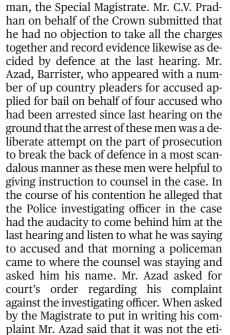
**INCOME DROP** | The table depicts the change in monthly household income in October 2020 compared to the period before the national lockdown. Over 27% of the households which were earning before the lockdown had no source of income after the

ockdown was imposed						
Change in income	%					
No income	27					
Reduced by half	24					
Reduced by quarter	20					
Reduced slightly	19					
Income is unchanged	6					
Can't say	4					

EATING LESS | The table depicts the change in household consumption of commodities in October 2020 compared to March 2020. For instance, 38% of households reported that the consumption of vegetables decreased a lot in October 2020 compared

.o March 2020									
Commo- dity	Decreased a lot	Decreased somewhat	Increased	No change					
Rice/ wheat	24	30	16	26					
Pulses	29	35	11	21					
Veggies	38	35	8	15					
Egg / Meat	43	28	3	10					

Source: Department of Consumer Affairs, Hunger Watch ^3.994 respondents across 11 States from both urban and rural centres across many occupational categories



### FROM PAGE ONE

### Govt. unveils stimulus of ₹6.28 lakh crore

She also unveiled a fresh loan guarantee facility of ₹1.1 lakh crore for healthcare investments in non-metropolitan areas and sectors such as tourism. A separate ₹23,220 crore has been allocated for public health with a focus on paediatric care, which will also be utilised for increasing ICU beds, oxygen supply and augmenting medical care professionals for the short term by recruiting final year students and interns.

Indirect support for exports worth ₹1.21 lakh crore over the next five years, free one-month visas for five lakh tourists, and new seed varieties for farmers were also included in the package. The existing sop to spur employment, where the government bears EPF contributions for new employees earning less than ₹15,000 a month for two years, has been extended till March 31. 2022

"Setting aside the guarantee schemes and the announcements that had already been made earlier, the step up in the fiscal outgo within 2021-22 based on the fresh announcements is estimated around at ₹60,000 crore," said Aditi Nayar, rating agency ICRA's chief economist.

Economist D.K. Srivastava reckoned that the additional burden on the 2021-22 Budget from the 'three direct stimulus initiatives' providing free foodgrains, incremental health projects' spending, and rural connectivity – would be ₹1,18,390 crore or about 0.5% of estimated GDP for 2021-22.

"Although the total impact amount seems large at nearly ₹6.29 lakh crore, a large portion of this is by way of credit guarantee schemes where there is no immediate outflow. The impact on the fiscal deficit will be limited while the stock markets could give a mild positive reaction," said HDFC Securities managing director and CEO Dhiraj

### NIA, NSG find no debris of drones at IAF base

They could cover up to 30-40 km of distance. Police sources said a few persons working at the base were questioned but let off later.

So far, India has not blamed any country for the attack, which has left two IAF personnel injured.

Meanwhile, the Army has sighted and opened fire at two drones near a military installation in Jammu's Kaluchak. "On the midnight of June 27-28, two drone activities were spotted over the Ratnuchak- Kaluchak Military area by alert troops," defence spokesman Lt. Col. Devender Anand said.

The movement of drones triggered a high alert.

The Army said, "Quick Reaction Teams engaged them with firing. Both the drones flew away. A major threat was averted by the alertness and proactive approach of the troops. The security forces are on high alert and a search operation

## + 10-month dosage gap boosts antibodies: study

The volunteers chosen were among those who'd been part of the phase 1/2 and phase 2/3 clinical trials

Covishield, which is the India-made version of the AstraZeneca vaccine, is now the mainstay of India's vaccination programme comprising nearly 88% of the 32 crore doses administered so far. Though the dosage interval of the vaccine was initially designed as between 4-6 weeks, a supply crunch in May, as well United Kingdom data on the vaccine's efficacy administered 8-12 weeks apart weighed on Indian experts to recommend a 12-16 week interval between two doses of the vaccine.

The latest study also reported reduced common adverse events after the second dose compared to the first. After a first dose, antibody levels peaked in 28 days and after 180 days were nearly half as that of the peak. At 320 days, these were only 30% of the peak

A group of scientists, many affiliated to the Oxford Vaccine Group have previously shown that protection against symptomatic COVID-19 from 22 days after the first dose was around 76% and a second dose administered 12 weeks after the first, improved it to 81%.

In the case of the Pfizer vaccine, a single dose conferred protection of 52% whereas it increased to 95% after the second dose.

An analysis from the British Covid-19 infection survey found that both the Pfizand AstraZeneca vaccines reduced infections by 61%-66% after the first dose and 80%-79% after the second dose. "A second dose is needed to fully develop the immune response," said Shahid Jameel, Director, Trivedi School of Biosciences, Ashoka University, who perused the newest

The study also reported higher antibody levels after the second dose than prior to it when antibody levels were measured against the coronavirus variants Alpha (B.1.1.7), Beta (B.1.351) and Delta (B.1.617.2), also the most prevalent variant in

## 'Dialogue not at cost of national security'

Mr. Singh inaugurated 63 bridges, built by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) located in six States and two Union Territories (UTs), at an event held at Kyungam, 88 km from Leh. "I'm confident that the bridges inaugurated today will play a crucial role in strengthening security as well as promoting the economic development of the respective states through improved connectivity," he said.

One of them is a 50-metre single span steel super structure bridge constructed on the Leh-Loma Road in Ladakh and replaces a bailey bridge. This will ensure unhindered movement of heavy weapon systems including guns, tanks and other specialised equipment, the Defence Ministry said. "The Leh-Loma Road, which connects Leh with places such as Chumathang, Hanley and Tso Morori Lake, is vital for access to forward areas in Eastern La-

Eleven of the bridges are in Ladakh, four in Jammu and Kashmir, three in Himachal Pradesh, six in Uttarakhand, eight in Sikkim, one each in Nagaland and Manipur and 29 in Arunachal Pradesh built at a combined cost of ₹240 crore.

# Nuclear-capable Agni-P missile test-fired

It has many advanced technologies and will strengthen our credible deterrence capabilities: Rajnath

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

A new-generation nuclearcapable ballistic missile, Agni-P (Prime) was successfully test-fired by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Monday.

"Agni-P is a new-generation advanced variant of Agni class of missiles. It is a canisterised missile with range capability between 1,000 and 2,000 km," a DRDO statement said. The test was conducted at 10.55 a.m. from the Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam island, Balasore, off the coast of Odisha.

#### **High accuracy**

Various telemetry and radar stations positioned along the eastern coast tracked and monitored the missile, the statement said. "The missile followed textbook trajectory, meeting all mission objectives with high level of

Congratulating the DRDO,



Advanced variant: 'Agni Prime' being test-fired from Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam island off the coast of Odisha on Monday. • PTI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Twitter: "Many advanced technologies including composites, propulsion systems, innovative guidance and mechanisms and state-ofthe-art navigation systems Agni-P missile would further strengthen India's credible deterrence capabilities."

Explaining the differences from the earlier Agni class of missiles, a DRDO official said Agni-P had improved parameters, including manoeuvring and accuracy. "There is a complete technology upgrade in every way."

### **Cuts launch time**

Canisterisation of missiles reduces the time required to launch the missile while improving its storage and mobility, one defence official explained.

The Agni class of missiles are the mainstay of India's nuclear launch capability which also includes the Prithvi short-range ballistic missiles. submarinelaunched ballistic missiles and fighter aircraft.

The longest of the Agni series, Agni-V, an Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) with a range of over tested several times and validated for induction.

In the past few years, India has also operationalised its submarine-based nuclear launch capability, completing the nuclear triad. This is especially important given India's no-first-use policy while reserving the right of massive retaliation if struck with nuclear weapons first.

As reported by The Hindu earlier, the DRDO, in January 2020, successfully test-fired a 3,500-km range submarine-launched ballistic missile, K-4, from a submerged pontoon off the Visakhapatnam coast.

Once inducted, these missiles will be the mainstay of the Arihant class of indigenous ballistic missile nuclear submarines (SSBN) and will give India the stand-off capability to launch nuclear weapons submerged in Indian

INS Arihant, the only SSBN in service, is armed with K-15 missiles with a range of 750 km.

### A-G Venugopal gets one more extension

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Union government has extended the tenure of Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal by a year. He will continue as the government's top law officer till June 30, 2022.

This is the second time the Centre has extended his tenure. Mr. Venugopal, 89, who was appointed Attorney-General in July 2017, received his first extension in 2020.

He took over as the 15th Attorney-General after senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi demitted office citing personal reasons.

Mr. Venugopal would be at the helm of the government's legal defence in several sensitive cases pending in the Supreme Court, which includes the challenge to the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and the withdrawal of special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

# Allow CA exam, ICAI urges court

'It is a professional exam and should not be equated with Class 10 or 12 exams'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) told the Supreme Court on Monday that it had a statutory duty to conduct the chartered accountants (CA) exam in July for the benefit of around 3.74 lakh candidates.

Appearing before a Bench led by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar, senior advocate Ramji Srinivasan, for the ICAI, said opt-out option was available for candidates or whose families had tested COVID-19

"The option can be exercised on production of CO-VID-19 positive RTPCR report. Such examinee would be shifted to November 2021 examination cycle," a brief note submitted by the ICAI in the court said.

The court adjourned the case for detailed hearing to



June 29. The exam is scheduled for July 5.

The Bench was hearing pleas to cancel the exam, like the CBSE exams, because of the pandemic.

"The chartered accountants exams are professional examinations and ought not to be equated with the CBSE or other State Board examinations for Classes 10 or 12. It is in the interest of the candidates aspiring to become chartered accountants, start

their professional lives and earn livelihoods, that the examinations be held," the ICAI said.

July was the apt time to conduct the exams with all safety protocols in place, considering the lull in CO-VID-19 cases. The third wave may hit in September or October, it stated.

### 'COVID-19 cases low'

"The COVID-19 spread is now at a substantially low level, therefore, this is the opportune moment to offer the aspiring chartered accountants to further their professional careers. As on date, the number of COVID-19 cases are comparatively low and thus it would be in the best interests of the candidates if the examinations are held as per the schedule and not cancelled or postponed," it

The Supreme Court had in the past allowed exams to be held whenever the risk had been minimum. "The court has been pleased to allow Class 12 exams for Kerala and Bihar, which were held in April 2021 and February 2021," the note reasoned. The candidates were eag-

er to take the exam. "Out of 3,74,230 candidates, as on June 27, more than 2,82,000 candidates have downloaded their admit cards, thus showing their eagerness to appear in the examinations," the ICAI said. The decision to have the exams was taken after meticulous planning. The average number of examinees in an examination room was 12.

The ICAI questioned the bona fide of the petitions seeking the cancellation or postponement of the exams at this last minute.

## Delhi HC seeks Centre's response to portal's plea

Fact-checking site challenges IT rules

STAFF REPORTER

The Delhi High Court on Monday sought a response from the Central government on a petition by Alt News, an online fact-checking website, challenging the new Information Technology (IT) rules that seek to regulate digital news media.

The court is already seized of similar pleas by major online news portals such as The Wire, The News Minute, and Quint Digital

A Vacation Bench of Justices C. Hari Shankar and Subramonium Prasad, however, declined to pass any interim order on a fresh application filed by The Wire and Ouint which claimed that the Union government was "threatening to take coercive action" against on-

line news outlets. The court has put the fresh applications for hearing next week when it reopens after the summer vacation.

"You have challenged the [IT] rules. You have made an interim application for their stay. That application has come up before the regular Bench on at least two occasions. The action they [Centre] are now taking is implementation of those rules," the bench remarked.

"Now the notice that has been sent to you is only by way of implementation of the rules, because there is no stay," the court said.

Senior advocate Nitva Ramakrishnan, for the online news outlets, contended that they were forced to approach the court now as the government was "threatening to take coercive action".

IN BRIEF

## P. Sainath selected for 2021 Fukuoka Grand Prize

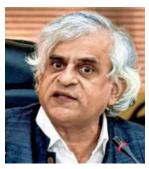
'He promoted civil cooperation through his writings'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Noted journalist P. Sainath has been selected as one of the three recipients of the Fukuoka Prize for 2021. Mr. Sainath will receive the 'Grand Prize' of the Fukuoka Prize while the Academic Prize and the Prize for Arts and Culture will go to Kishimoto Mio of Japan and filmmaker Prabda Yoon of Thailand, respectively.

In a statement issued by the Secretariat of the Fukuoka Prize Committee, Mr. Sainath was described as a "very deserving recipient of the Grand Prize of Fukuoka

The Secretariat noted his work for creating a new form of knowledge through his writings and commentaries on rural India and for



P. Sainath

"promoting cooperation"

The Fukuoka Prize is given annually to distinguished people to foster and increase awareness of Asian cultures, and to create a broad framework of exchange and mutual learning among the Asian people. The Grand Prize has earlier been awarded to Muhammad Yunus from Bangladesh, historian Romila Thapar, and sarod maestro Amjad Ali Khan. Eleven Indians have received the Fukuoka Prize so far.

A total of 115 people from 28 countries and areas have received the prize in the past 30 years. The prize was established in 1990.

Professor Mio has been recognised for her understanding of Chinese history. Prabda Yoon will receive the prize for increasing understanding of Japan in Thailand and for pursuing "a deeper philosophical insight into the future of humanity", said the statement from the Secretariat of the Fukuoka Prize Committee.

This year's award ceremony will be held online on

## 'Mode of entry no bar to promotion of disabled

Employee eligible for quota: Bench

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A disabled person can avail the benefit of reservation for promotion even if he or she was recruited in the regular category or developed the disability after gaining employment, the Supreme Court said on Monday. The important thing is the employee should be a 'person with disability' (PwD) at the time of the promotion to avail of the disabled quota.

"Source of recruitment ought not to make any difference but what is material is that the employee is a PwD at the time for consideration for promotion," a Bench of Justices S.K. Kaul and R. Subhash Reddy held in a judgment.

The verdict was based on an appeal filed by the Kerala government against a State High Court decision that

Credit guarantee schemes

have not guaranteed

downturn. The Finance Minister

needs to realise that doing the

Leesamma Joseph was eligible for reservation in promotion under the PwD quota. Ms. Joseph, whose permanent disability was assessed at 55%, was employed in the police department on compassionate grounds after her brother's death in harness.

"The 1995 Act [Persons with Disabilities Act of 1995] does not make a distinction between a person who may have entered service on account of disability and a person who may have acquired disability after having entered the service. Similarly, the same position would be with the person who may have entered service on a claim of a compassionate appointment. The mode of entry in service cannot be a ground to make out a case of discriminatory promotion,"

Term of Deputy Flection Commissioner extended The Appointments

Committee of the Cabinet has approved the extension of tenure of Umesh Sinha as Deputy Election Commissioner, Election Commission of India, on contract basis for one year up to July 30, 2022, or until further orders, whichever is earlier, on usual terms and conditions. Mr. Sinha is a retired IAS officer from the Uttar Pradesh cadre.

### Ex-encounter specialist sent to judicial custody

MUMBAI A special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court on Monday remanded former encounter specialist and Shiv Sena leader Pradeep Sharma, arrested in the Antilia bomb scare and Mansukh Hiran murder case in judicial custody till July 12. Co-accused Santosh Shelar and Anand Jadhav were further remanded in the NIA custody for five days The NIA arrested Mr. Sharma on June 17.

### Kaziranga guard faces action for killing tiger

The Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve authorities have suspended a forest guard for "unwarranted firing", leading to the death of a 10-year-old male tiger in a village on the outskirts of the park on June 18. Forest officials said the guard was instructed to protect some households in the village where the tiger had entered. "Instead of firing in the air when the tiger tried to attack him, the guard shot it dead," an official said.

### Haryana BJP leader refuses nomination

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Former Home and Finance Minister of Harvana Sampat Singh on Monday turned down his nomination as member of the State executive committee of the Bharatiya Janata Party in support of the farmers'

In a letter to State BJP chief O.P. Dhankar, Mr. Singh said "he was unable to accept this responsibility because of ongoing farmers' agitation..., which I also supported from Day One".

### FinMin's steps will not curb inflation, unemployment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Congress on Monday, reacting to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's fresh announcements, said expanding the credit opportunities won't help in generating new demand or tackle the growing unemployment.

schemes have not guaran-

teed revival since India's eco-

@nsitharaman needs to real-

downturn. FM

"Credit

over and over again delivers

headlines but little else," former Union Minister Jairam Ramesh tweeted. At a virtual press confe-

rence, Congress spokesperson Gourav Vallabh said the government's measures would not tackle low demand, low GDP, high infla-

same thing over and over again delivers headlines but little else JAIRAM RAMESH, FORMER UNION MINISTER tion and unemployment. "There is only one way to

Credit will not raise consumption: Cong

revive our economy. We have to generate new demand and for that to happen, we need to increase consumption. Ours is not an export-driven but a consumption-driven economy. Nearly 55% of our GDP is rious sectors of the economy needed "hand holding and not expansion of credit". Mr. Vallabh, addressing a press conference with Aman Panwar, said various studies had shown that India's middle class had shrunk by 3.2 crore and about 7.5 crore people were pushed below the

made up of consumption.

And for consumption to go

up, we need to put money in

the hands of the people," Mr.

Vallabh said, adding the va-

"The BJP government has left the people alone in this gress spokesperson said.

poverty line in 2020.

fight and doesn't seem to be bothered at all," the Con-

ise that doing the same thing

guarantee

### INTERVIEW | HIMANTA BISWA SARMA

## 'Disincentives and incentives go together in approach to population'

We will have to expand health and educational initiatives for slowing down population growth in the State, says Assam Chief Minister

RAHUL KARMAKAR

Since taking oath as Assam's 15th Chief Minister on May 10, Himanta Biswa Sarma has waged a war against drugs. But he has grabbed more attention for his advice to Muslims to adopt "decent" family planning measures and for sanctioning a drive to evict encroachers from temple and government lands in which the minorities have mostly been affected. He speaks on these and other issues:

What made you advise the Bengal-origin Muslims to adopt family planning measures, and consider linking government schemes to a two-child policy in future?

■ Today, we have been able to manage our annual population growth to somewhere around 1.6%, but further dissection of the past two censuses shows that the Muslim population in Assam is growing consistently at almost 29% while Hindus are growing at just 10%. This means there will be a lot of poverty and illiteracy among Muslims. Somehow we need to bring certain measures for slowing down population growth and for that we need to expand health and educational initiatives.

You must look at our policy parameters when you talk of government schemes. First we said there should be incentives like free education for girls, financial inclusion for minority women, reservation in panchayat and government jobs for women in general, and the establishment of women's colleges and university in minority

areas. But if you only focus on incentives without disincentives, any policy is bound to fail. To put it simply, if you are punishing someone for criminal activity, you must reward people for good deeds. In a society, you have to have an approach where both incentives and disincentives work together. But the approach (to population) should come from within the community, because any effort from outside will be interpreted on political lines.

What is the logic behind excluding the tea plantation workers apart from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes from the population-based incentives and disincentives?

■ The Scheduled Tribes population in Assam is decreasing. People belonging to the tea community are essential-



As Chief Minister, my duty is to protect the forests and I don't have to see which religion the evicted belong to

ly tribals although they are constitutionally not recognised as STs. But they are Adivasis and are either SCs or STs in their original homeland. So our policy is consistent in the national context. It is very difficult to address the issue of the demand to grant them ST status (along with five other communi-

ties). The communities enjoying ST status are opposed to the move, and I don't want clashes because of this opposition. This has been a longpending issue and I don't think we can address it in a hurried manner.

You have launched an eviction drive against encroachers on government, forest and temple land. Is this directed at migrant Muslims?

■ It seems so from the outside. It is merely accidental that some of the evicted people belong to the religious minority group, but we have also evicted non-Muslims. We evicted people from Geetanagar (in Guwahati on June 26) who are all Hindus and indigenous Assamese. It is not that we are targeting a community but unfortunately, encroachment is higher

on that side. For me, encroachers are a class who turn out to be Muslims or Hindus when the action is taken on the ground. As Chief Minister, my duty is to protect the forests and I don't have to see which religion the evicted belong to. The Supreme Court and the High Court keep passing orders for ensuring that the forest cover does not reduce. I am just acting according to the

As for land belonging to satras (Vaishnav monasteries) and namghars (community prayer halls), we are on the same page as the Congress and the All India United Democratic Front [AI-UDF]. There was unanimity across the board when I appealed in the Assembly for Hindus not to occupy mosque land and Muslims not to occupy the land of the *satras* and namghars.

national policy.

What is your stand on the National Register of Citizens (NRC) that seems to have been left in limbo?

 Our NRC coordinator has filed a petition in the Supreme Court for a relook at the document. It is up to the court to hear the petition.

Your government has launched a massive drive against drugs, but the major problem is the inflow of narcotic substances from Myanmar through border States ruled by the BJP or allies. Are you going for a coordinated push?

■ We have not discussed the issue at the Chief Ministers' level because Union Home Minister Amit Shah is coming to Shillong in July and one of the issues is coordination among the northeastern States for checking the drug menace and trafficking of women and children. I think we will see more prompt and positive results.

The ULFA-Independent declared a three-month ceasefire after your appeal. Is a peace process possible despite its chief Paresh Baruah's insistence on discussing the sovereignty of Assam?

■ That terminology is dicey. He has his ideology impacted by decades of living in the jungles, and I have taken an oath to protect the sovereignty of the country. This is an irreconcilable matter but if we can coin another word to discuss the same issues, we can make some progress. Nevertheless, there are many people who are in touch with the ULFA-I for discussing substantial issues without insisting on the word.

### IN BRIEF



Sidhu to meet Rahul, Priyanka in Delhi

CHANDIGARH Amid the ongoing infighting within Punjab Congress, former Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu, who has been at odds with Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, is slated to meet Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in New Delhi on Tuesday. They are expected to have deliberations on wavs to end the factionalism in the party's Punjab unit.

#### **NHRC** panel extends West Bengal visit

NEW DELHI The National Human Rights Commission committee investigating complaints of post-poll violence in West Bengal has decided to extend its interaction with stakeholders by another day due to the response on the first two days, an official said. The committee, headed by NHRC member Raiiv Jain, was appointed on the orders of the Calcutta High Court on June 18. Its members met victims, complainants and other stakeholders on Sunday and Monday in Kolkata as part of the investigation, the official said.

#### **Bengal Bar Council wants** acting CJ removed

KOLKATA Chairman of the Bar Council of West Bengal Ashok Kumar Deb has written to Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, seeking the removal of acting Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court Rajesh Bindal owing to his alleged bias. "We would like to set out some instances which has given rise to perception that Hon'ble Bindal is an unfair, biased and partial judge and whose continuance at the Hon'ble High Court interferes with the fair and impartial dispensation of justice," the letter said. Mr. Deb, who is also a Trinamool Congress MLA, noted the "way" bail to the four accused in the Narada case was withheld without hearing the accused and "improper listing" of various cases, including the petition of CM Mamata Banerjee.

1 Name of the work

3 Class of Contractor

4 Bid Identification No.

6 Period of Completion

8 Last date/time for receipt

of bids through online.

through online(Cover -I)

Date & time of availability of

bid documents in the Portal.

2 No of Works

5 Estimated Cost

# Small civilian drones pose significant threat, say officials

### Armed forces need to gear up, they point out

DINAKAR PERI NEW DELHI

As investigation continues into the two explosions at the Jammu airbase, believed to have been carried out using drones, defence officials and experts said there was a potent threat from small civilian drones, and the armed forces should accelerate their plans to put in place counter-drone systems.

"This incident brings to reality the long apprehensions of security forces. A quadcopter available in the open market for a few thousand rupees can hit strategic targets and cause huge damage," a defence official said. To counter this, the Services should speed up plans for procuring anti-drone technologies, which would come



Watchful eyes: Army soldiers standing guard at the Jammu Air Force Station. • AF

expansion, requisite mea-

sures in terms of capabilities

as well as policy measures

should be put in place, the

that Pakistan-based terrorist

groups could attempt to tar-

get military bases with

drones. After the drone at-

tack on the Saudi Aramco oil

facilities in Saudi Arabia in

September 2019, the armed

forces held deliberations on

the issue and put in place

There have been warnings

official pointed out.

at a huge expense, the official noted.

Another official said there had been several instances in the past couple of years where quadcopters were used to drop drugs, arms and ammunition from across the border in Jammu and Punjab. There have been several warnings in the recent past on the possible use of drones by terrorist groups.

As the civilian market for drones is set to see a major progress of these efforts," the official said. The armed forces indicat-

ed their intent to develop or acquire Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems capability in the Technology and Capability Perspective Roadmap-2018 issued by the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff, according to a research article published in Asian Defence Review 2019.

plans to procure counter-

drone capabilities. "There

will now be a review of these

The most popular methods of neutralising drones, as per the article, are jamming or spoofing of the radio frequency link between the rogue UAS and its operator, using Directed Energy Weapons such as lasers for dazzling of sensors or by destructing the critical airframe components of the drone and the traditional means of employing guns, missiles and other hard kill options.

## Militants kill policeman, family

Jaish operatives behind attack in Pulwama, say police

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT SRINAGAR

Militants shot dead a policeman, his wife and daughter in Pulwama in Jammu and Kashmir late on Sunday, the police said.

The incident took place at Hari Parigam village when militants barged into the residence of special police officer Fayaz Ahmed around 10.30 p.m. and fired indiscriminately at those inside.

"There was a movement of Jaish-e-Muhammad [JeM] militants in the area. It seems that two foreign militants carried out the attack. They fired at special police officer Fayaz Ahmed, and when his wife and daughter tried to save him, they too were fired upon," Inspector-General of Police Vijay Kumar said.

While the policeman and his wife, Raja Begum, died on Sunday, their daughter, Rafia Akhtar, died of injuries at a Srinagar hospital on Monday morning.

The incident comes less



Gun battle: Army jawans taking cover during an encounter on the outskirts of Srinagar on Monday. • NISSAR AHMAD

ANDHRA PRADESH LIVESTOCK

**DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, GUNTUR** 

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DIPR 206PP/CL, Dt.28.06.2021 Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, APLDA, Guntur.

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA** 

Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Limited

TELANGANA SPECIAL FOOD PROCESSING ZONES (TSFPZs)

CORRIGENDUM-1

'EXTENSION OF DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF 'EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)'

Andhra Pradesh Live Stock Development Agency, Guntur is inviting

than a month after two offduty policemen, including an inspector of the Crime In-Department, vestigation were killed in Srinagar by suspected militants.

Political parties, including the J&K Apni Party, the National Conference, the Peoples Conference, the CPI(M) and the Peoples Democratic Party, condemned the incident.

LeT 'commander' held The security forces on Monday arrested Nadeem Abrar,

Tender No: 4268/T2/2019,

a top 'commander' of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), in Srinagar. "Abrar was involved in several killings. His arrest is a big success for us," Mr. Kumar said. Initial reports suggested

that Abrar was travelling in a car when he was arrested near Parimpora, which is in close vicinity of Maloora, where a militant was gunned down in an encounter during the day. A police officer said a mil-

itant could be hiding in the Maloora area.

Dated: 25-06-2021

dt:28.06.2021

### Row between Mamata, Governor intensifies

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30.07.2021 upto 5.00 p.m

ollowing post by direct recruitment in TANUVAS:

onwards at TANUVAS website: www.tanuvas.ac.in

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA - DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES** 

**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)** 

Office of the Addl. Chief Engineer, Balangir Irrigation Circle, Balangir

e-mail i.d- sebalangir@gmail.com

Bid Identification No : SEBOIC 01/2021-22

Bid documents consisting of work, estimated cost, cost of tender paper, Bid security Declaration

instate of EMD, time of completion, Class of contractor, the set of terms and conditions of contract and

05 Nos. (Individual Work)

12 (Twelve) Calendar months

13.07.2021 upto 05.30 P.M.

other necessary documents can be seen in e-procurement portal https://tendersodisha.gov.in.

licensing Authority )

SE BOIC-01/2021-22

NABARD Works.

undersigned.)

10 Name of the Officer inviting Bid Addl. Chief Engineer, Balangir Irrigation Circle, Balangir (Dist.-Balangir)

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal https://tendersodisha.gov.in

Additional Chief Engineer, Bolangir Irrigation Circle, Bolangir

Any addendum/ corrigendum/ cancellation of tender can also be seen in said website.

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates to fill up th

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The row between West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar intensified on Monday, with Ms. Banerjee alleging that Mr. Dhankhar's name had figured in the Jain Hawala diaries.

In a quick reaction, Mr. Dhankhar said the remarks

Date: 29.06.2021

were "far from facts and plain and simple untruth".

"He is a corrupted man; I am sorry to say or corruption-oriented man. How can the Centre allow such a Governor...This Governor's name also figured in Jain Hawala diaries which was cleared by courts, but a PIL is pending," Ms. Banerjee

भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान भोपाल Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Bhopal

No : IISERB/Rectt /2021/22 Notification on reopening of online recruitment portal

Refer Institute Advertisement no. NT-01/2021 dated April 15, 2021 and notification no.IISERB/Rectt./2021/01-i, April 27, 2021 on the temporary closure of online recruitment portal. The online recruitment portal for receiving applications against the above said advertisement is now re-opened for all aspirants. The last date for receiving of online application is July 12, 2021 at 1700 Hrs. and the

last date for receiving the hardcopy printout of application form along with all required annexures as mentioned in the advertisement, is July 19, 2021 at 1700 Hrs. This is for information of all the aspirants.

Professor in-charge, Administration



MALABAR CEMENTS LIMITED A Government of Kerala Undertaking) An ISO 9001 :2015, 14001:2015 Compan Walayar Post, Palakkad-678624-Kerala Email : materials@malabarcement s.com/ bulkmcl@gmail.com

**TENDER NOTICE** 

♦ Modification/fabrication erection, installation work, of existing slag/ outside Clinker feeding hoppe and conveyor system at Cement Mill. Walayar. ♦Undertaking the contract work of Silo Extraction Packing and loading of Cement into trucks, tarpaulin covering and tying and unloading / loading of Raw materials, stores and spares etc., shifting and stamping of Packing Materials at CGU Pallippuram, Cherthala, Alappuzha Dist. ♦ Supply of 2000MT Wet Fly ash on for MCL Walayar basis ♦ Supply of Hardwood Railway Sleepers & Water Resistant Slurry Explosives for Limestone Mines. Disposal of Scrap, thro: MSTC, Disposal of Non operational reary
 Mines & Old ESP/ GCT for Kiln and Raw Mill. For details pls. Visit: www.mstcindia.co.in
 Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR

### **SOUTHERN RAILWAY**

(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION) E-TENDER NOTICE NO: E148-CN-TPJ-TF-027 DATE: 26-06-2021

For and on behalf of President of

India, the Deputy Chief Electical Engineer (General), Construction Southern Railway, Egmore Chennai - 600008 invites e-tende for the work of "Karaikal - Peralam (23 km) New line - Karaikal Peralam Section - Modification to 17 Nos. of 11kV. 14Nos. of LT **Over Head Power Line Crossings** by underground cables in Karaikal - Peralam section Works Contract" with the above tender notice. Date of Tender opening is 21.07.2021 at 12:00 Hrs All other details of this tender are available in <u>www.ireps.gov.in</u> website.

Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer Construction, Southern Railway



No.2

Chennai Egmore



With reference to the 'Expression of Interest (EOI)' No.1, issued by this Office dt. 11.6.2021, all prospective bidders are hereby informed that this Office has extended the ast date of bid submission for 'Expression of Interest (EOI)' till: July12th, 2021, 17.00 Hrs (IST), instead of 30th June, 2021 issued by this office in earlier notification.

The EOI can be submitted online at www.tsiic.telangana.gov.in

Sd/- Vice Chairman & Managing Director Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Ltd (TSIIC "Parishrama Bhavan", 6th Floor, 5-9-558/B, Basheerbagh Fateh Maidan Road, Hyderabad - 500 004, Telangana, India DIPR R.O.No.13275-PPICL/ADVT/1/2021-22 Dt. 28.06.2021 Contact No: +917729983215 Email: gm-am-ho-iic@telangana.gov.in

OFFICE OF CHIEF ENGINEER PROJECT, PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, RAJASTHAN

Jal Bhawan, Basni Jodhpur - 342005 (Rajasthan)- India Tel. +91-291-2761700 Email rj\_cejod@nic.in

Jodhpur 23 June, 2021

RFP Code:- PHE2122RFP0001, Reference NO. 1/2021-22 GLOBAL NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES
INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FROM INTERNATIONAL
CONSULTANTS FOR SHORT-LISTING OF CONSULTANTS TOWARDS
PROVIDING PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND SUPERVISION CONSULTING
SERVICES IN RESPECT OF THE JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY (JICA) FUNDED RAJASTHAN RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND FLUOROSIS MITIGATION PROJECT (Phase II).

The Government of Japan (hereinafter referred as GoJ) has pledged for JICA ODA Loan towards the implementation of Rajasthan Rural Water Supply and fluorosis Mitigation Project (Phase II).

Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) (hereinafter referred to as Project Executing Agency), Government of Rajasthan invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from reputed firms of International Consultants (Association/Joint Venture) for short-listing of Project Management and Supervision Consultant for the captioned

The shortlist of consultants will be prepared by the PHED in accordance with the Guidelines for the Employment of Consultants under Japanese ODA Loans for the

The Request for Expression of Interest should be uploaded online on www.eproc. rajasthan@gov.in not later than 18:00 hrs (IST) on August 10, 2021 at the above address and same shall be opened online at 15:00 hrs (IST) on August 11, 2021.

the right to accept or reject any / all applications in part or in full.

Chief Engineer Project

DIPR/C/6118

Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in for Online Submission of Bids for:

भारत सरकार, अंतरिक्ष विभाग / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण समूह / CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE DIVISION, सतीश धवन अंतरिक्ष केंद्र शार / SATISH DHAWAN SPACE CENTRE-SHAR,

श्रीहरिकोटा / SRIHARIKOTA-524124. दूर भषा संख्या / Ph No.: +91-8623-22-5009 फेक्स संख्या / Fax No. +91-8623-22-5157

सक्षिप्त ई-निविदा सूचना / BRIEF e-TENDER NOTICE

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से, समान प्रकृति एवं परिमाण के कार्य का अनुभव रखने वाले पात्र निविदाकारों/एजेंसियों से निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए ई–टेंडरिंग माध्यम से मूहर बंद मद–दर निविदाए आमंत्रित हैं/On behalf of President of India, sealed Item Rate tenders are invited through e tendering for the following works from eligible contractors/agencies having experience in works of similar nature and

यि-एन आई टी स./**E-Notice** PT - E - 21 - 006 **Inviting Tender Numbe** वर्ष 2021 हेतु (टर्म सविदा-IV) एसडीएससी शार के एएसएलवी क्षेत्र तथा दूरमिति, शार हाउसिंग कॉलोनिया, कीपाकम, कोत्तचेनु में लघु विद्युत कार्य अनुरक्षण के क्रियान्वयन का टर्म संविदा। (विद्युतीय कार्य) Term Contract for execution of minor / maintenance Electrical works for SHAR Housing Colonies, Keepakam, Kothachenu, Telemetry and ASLV areas at SDSC

SHAR (Term Contract - IV) for the year 2021. (Electrical work) निविदा की अनुमानित लागत / Estimated cost put to tender - ₹ 60.00 लाख / Lakhs

कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि / Period of completion - 01 साल / 01 Year बयाना राशि जमा (ई.एम.डी.)/ Earnest money deposit (EMD): संलग्नक-1 के रूप में अनुलग्नित निर्धारित प्रपत्र में बयाना राशि जमा

घोषणा पत्र प्रस्तुत करेंगे। / EMD Declaration shall be submitted in prescribed format enclosed as Annexure-1 निविदा दस्तावेज डाउनलोड करने की अवधि/Period during which the tender document can be downloaded: 29.06.2021, 10:30 बजे से 08.07.2021 को 14:30 बजे तक / From 10:30 Hrs 29.06.2021 To 14:30 Hrs 08.07.2021

> निविदा अपलोड का अंतिम तिथि एवं समय/Last date and time for uploading of tenders: 12.07.2021 के अपराह 14:30 बजे तक / 14:30 Hrs on 12.07.2021

निविदा खोलने की नियत तिथि एवं समय / Due date and time of opening of tenders: 12.07.2021 के अपराह 15:00 बजे तक / 15:00 Hrs on 12.07.2021

पात्रता, शर्तों एवं निबंधनों तथा निविदाओं में सहभागिताहेतु इच्छुक निविदाकार <u>www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO</u> पर लॉग इन कर सकते है। अधिक जानकारी हेत् समूह प्रधान, एसडीएससी शार, श्रीहरिकोटा के कार्यालय दूरभाष 08623-226431, 226370 पर संपर्क करें या <u>www.isro.gov.in</u> देखे। / Interested tenderers may please log on to <u>www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO</u> for eligibility, Terms & Conditions and participating in tenders. For further details please contact this office of Group Head, CMG SDSC SHAR, Sriharikota over Phone No.: 08623-22 6431, 22 6370 (or) visit our website www.isro.gov.in

Sd/- Group Head, CMG. SDSC SHAR

said project. Further information and Request for Expression of Interest is available and can be downloaded online from www.eproc.rajasthan@gov.in

The document of "Request for Proposal", in due course shall be sent to submit their offer only to the applicants participated in EoI and shortlisted under this procedure Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) Government of Rajasthan reserves

PHED, Jodhpur (Rajasthan) - India



launch of oral drug

Drugmaker Dr. Reddy's Laboratories has announced the commercial launch of 2-deoxy-D-glucose (2-DG), an oral drug for use as an adjunct therapy for hospitalised COVID-19 patients. The maximum retail price is ₹990 per sachet. It will be made available at a subsidised rate to government institutions, the company said, adding that its 2-DG has a purity of 99.5%. Dr. Reddy's said it will be supplying the product to major government as well as private hospitals across the country.

#### M.P. schools not to reopen on July 1: CM

Schools in Madhya Pradesh that were scheduled to open on July 1 will now open at a later date after consultation with the Centre, other States and experts, CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan said. Chairing a meeting on the recommendations of Ministers to prepare a strategy to fight COVID-19, he said studies will continue through online mode and TV broadcasts. He also said the Class XII results should on the basis of 'best of five marks' obtained in Class X, and those wanting to improve can appear for an exam that will be organised sometime later.

#### **Bengal extends COVID-19** restrictions till July 15

The West Bengal government on Monday extended the restrictions placed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic till July 15, but allowed certain relaxations for the operation of public transport. "Government and private buses, autorickshaws and e-rickshaws will be allowed to operate with 50% passengers," Chief Minister Mamata Baneriee said Local trains and Metro services would remain suspended in the State till July 15. "All bazaars and markets can open from 6 a.m. to 12 p.m. All other shops can stay open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.," Ms.

#### 'Maharashtra ready to give 15 lakh doses daily'

Banerjee said.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Monday said the State had set up the infrastructure to deliver 15 lakh COVID-19 vaccine doses daily. "Even if the number of patients are decreasing, the new Delta Plus variant of the virus is spreading across the world... Maharashtra has set up the infrastructure to deliver 15 lakh vaccine doses in a day," he said. The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority handed over a jumbo COVID-19 centre in Malad to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC).

# India has reported 40,845 cases of mucormycosis so far: Minister

Active COVID-19 cases mostly in Maharashtra, Kerala, T.N., Bengal and Odisha

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

India has so far reported 40,845 cases of mucormycosis during the second wave of the pandemic, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said on Monday while chairing the 29th meeting of the Group of Ministers (GoM) on COVID-19 by videoconference.

A total of 31,344 of the cases were rhinocerebral in nature, Mr. Vardhan said.

Fatalities due to the infection stood at 3,129. While 34,940 patients had CO-VID-19 (85.5%), 26,187 (about 64.11%) had diabetes as a comorbidity and 21,523 (52.69%) of those infected were on steroids.

Also, 13,083 (32%) patients were in the 18 to 45 age group, 17,464 (42%) were



Comforting the sick: A ward alloted for mucormycosis patients at a hospital in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. • VIJAY SONEJI

between 45 and 60, and 10,082 (24%) patients were above the age of 60.

During the meeting, Balram Bhargava, Secretary (Health Research) and Director-General, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR),

said the second wave had still not subsided as 80 districts had a high positivity rate. He advised against any laxity at this stage.

The vaccines were effective against the Alpha, Beta, Gamma and Delta variants.

The GoM reiterated the importance of COVID-appropriate behaviour, the Health Ministry said, adding that Sujeet K. Singh, Director, National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), presented a detailed report on the trajectory of the virus.

### **Active cases**

Active cases continued to be mainly concentrated in Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Odisha, which were also reporting a growth rate more than the national COVID-19 growth rate, Mr. Singh said. "While 19 States are reporting fatality figures in the single digit [less than 10], Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu are reporting more than 100 deaths daily."

## Hope to resolve Green Pass issue soon, says SII CEO

Covishield has not been approved by EU's drug regulator

STAFF REPORTER

Amid concerns that Indian travellers who have taken Covishield may not be eligible for the Green Pass issued by the European Union (EU) for travel, Adar Poonawalla, CEO, Serum Institute of India (SII), on Monday said he had already taken up the matter "at the highest levels" and hoped for an early

resolution of the issue. The SII CEO, in a tweet, said: "I realise that a lot of Indians who have taken COVISHIELD are facing issues with travel to the EU. I assure everyone, I have taken this up at the highest levels and hope to resolve this matter soon, both with regulators and at a diplomatic level with countries."

The SII manufactures the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine



Adar Poonawalla

(with a licence from AstraZeneca) under the brand name Covishield in India. While the EU's drug regulator, the **European Medicines Agency** (EMA), has approved Vaxzevria - as AstraZeneca's shot is known outside India - Covishield has not figured in its approval list despite being approved by the World Health Organization.

In an e-mail response to media outlets, the EMA's press officer said it had received a submission for marketing authorisation only for Vaxzevria This was evaluated by the EMA, which lead to its authorisation in the

Stating that vaccines were biological products, the EMA's statement further said: "Even tiny differences in the manufacturing conditions can result in differences in the final product, and EU law, therefore, requires the manufacturing sites and production processes to be assessed and approved as part of the authorisation process."

Along with Vaxzevria. three other vaccines have been approved by the EMA -Comirnaty (manufactured by Pfizer-BioNTech), Moderna and Janssen (by Johnson

## 'CoWIN's open-source version to be provided to 50 nations'

Technology to be presented on July 5 at conclave: NHA CEO

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

India will soon provide an open-source version of its CoWIN application to nearly 50 countries from Central Asia, Africa and Latin America that have indicated an interest in the technology, R.S. Sharma, CEO, National Health Authority (NHA) and Chairman of the technical committee that oversees the CoWin platform, said on Monday at the second Public Health Summit 2021 -"Emerging imperative in strengthening public health for India" - organised by the Confederation of Indian In-

dustry (CII). India was getting ready to share its information globally, he said, adding that on July 5, it would participate in an international conclave where the technology would be presented.

### 'Best way forward'

While India continued to grapple with the devastating second wave of the pandemic, vaccines seemed to be the best way forward, Mr. Sharma added.

CoWIN is an extension of an electronic vaccine intelligence network, eVIN, which is used to collect real-time feedback of the vaccination programmes. It is a cloudbased IT solution for planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating CO-VID-19 vaccination in the

According to the operational guidelines for CO-VID-19 vaccination prepared



CoWIN is used to collect real-time feedback of the vaccination programmes.

by the Union Health Ministry, the CoWIN system, on a real-time basis, tracks not only the beneficiaries but also the vaccines at the national. State and district levels. It monitors the utilisation, wastage and coverage of vaccination. Moreover, every detail, from the sites where vaccinations are carried out to the number of beneficiaries and even the batch number, doses per vial and schedule of the vaccine, are uploaded on it.

Dr. Sharma said the NHA was constantly working at improving the reach and coverage of healthcare services "and in that context, we would be bringing in an e-voucher system that allows immediate payment to the service provider for specific medical services. This will greatly improve the service delivery for patients".

## 'Prepare for outbreaks'

Speaking at the summit, Randeep Guleria, Director, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), pointed out that the pandemic had

stressed the healthcare system and disrupted the medical care eco-system.

"But what this has also taught us is that we have to be prepared for outbreaks. We have seen bird flu, swine flu, Ebola and Zika outbreaks in the past and now it is time that we understand the importance of prevention," he said.

The country had to work at getting health a greater share in the GDP and ensure that human resources were available and trained. "The challenges we face include underinvestment in the healthcare sector, lack of the public health system being driven by technology and data, and the slow-paced development of infrastructure. COVID-19 has taught us that the way forward is partnership and we have to undertake this in a big way," Dr. Guleria added.

### Doses for States

The Union Health Ministry on Monday said more than 31.69 crore (31,69,40,160) vaccine doses had been provided to the States through the free-of-cost channel and through the direct State procurement category.

Of this, the total consumption, including wastage, was 30,54,17,617 doses (as per data available at 8 a.m. on Monday).

More than 1.15 crore (1,15,22,543) balance and unutilised vaccine doses were still available with the States and Union Territories, it ad-

SCAN TO PLAY

# CoronaVac safe for children: study

Higher dose induced neutralising antibody responses in trials of 3 to 17 year olds

RAMYA KANNAN

A higher dose of the Chinese vaccine CoronaVac was "well tolerated and safe, and induced neutralising antibody responses in children and adolescents aged 3-17 years", a study in the recent edition of the peer-reviewed journal Lancet Infectious Diseases has stated.

The seroconversion rates of neutralising antibodies in children and adolescents with two different doses were over 96% after a double-dose vaccination, the paper reported.

The double-blind randomised, controlled, phase 1/2

clinical trial of CoronaVac (inactivated SARS-CoV-2), in healthy children and adolescents aged 3-17 years was conducted at the Hebei Provincial Center for Disease Control and Prevention in Zanhuang (Hebei, China).

On the basis of the results of previous trials and considering the relative low weight of this population, two different doses – 1.5 mcg (micrograms) and 3.0 mcg were adopted in this study. Two doses were delivered via injection, 28 days apart.

The paper by Bihua Han et al, notes that primary safety endpoint was adverse reactions within 28 days after each injection in all participants who received at least one dose. Researchers also noted the seroconversion rate (development of antibodies specific to SARS-CoV-2) 28 days after the second injection.

The paper claimed: "Most adverse reactions were mild and moderate in severity. Injection site pain was the most frequently reported event (73 [13%] of 550 participants), occurring in 36 (16%) of 219 participants in the 1.5 mcg group, 35 (16%) of 217 in the 3.0 mcg group, and two (2%) in the placebo group. Most of these reac-

tions occurred within seven

days after vaccination and participants recovered within 48 hours In phase 2, seroconver-

sion was seen in 180 of 186 participants in the 1.5 mcg group and 180 of 180 participants in the 3.0 mcg group. The neutralising antibody titres induced by the 3.0 mcg dose were higher than those of the 1.5 mcg dose.

The results support the use of 3.0 mcg dose with a two-dose schedule for further studies in children and adolescents, the authors argued. The patients will be followed up for a year to study long-term immunogenici-

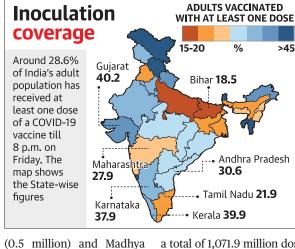
## India edges ahead of U.S. in total jabs +

323.64 million vaccinated as on Monday; Maharashtra, U.P. lead among States

STAFF REPORTER

India surpassed the United States in terms of the total number of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered, the Union Health Ministry said on Monday. According to Our World In Data, China currently leads the world with 1.19 billion doses, while India has so far administered 323.64 million by 9.15 p.m. on Monday, marginally ahead of the 323.32 million shots administered in the

Nearly 5.16 million doses were administered in the country until 9.15 p.m. on Monday. Maharashtra recorded the highest number of vaccinations (0.61 million) followed by Uttar Pradesh



Pradesh (0.45 million). Between June 1 and 27,

3.98 million doses were administered daily in India on average. At the current rate,

a total of 1,071.9 million doses can be administered by December 31, 2021, which is around 808.47 million doses less than that required to fulvaccinate all adults

(1,880.37 million doses). To fully inoculate all adults by the end of this year, 8.28 million doses need to be given daily on average in the country. The seven-day rolling average of daily vaccinations in the country continued to increase. It stood at 6.23 million on June 27, which is more than the 4.24 million recorded a week before (June 21).

About 28.6% of adults in India – 59.9% of those aged above 45, and 67.1% of those aged above 60 – were administered at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, until 9 p.m. on Monday. While 19.7% of the country's population has received at least one dose, only 4.1% are fully

## TH CROSSWORD+ 13286 Never go off the grid. We are digital now. Come solve online.

14 Wonderful Indian town? (4)



21 Seizing buffalo's tail violently, lion feels own power like a hawk

23 Corner between walls and roof on lounge frequently giving way,

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

can be moved (8) 24 Drone crashed by Avtaar gets flattened (6)

25 Stored records in a handheld device carried by lawyers before

start of examination (8)

26 First eleven's departures (6)

DOWN

1 Very very fair (2,2)

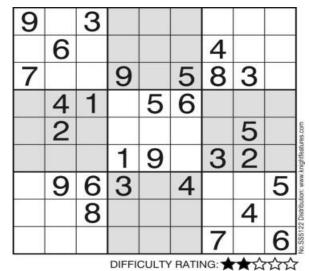
3 Soviet leader in America pulled up by revolutionaries who are

15 "Cay" and "Quay" said to be essential elements for searching (8) 17 What the trader who got registered under the Indian tax system

19 Road on the way up had been submerged (7) 20 Floor with gold and black polish (6)

22 Round, blue, raised rooms in a harem (4)

### **SUDOKU**



#### Solution to puzzle 13285 Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

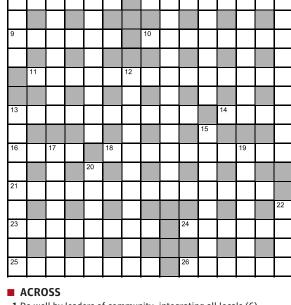
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### **FAITH**

### Desika's masterstroke

In a sloka in Vedanta Desika's Yadavabhyudaya, Yoga Maya says to Kamsa, "I am the maya of the One who killed Madhu and Kaitabha." This reference to Madhu and Kaitabha here, by Desika, is a masterstroke, said V.S. Karunakarachariar, in a discourse. It reminds us of the Lord's Hayagriva avatara and Durga's role during that avatara. Hayagriva avatara is described in the Santi Parva of Mahabharata, and also in Devi Bhagavatam. Brahma was given the Vedas by the Lord and asked to create, using the Vedas as his guiding manual. But Brahma became arrogant because of the important role he had been assigned. To curb his pride, the Lord caused two asuras to emerge from His ears. Brahma was on the Lord's navel, and the two asuras made their way towards Brahma. Brahma was not afraid of them. He stroked one of them and remarked, "You are soft [mridu]." Mridu became Madhu, which became that asura's name. Brahma then touched the other asura and said, "Your body is hard [kathina]." And so,

this asura came to be called Kaitabha. The asuras stole the Vedas from Brahma. They were able to do something so daring, because they had the protection of Yoga Maya (Durga). How did they earn Her favour? When the two asuras appeared, clouds and lightning appeared. The asuras, upon seeing this, exclaimed, "Ai." This is a beejakshara in the Durga mantra. Upanishads say that if there are obstacles to one's bhakti yoga, this mantra should be recited. Although the asuras had not consciously and knowingly uttered the beejakshara "ai", the very fact that they had said it, got them Yoga Maya's protection. Eventually, Lord Narayana took the Hayagriva avatara to kill the demons. It is to remind us of this important avatara that Desika's sloka has Durga mentioning the two asuras.



- 1 Do well by leaders of community, integrating all locals (6) 4 Persian script used in talaqs (8)
- **10** Sold off abandoned junk lie detectors and similar things (8) 11 Cricket administrator adapted this incentive system with merit
- increases, to start with (6,3,5) **13** Spooner sauteed tapioca, say and raisins (10)

9 Rare infection of the lung? Pressure is controlled with drug (6)

16 Three ways to hold a pen (4)

18 Random person one doesn't want to marry? (10)

descending on its prey (2,3,4,5)

2 Tea and toasted pita bread (7)

7 Swimmer turned round, squinting (7)

under cover, waiting for payment (8)

5 National lottery uncovered lapses of vigilance (11) 6 Fly northward from West Estonia (6)

8 Combination of Lillee and Thomson, perhaps, with Marsh (9) 12 Volunteers performed, say, a special set of Neapolitan dances (11) 13 Passed around, yet pure (9)

claimed in between (7)

### MARKET WATCH

	28-06-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	52,735	-0.36
US Dollar	74.19	0.01
Gold	46337	0.06
Brent oil	75.3	-0.42

PRICE 716.25 2982.95 762.40 4183.45 12377.90 .6037.05 .531.20 467.15 .3667.25 .963.05 .147.20 .4314.40 .5404.25 .2740.45 .1520.60 .985.30 .2494.95	-20.99 -1.07 -12.70 -108.70 -38.79 -2.90 -2.80 -5.99 -1.55 -65.60 -94.99
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1571.80	
110.85	
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695.35	
1733.05	
793.50	0.7
7596.25	-52.7
2086.00	-18.4
28390.20	-338.90
765.65	8.0
210 1.00.	-44 N
3336 75	
	1514.45 .793.50 .7996.25 .17506.15 .116.15 .122.35 .231.85 .2086.00 .1002.10 .426.75 .28390.20 .676.30 .765.65 .342.80 .1184.00 .3336.75 .1105.10

#### Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on June 28 CURRENCY TT BUY TT SELL

..-25.80 ..-53.55

except jen at 1 pinn	on same	
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	73.99	74.31
Euro	88.32	88.73
British Pound	.102.97	103.42
Japanese Yen (100)	66.81	67.13
Chinese Yuan	11.46.	11.51
Swiss Franc	80.59	80.95
Singapore Dollar	55.11	55.35
Canadian Dollar	60.08	60.35
Malaysian Ringitt	17.84	17.93
C 1 1' D 1		

### Skoda SUV Kushaq prices start from ₹10.49 lakh

Škoda Auto India on Monday said its new SUV Kushaq will be offered at an ex-showroom price starting at ₹10.49 lakh nationwide.

# Confident divestment target of ₹1.75-lakh crore will be met: CEA

Bolstering capital expenditure is the best way to spur the economy, he says

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Chief Economic Adviser Krishnamurthy Subramanian has expressed confidence that the ₹1.75-lakh crore disinvestment target of this fiscal will be achieved, with a good part coming from the proposed IPO of insurance behemoth LIC and privatisation of Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL).

"This year there is actually lot of emphasis on achieving these targets. Lot of work is going on," he said.

While LIC's public issue and BPCL privatisation are expected to contribute a chunk of the target, from a signalling perspective, Air India's privatisation is also



**Star candidate:** Air India's privatisation is also very important from a signalling perspective, says the CEA. •AP

very important, on which too work is happening, the CEA said. "I think this year very likely will be remembered for privatisation that has been achieved," Mr. Subramanian said in a virtual interaction with members of the Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI) on Monday. Earlier, delivering a lecture on 'India's Economy: Recovery and Way forward', the CEA said second-generation reforms initiated by the government over the last two years were path-breaking.

Stating that enhancing capital expenditure was the best way to grow the economy as it had a multiplier effect, he said the Centre's impetus to growth driven by infrastructure, and ramp-up in spending since October had accelerated the growth of the construction sector as also created jobs. A spillover effect was growth in consumption, he said, adding that the impact of the second wave was shorter in duration and likely to be muted on the economy as evident from the GST collection figures.

### Sensex slides as stimulus fails to cheer

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The equity benchmark BSE Sensex reversed early gains to close 189 points lower as investors gave a lukewarm response to the government's fresh stimulus for COVID-hit sectors.

A lacklustre trend in global equities further weighed on sentiment, though robust buying in pharma and metal counters capped losses, traders said. After touching a lifetime high of 53,126.73 in the opening session, the 30-share BSE index ended 189.45 points, or 0.36% lower at 52,735.59.

Titan was the top loser in the Sensex pack, shedding 1.56%, followed by TCS, HCL Tech, Bajaj Finserv, Reliance Industries and UltraTech Cement.

six debt schemes, which are

Through the order, Fran-

klin Templeton was directed

to refund investment man-

agement and advisory fees

along with interest at 12% a

year, amounting to ₹512.5

crore. Further, the firm wa-

s prohibited from introduc-

ing new debt schemes.

# Healthcare, travel sectors welcome stimulus

'Scale up medical infra manifold'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Industry and analysts welcomed the targeted interventions – with a special focus on health and tourism – announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

"The measures to keep enterprises afloat in the aftermath of COVID 2.0 in the form of extending loan guarantees to the healthcare, tourism sectors and small borrowers, in addition to increasing the scope of ECLGS by ₹1.5 lakh crore are very welcome steps," CII president T.V. Narendran said.

"The extension of ECLGS's scope and coverage are expected to provide significant support to the cash flow of the stressed sectors," he added. Stating that tourism had been one of the most impacted sectors, he said the package would usher in much-needed liquidity and help revive the employment-intensive sector.

### 'Mitigating closures'

"Financial support in the form of working capital loans with 100% guarantee to over 11,000 registered tourist guides, travel and tourism stakeholders will help save livelihoods, revive the sector and mitigate further closures and also create new job opportunities," he added.

FICCI senior VP Sanjiv Mehta said, "While some of the existing relief measures have been extended, the focus of the new measures is very well placed. The emphasis laid on the COVID-affected sectors is laudable." The extension of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana until March 31, 2022 should help support additional hiring, he added.

The health sector too welcomed steps targeted at this industry. "The allocation of



₹23,220 crore towards public health for COVID-care and future preparedness with a special emphasis on pediatric emergency preparedness will bolster efforts for any such healthcare challenges in the future," said Dr. Prathap C. Reddy, chairman, Apollo Hospitals.

Healthcare industry body NATHEALTH president Harsh Mahajan said, "The pinpoint focus on augmenting manpower and infrastructural resources for pediatric care is a welcome step and a new beginning".

He, however, added an increased outlay of ₹50,000 crore on scaling up medical infrastructure would be useful in the short term but has to be increased manifold to make up for the neglect of the healthcare sector over the past several decades.

"There can be no better time than the present to fulfil the long-pending demand of the healthcare sector to be accorded infrastructure status to enable the nation leapfrog to the next level of healthcare, he added.

Rikant Pitti, co-founder, EaseMyTrip, said credit relief will play a crucial role in reviving the tourism sector.

"Tourist guides and other travel stakeholders are the backbone of the industry and we believe that the special fund outlay will enable them to rise from the challenges they had faced over the past year and a half."

(With PTI inputs)

# ICRA trims tractor sales growth outlook for FY22

'Estimate at 1-4% due to second wave'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ratings agency ICRA on Monday revised downwards the growth forecast for domestic tractor volumes to 1-4% in 2021-22 due to the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic impeding the industry momentum in the first quarter.

The agency had earlier projected a 4-6% growth in domestic tractor volumes for FY22. "In view of the impact of the second wave, the same has been revised downwards to 1-4%," ICRA said in a statement.

"Downside risks to these estimates emanate from spells of unfavourable rainfall leading to crop damage and a resurgence in COVID



cases," the ratings agency.

However, ICRA said given the high base of the previous fiscal, even stagnant volume growth in the current fiscal would still represent very strong volumes for the industry participants.

Even as there is uncertainty with regard to the evolution of the pandemic, the underlying demand drivers for the industry remain intact, ICRA said.

# SpiceJet mulls fundraising options

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Low-cost carrier SpiceJet will discuss options to raise funds at a board meeting scheduled to be held on June 30, it told the BSE. "The board of directors

of the company, in its meeting scheduled on Wednesday, the 30th day of June, 2021 will discuss and consider, inter-alia, options for raising fresh capital through issue of equity shares/debt instrument on preferential/qualified institutions placement basis," the airline said in the BSE filing late on Sunday evening.

The airline posted a combined loss of ₹762 crore for the first three quarters of FY21.

## SAT stays SEBI order on Franklin Templeton

It halves fee refund amount to ₹250 cr.

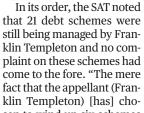
now shut.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) on Monday stayed a SEBI order that had barred Franklin Templeton Asset Management (India) from unveiling new debt schemes for two years and had asked the fund house to refund a little over ₹512 crore.

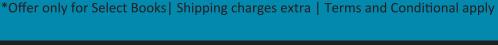
Terming the refund amount 'excessive,' SAT asked the company to deposit ₹250 crore in an escrow account within three weeks.

The appeal was filed against an order passed by SEBI on June 7, which said Franklin Templeton violated certain provisions of mutual funds norms in relation to the management of the



fact that the appellant (Franklin Templeton) [has] chosen to wind up six schemes does not mean that they should be debarred from launching any new debt schemes," the SAT added.





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## **TUESDAY, JUNE 29, 2021**

territorial waters.

international law."

Britain said it was making

through Ukrainian territorial

waters in accordance with

Russia annexed Crimea

from Ukraine in 2014 and

claims the waters around the

innocent passage

## U.S. air strikes hit Iran-backed militias in Syria, Iraq: Pentagon

Attack on facilities on Iraq-Syria border in response to 'drone assaults by militants'

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN

The U.S. has, on President Joe Biden's direction, conducted air strikes at two locations in Syria and one in Iraq, the Pentagon announced. The early morning "defensive precision air strikes" were carried out on facilities along the Iraq-Syria border used by Iran-backed militias to conduct drone attacks against American personnel and facilities in Iraq, according to the Pentagon. U.K-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said seven militia members were killed in the air strikes.

"Several Iran-backed militia groups, including Kata'ib Hezbollah (KH) and Kata'ib Sayvid al-Shuhada (KSS), used these facilities," a statement from Pentagon spokesperson John Kirby said.

Mr. Biden had directed further action to deter the attacks alleged by the U.S., Mr. Kirby said. The Biden administration already conducted air strikes against facilities used by Iran-backed



Iran-backed Shia militias marching in Diyala, Iraq. Two Shia militia groups were targeted by the U.S. on Sunday. • AP

groups on the Syrian side of the Iraq-Syria border.

"Given the ongoing series of attacks by Iran-backed groups targeting U.S. interests in Iraq, the President directed further military action to disrupt and deter such attacks. We are in Iraq at the invitation of the Government of Iraq for the sole purpose of assisting the Iraqi Security Forces in their efforts to defeat ISIS. The United States took necessary, appropriate, and deliberate action designed to limit the risk of escalation – but also

to send a clear and unambiguous deterrent message,' Mr. Kirby said.

'In self-defence'

"As a matter of international law, the U.S. acted pursuant to its right of self-defence. The strikes were both necessary to address the threat and appropriately limited in scope," he said.

While the Syrian Observatory said seven militia members were killed, the BBC reported that Sana, Syrian state media, saying three civilians and a child were

**Pro-Tehran fighters** call for retaliation

BAGHDAD The Hashed, an Iraqi paramilitary alliance that

includes Iranian proxies, said the strikes killed four of its fighters in the Qaim region. The fighters were tasked to prevent jihadists from infiltrating Iraq, the group said. "We reserve the legal right to respond to these attacks and hold the perpetrators accountable." it said. AFP

killed in the strikes.

The strikes come at a significant time in Iran and in Iran-U.S. relations. Last week, Iran elected a hardliner, Ebrahim Raisi, as President. On Monday, Mr. Biden will welcome President Reuven Rivlin of Israel - a close ally of the U.S. and a major rival of Iran. The two are expected to discuss negotiations for the U.S. and Iran to re-engage in the Iran nuclear deal or the ICPOA (the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action), a move opposed by Is-

## Ukraine, U.S. launch Black Sea drills

The exercise comes days after Russia-U.K. row over warship in disputed waters

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Ukraine and the United States launched joint naval exercises in the Black Sea on Monday in a show of Western cooperation with Kiev as it faces off with Russia.

The drills come just days after the British Royal Navy's HMS Defender passed near Russian-annexed Crimea in the Black Sea, with Moscow saying it fired warning shots at the destroyer to ward it

The Sea Breeze drills which have taken place 21 times since 1997 - will involve some 5,000 military personnel from more than 30 countries.

The exercises will last two



On its way: Last week, Russia said it fired warning shots at HMS Defender for violation of its territorial waters. • AFP

weeks and involve around 30 ships, including the mis-

sile destroyer USS Ross. Ukrainian Navy Commander Oleksiy Neizhpapa said

es would send a "powerful message to maintain stability and peace in our region."

Russia said it fired warning shots last Wednesday at during an opening ceremothe HMS Defender after what ny in Odessa that the exercisit said was a violation of its

peninsula as part of its territory. Most countries do not recognise the takeover and stand behind Ukraine's claims to the waters. Washington is a key ally of

Kiev in its conflict with Moscow over Crimea and pro-Moscow separatist regions in eastern Ukraine.

In 2018 Russian forces boarded and took control of three Ukrainian Naval ships off the Black Sea peninsula.

## Bangladesh shuts amid virus surge; migrants' exodus begins

The country recorded its highest death toll of 119 on Sunday

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Thousands of people were stranded in Bangladesh's capital on Monday as authorities halted almost all public transport ahead of a sweeping lockdown imposed to combat a deadly resurgence of COVID-19 infections.

The country reported 119 deaths on Sunday, its highest-ever daily death toll from the pandemic, while new infections have been averaging around 5,000 for the past

Officials blame the recent spike in cases on the highly contagious coronavirus Delta variant first identified in neighbouring India

The majority of the South Asian nation's 168 million



Migrant workers and families leaving for their native places on Monday. • AFP

population will be confined to their homes by Thursday as part of the restrictions, with only essential services and some export-facing factories allowed to operate.

The lockdown announcement sparked an exodus of migrant workers from the capital Dhaka to home villages on Sunday, with tens of thousands of people cramming into ferries to cross a major river.

The staggered implementation of the lockdown rules left thousands of workers in Dhaka forced to walk to their offices on Monday, sometimes for hours, in the sweltering summer heat.

Large columns of people were seen walking on the main roads early Monday. Workplaces will be shut from Wednesday.

Bicycle rickshaws were allowed to operate in a last minute government concession on Sunday, but prices had soared to unaffordable levels, commuters said. "I started walking at 7 a.m. I can't afford a rickshaw ride," Shefali Begum, 60, who was going to her daughter's home in central Dhaka, said.

## knife attack in Germany

Two injured in

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Two men were injured in an apparent knife attack in the German city of Erfurt on Monday morning, police said, just three days after a deadly knife rampage in the Bavarian city of Wuerzburg.

The two injured victims,

aged 45 and 68, were taken to nearby hospitals for treatment and their injuries were not life-threatening, a police spokeswoman said. A 32-year-old suspect

was later found injured at his apartment and arrested, police in the central German city said on Twitter.

The suspect, named by local media as Johannes L, had apparently harmed himself and was taken to hospital.

## Iraq, Egypt and Jordan hold summit

In Baghdad, they discussed ways to bolster ties on security, energy and trade

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Egypt, Jordan and Iraq agreed to bolster security and economic cooperation at a tripartite summit on Sunday that saw an Egyptian head of state visit Iraq for the first time in three decades.

The visits by Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and Jordan's King Abdullah II came as Iraq seeks to move closer to Arab allies of the United States in the Middle

Iraq is also seeking to establish itself as a mediator between Arab countries and Iran, after reportedly hosting talks in April between Tehran and Riyadh.

Mr. Sisi and Abdullah met Iraqi President Barham Saleh and Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhemi, with Mr. Sa-

leh saying the encounter was "an eloquent message amid enormous regional challenges".

"Iraq's recovery paves the way to an integrated system for our region built on the fight against extremism, respect for sovereignty and economic partnership," Mr. Saleh said on Twitter.

The summit held bet-

sues, as well as ways of bolstering cooperation between them in the fields of security, energy and trade, according to a joint statement.

guests broached regional is-

The leaders discussed a "political solution" to Syria's civil war based on UN resolutions "that would preserve its security and stability and provide adequate conditions for the return of refugees".

## + U.S. presses allies to bring back citizens who joined IS

About 10,000 suspected IS fighters are being held in Syria

Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Monday pressed U.S. allies to bring back citizens arrested overseas for joining the Islamic State group, warning they could not be held indefinitely in Syria.

Mr. Blinken made the appeal in Rome at a meeting of an 83-member coalition on defeating the extremist network, where he and host Italy called for greater attention to the threat in Africa.

About 10,000 suspected Islamic State fighters are being held in northern Syria by Western-allied Kurdish fighters, according to U.S.

"This situation is simply untenable. It just can't persist indefinitely," Mr. Blinken



Antony Blinken

"The United States continues to urge countries - including coalition partners – to repatriate, rehabilitate and, where applicable, prosecute its citizens," he said.

France, U.K. opposed France and Britain, two of the closest U.S. allies, have been major holdouts against calls to bring back their citizens, which were also made

by former President Donald

Frump's administration. Both nations have painful experiences with attacks and see little incentive and plenty of political cost to bringing back radicalised ci-

tizens who are already jailed

Mr. Blinken praised Italy as one of the few Western European nations that repatriate its citizens and also hailed efforts by Central Asian nations - such as Kazakhstan, which he said had brought back 600 fighters and their family members and put them in rehabilita-

tion programmes. According to a Human Rights Watch, the Kurdishled Syrian Democratic Forces are holding over 63,000 women and children of suspected IS fighters from over 60 nations in two camps surrounded by barbed wire.

# making power

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The first two generating units of the world's secondbiggest hydroelectric dam were officially turned on Monday in southwestern China, the government announced.

The Baihetan Dam on Jinsha river, a tributary of the Yangtze, is part of Chinese efforts to curb surging fossil fuel demand by building more hydropower capacity at a time when dams have fallen out of favour in other countries due environmental

announcement comes ahead of the ruling Communist Party's celebration this week of the official 100th anniversary of

Plans call for the 289-mtall Baihetan Dam to have 16 generating units with a capacity of 1 million kilowatts each.

## 2nd-biggest dam starts

complaints.

its 1921 founding.

## N. Koreans 'heartbroken' over Kim's 'emaciated looks'



National concern: A combination of file photos of Kim Jong-un on February 8, left, and June 15, 2021. ■AP

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Heartbroken North Koreans have been worrying tearfully about leader Kim Jongun's "emaciated looks," state media quoted a local resident as saying.

The comments were seen as an effort to boost support for Mr. Kim as he grapples with deepening economic hardships caused by the CO-VID-19 pandemic, economic sanctions and natural disasters, some experts said. In recent state media

photos, Mr. Kim has appeared to have lost a considerable amount of weight.

Some North Korea watchers said Mr. Kim, who is about 170 cm tall, may have lost 10-20 kg.

## Reparations needed for people facing racism'

UN rights chief calls for 'making amends'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The UN human rights chief, in a landmark report launched after the killing of George Floyd in the U.S., is urging countries worldwide to do more to help end discrimination, violence and systemic racism against people of African descent and "make amends" to them – including through repara-

The report from Michelle Bachelet, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, offers a sweeping look at the roots of centuries of mistreatment faced by Africans and people of African descent, notably from the transatlantic slave trade.

The report, a year in the

making, hopes to build on momentum around the recent, intensified scrutiny worldwide about the blight of racism and its impact on people of African descent as epitomised by the high-profile killings of unarmed Black people in the U.S. and elsewhere.

up action by countries to end racial injustice; end impunity for rights violations by police; ensure that people of African descent and those who speak out against racism are heard; and face up to past wrongs through accountability and redress.

Bachelet said.

The report aims to speed

"I am calling on all states to stop denying – and start dismantling - racism," Ms.

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## Belgium dumps lacklustre Portugal

Thorgan Hazard's thunderbolt in the first-half the difference between the two teams

**EURO 2020** 

REUTERS

Defending champion Portu-

gal was knocked out after suffering a 0-1 loss against Belgium in their round of 16 clash on Sunday. The Belgians will face Italy in the quarterfinals.

A 43rd-minute strike from Thorgan Hazard secured the win for Roberto Martinez's team, which survived plenty of pressure from the Portuguese in the second half.

But with the finishing touch missing, it was the end of the road for Cristiano Ronaldo and a Portugal team which had triumphed in Paris five years ago.

Portugal began brightly and Diogo Jota wasted a great chance in the sixth mi-



Knockout punch: Belgium's Thorgan Hazard lets fly a swerving strike that beat Portugal's defence and goalkeeper. • REUTERS

nute, dragging his shot wide after Renato Sanches had broken from midfield and found him in a promising position on the left. Ronaldo then tested Belgi-

Fernando Santos's team continued to apply pressure. um keeper Thibaut Courtois But Belgium grew into the game with Kevin De Bruvne with a low-struck free kick as

increasingly influential and three minutes before the interval it grabbed the lead.

A smart passing move ended with Thomas Meunier feeding Thorgan Hazard, whose wickedly swerving shot flew past the wrongfooted Portugal 'keeper Rui Patricio.

Belgium suffered a blow when De Bruyne limped off with an injury three minutes after the break.

The result: Belgium 1 (Thorgan 43) bt Portugal O.

### **TODAY'S MATCHES**

ROUND OF 16 **England vs Germany** 

Sweden vs Ukraine 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

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

## Spain noses ahead in extra-time

Croatia fights back with late goals in regulation period

REUTERS COPENHAGEN

A wonderful strike from the under-fire Alvaro Morata in the 100th minute, followed by another by substitute Mikel Oyarzabal three minutes later, put Spain 5-3 ahead at the end of the first half of extra-time in a thrilling Euro 2020 pre-quarterfinal on Monday.

Earlier, Spain and Croatia went into extra-time drawing 3-3 in regulation time that began with a disastrous goalkeeping mistake, when Unai Simon failed to control Pedri's backpass in the 20th minute and watched helplessly as the ball rolled into the net.

The Spaniards drew level in the 38th minute following sustained pressure that was rewarded when the Croatian goalkeeper swatted Jose



Clawing back: Mario Pasalic heads home Croatia's equaliser against Spain deep into injury time. • GETTY IMAGES

Gaya's shot to the feet of Pablo Sarabia who fired home.

The three-time European champion continued to create chances and Cesar Azpilicueta notched a welltimed header after connecting with a cross from Ferran Torres in the 57th minute.

Torres got Spain's third in the 77th minute. In a remarkable comeback, Mislav Orsic clawed a goal back for the World Cup semifinalist in the 85th minute after a goalmouth scramble before Mario Pasilic headed Croatia's equaliser in stoppage time.

## We need to groom pace bowling department'

Mithali wants improved show from batters

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

Mithali Raj wants the seamers to deliver as India tries to bounce back after losing comprehensively to England in the first ODI at Bristol on Sunday.

"If seamers don't get wickets, that puts a lot of pressure on the spinners," she said at a virtual press conference.

"We need to groom the pace bowling department. (Besides) Jhulan Goswami, the others in the team should be able to step up when they get an opportunity. These conditions assist seamers and they should make use of them."

She admitted India's batters, who played 181 dot balls at Bristol, should also come up with a better display. Her 72 (108 balls) was the only half-century in the disappointing Indian in-nings, which laboured to 201 for eight after being put

'We have to work on rotating the strike," she said. "We need another top-order batter to get us the runs. But we also need to understand that the England bowlers, especially the seamers, are very experienced. And they know how to bowl in their



Jhulan. • GETTY IMAGES

conditions."

Mithali said the Indian team was more comfortable chasing a target than setting up one. "When it comes to posting a target, I guess there is something we need to work on, how to get to 250," she said. "We can't be going bang bang and then lose wickets.

### Reshuffle possible

She indicated the team could be shuffled for the next game, at Taunton on Wednesday

"We will definitely look into the composition of the team," she said. "Maybe we would shuffle the batting a

### Island safari



White-ball challenge: The Indian squad, snapped prior to its departure from Mumbai, landed in Colombo on Monday. The Shikhar Dhawan-led side will play three ODIs (July 13, 16 and 18) and three T2OIs (July 21, 23 and 25). All matches will be held in Colombo. ■TWITTER/BCCI

## Sensational display by Arjun

Makes history by becoming first Indian to reach last eight

the hook and lost.

(Nor) bt Vidit Gujrathi; Anish

Giri (Ned) drew with Arjun Eri-

gaisi; Jan-Krzysztof Duda (Pol)

bt D. Gukesh; Vladislav Arte-

miev (Rus) bt B. Adhiban; 14th:

Arjun drew with Carlsen; Vidit

drew with Saleh Salem (UAE);

Gukesh drew with Anish; Adhi-

(Rus); 13th: Carlsen drew with

Gukesh: Salem drew with Ar-

jun; Peter Svidler (Rus) lost to

### **CHESS**

RAKESH RAO NEW DELHI

With a stupendous display of grit and focus, Arjun Erigaisi made history in the Meltwater Champions Chess Tour by becoming the first Indian to gatecrash into the quarterfinals of the Goldmoney Asian Rapid online chess tournament on Monday.

Arjun, the lowest-rated player, came up with a terrific display on the final day of the preliminaries by proving equal to Wesley So, Peter Svidler, Saleh Salem, Magnus Carlsen and Anish Giri.

D. Gukesh, who came up Vidit; Duda lost to Adhiban. with a series of impressive performances, missed out

12th: Adhiban bt Giri; Gukesh bt Salem; Vidit drew with So; on a chance to finish higher Arjun drew with Svidler; 11th: than the tied 11th spot after Carlsen drew with Adhiban; Hou Yifan (Chn) lost to Vidit; he let Jan-Krzysztof Duda off Svidler drew with Gukesh; So drew with Arjun. The results (involving Indians): 15th round: Magnus Carlsen

Standings: 1. Aronian (Arm, 10.5); 2. Artemiev (Rus, 10); 3. Liren (Chn, 9.5); 4-5. Carlsen (Nor), So (USA) (9 each); 7-9. Giri (Ned), Arjun, Firouzja (FIDE) (8 each); 10. Vidit (7); 11-12. Svidler, Gukesh (6.5 each); 13. Dubov (Rus, 6); 14. Salem (UAE, 5.5), 15. Adhiban (5), 16. Yıtan (3.5).

Quarterfinal line-up: Aronian-Arjun; Artemiev-Anish; Ding-Duda: Carlsen-So.

## T20 WC in UAE and Oman, confirms BCCI

Formally intimates ICC; surge in COVID-19 cases cited as the reason

### T20 WORLD CUP

AMOL KARHADKAR

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has decided to host the T20 World Cup in October-November in the UAE and

BCCI treasurer Arun Dhumal confirmed that the decision was taken because of an expected surge in the CO-VID-19 cases all over India.

The Hindu understands that the BCCI has formally communicated about switching the venue to the International Cricket Council (ICC), a day before the expiry of the deadline for finalising the venue. On June 1, the ICC had asked the BCCI to confirm the venue within four weeks.

"We have discussed the issue with ICC and have had several rounds of discussions internally. After much deliberation, it has been decided that the safety of players and other stakeholders is of paramount importance. Keeping that in mind, it is best that we shift the T20 World Cup to the UAE," said a letter from the BCCI to the State associations.

Interestingly, two sepa-



Arun Dhumal. ■FILE PHOTO

rate letters - accessed by *The Hindu* – with the same content were signed and sent separately by BCCI president Sourav Ganguly and Jay Shah to BCCI affiliates, thus raising murmurs among members about 'lack of coordination' among the BCCI top brass. The 16-team event is likely

to be played from Oct. 17 to Nov. 14. The eight-team qualification stage is set to be staged in Muscat, the capital city of Oman.

Four teams from the preliminary stage will join eight direct entrants in the main event, likely to start on October 24, in the UAE.

The fixtures will be formalised latest by July 18, when the ICC's annual conference will begin.

### **SLC** suspends three players

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Sri Lanka suspended three players on Monday - vicecaptain Kusal Mendis, Niroshan Dickwella and Danushka Gunathilaka - for breach of bio-secure bubble and withdrew them from the ODI series against England which begins in Chester-le-Street Tuesday.

Mendis and Dickwella were seen smoking in the streets of Durham where the team is based.

In a second video on social media, opener Gunathilaka is seen joining the pair, violating the coronavirus rules of their stay in England, where they are not allowed to roam freely.

Sri Lanka Cricket said the three players were suspended from all forms of the game until an inquiry was completed.

"This decision was taken following a preliminary inquiry conducted over a video posted on social media in which the said three players can be seen outside their designated hotel," SLC said.

"The three players have been asked to return home today," an SLC source told AFP. "They can no longer return to the bubble because that could be a risk for other players."

## Tiafoe stuns Tsitsipas, Djokovic through

Sabalenka and Muguruza in cruise mode; Stephens knocks out Kvitova

### WIMBLEDON

AGENCIES LONDON

French Open runner-up Stefanos Tsitsipas was shocked by United States' Frances Tiafoe in the first round of The Championships which got off to a wet start on Mon-

The 57th-ranked Tiafoe applied pressure by charging the net often and won 6-4, 6-4, 6-3 in a contest that lasted two hours and two minutes. The American had been 0-10 previously against players ranked in the top-5.

Tsitsipas lost in the first round for the third time in four appearances.

Top seed Novak Djokovic overcame the loss of the first set to register a 4-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 win over Great Britain's 253rd-ranked Jack Draper. The 34-year-old Serb struggled on the slippery Centre Court and lost the first set before finding his feet and fighting back.

### Special guest

Djokovic's match was preceded by a standing ovation for Professor Sarah Gilbert, one of the scientists behind the Oxford Astra-Zeneca CO-VID-19 vaccine, a special guest in the Royal Box.

Former US Open champion Sloane Stephens knocked out Czech 10th seed Petra Kvitova, the 2011 and 2014 champion, 6-3, 6-4. Garbine Muguruza, the 2017 winner, needed just under an hour to see off France's

### The day's highlights

■ 1 - First time in three a match at Wimbledon, 2018 and 2019

■ 2 - Second opening round

loss in three editions for two-time champion Kvitova. The Czech hasn't progressed beyond the the title in 2014

Tsitsipas in six Majors since

lost a set in the first round at Wimbledon was 11 years ago, in 2010 against Olivier

**23** - Muguruza won an

2-Medvedev vs Struff 6-Federer vs Mannarino

1-Barty vs Suarez Navarro 6-Serena vs Sasnovich 25-Kerber vs Stojanovic

Fiona Ferro 6-0, 6-1. There were two virus-re-

lated withdrawals – Johanna Konta and former men's doubles champion Frederik Nielsen – after both were identified as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case.



editions Sabalenka has won after first-round defeats in

fourth round since winning ■ 6 - Earliest defeat for

he lost in the US Open first round in 2019 to Rublev ■ 11 - The last time Djokovic

astounding 23 of 24 points on her opponent's second

### Tuesday's picks

4-Zverev vs Griekspoor



Solving the puzzle: Tiafoe finally got it right against a top-5 player when he beat World No. 4 Tsitsipas. • REUTERS.

### THE RESULTS

First round: Men: 1-Novak Djokovic (Srb) bt Jack Draper (GBR) 4-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-2; Frances Tiafoe (USA) bt 3-Stefanos Tsitsipas (Gre) 6-4, 6-4, 6-3.

Swan (GBR) 6-3, 6-4; 32-Ekate-

Women: Lauren Davis (USA) bt Jodie Burrage (GBR) 6-2, 6-1; 11-Garbine Muguruza (Esp) bt Fiona Ferro (Fra) 6-0, 6-1; 2-Fallen seeds Arvna Sabalenka (Blr) bt Moni-■ Men: 3-Tsitsipas ca Niculescu (Rou) 6-1, 6-4: 23-Madison Keys (USA) bt Katie

rina Alexandrova bt Laura Siegemund (Ger) 6-1, 6-3; Lesley Pattiname Kerkhove (Ned) bt Svetlana Kuznetsova (Rus) 6-3. 6-3; Sloane Stephens (USA) bt 10-Petra Kvitova (Cze) 6-3,

■ Women: 10-Kvitova

### Tim Merlier wins crash-filled third stage

### TOUR DE FRANCE

REUTERS

PONTIVY Belgian Tim Merlier won the third stage of the Tour de France on Monday, a 182.9km ride from Lorient to Pontivy, as two of the favourites to win the race - Geraint Thomas and Primoz Roglic - suffered heavy

crashes. The Alpecin-Fenix rider led a team one-two ahead of compatriot Jasper Philipsen that saw pre-stage favourite Caleb Ewan hit the deck in the final metres. France's Nacer Bouhanni came home

Slovenian Roglic, who finished second in Paris last vear, crossed the line more than one minute off the pace as defending champion Tadej Pogacar ended almost 30 seconds behind the stage winner after being

involved in a separate crash. Dutchman Mathieu van der Poel retained the overall

### in a crash-marred sprint leader's yellow jersey.



Horrific: The woman, left, held up a banner and was looking straight at the TV motorbike cameras on Saturday. • TWITTER

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

The fan who caused a giant crash at the Tour on Saturday is to be sued by the organisers.

The woman concerned

held up a banner slightly into the road and was looking straight at the television motorbike cameras with her back turned on the speeding peloton.

German rider Tony Martin brushed past her and was knocked off balance racing near the head of the peloton, and when he fell it caused a horrifying domino effect ending in a tangle of bikes and bodies. DSM's German rider Jasha

Sutterlin was the only one who had to pull out at that moment but several people were hurt, including spectators.

## Toor heaves the shot to a meet record

Annu sets a new mark in javelin

### **ATHLETICS**

UTHRA GANESAN

PATIALA Shot-putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor had set a target of 22 metres even before the National inter-State athletics championships had begun. On Monday, the star from Punjab faltered in that aim but managed to hit the Olympic qualifying mark of 21.10 metres, creating a new

meet record in the process. The qualification was not an achievement for the 26year-old, who had managed it a week ago at the 4th Indian Grand Prix.

It was the complete opposite for another Olympic hopeful as javelin thrower Annu Rani from U.P. could only manage a meet record of 62.83m, far below the required 64m mark. She is still likely to make the cut, placed comfortably on the Road to Tokyo rankings, but just one legitimate throw in the last competitive outing before the Games would not be a satisfying result for the National champion.

#### Priya makes her case The women's 400m was

won by Priya Habbathanahally and it remains to be seen if she will be included in the relay team, given the AFI's strict rules on not considering non-campers. The absence of Hima Das, an offcolour V.K. Vismaya and a disappointing outing by Jis-



Tajinderpal Singh Toor... hitting a high.

na Mathew in her first race this season may force the federation.

The results: Men: 400m: 1. Kaliga Kumaraghe (SL, 45.73s), Vikrant Panchal (Har, 46.83s), 3. Sarthak Bhambri (Del, 47.25s); 1,500m: 1. Ajay Kumar Saroj (UP, 3:42.55s), 2. Shashi Bhushan Singh (WB, 3:44.19), 3. Rahul (Del, 3:46.17); 4x100m: 1. Maharashtra (41.23s), 2. Kerala (41.99s). 3. Tamil Nadu (42.03s); Long Jump: 1. Mohd. Anees Yahiya (Ker, 7.76m), 2. Yugant Shekhar Singh (UP, 7.63m), 3. Rishabh Rishishwar (UP, 7.54m); Shot Put: 1. Tajinderpal Singh Toor (Pun, 21.10m), 2. Karanveer Singh (Pun, 19.33), 3. Vanam Sharma (Raj, 18.33).

bathanahally (Kar, 53.29s), 2. M.R. Poovamma (Kar, 53.54s), 3. Revathi Veeramani (TN, 53.71s); 10,000m: 1. Pooja Harijan (Raj, 35:29.59s), 2. Phoolan Pal (UP, 37:30.24), 3. Jyoti (UP, 38:23.21); Javelin: 1. Annu Rani (UP, 62.83m), 2. Sanjana Chaudhary (Raj, 52.65), 3. Pushpa Jakhar (Har, 52.48).

Women: 400m: 1. Priya Hab-



### TV PICKS

Wimbledon 2021: SS Select 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m. England vs Sri Lanka: 1st ODI: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD),

3.30 p.m. Tour de France: Eurosport (SD & HD), 5 p.m. **Euro 2020**: Sony Ten 1, 2, 3 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 9.30

(SD & HD), 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday) NBA: SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 6 a.m. (Wednesday)

p.m.; Sony Ten 2, 3 & Sony Six

### IN BRIEF



**Nelly Korda wins WPGA** title, rises to World No. 1

Nelly Korda won the Women's PGA Championship on Sunday to capture her first Major title and become the first American since 2014 to be World No. 1. The 22-year-old returned a 19-under 269 to beat compatriot Lizette Salas by



three strokes. AFP

**English claims Travelers** title in 8-hole play-off

Harris English rolled in a 20-foot birdie putt on the eighth play-off hole on Sunday to defeat fellow American Kramer Hickok and win the US PGA Travelers Championship. This was the second-longest play-off in US PGA history. AFP

#### 88 share lead in Natl. under-10 rapid chess

NEW DELHI Eighty-eight players shared the lead with three points after three rounds of the National (under-10) open online rapid chess championship on Monday. A record 929 players have entered the 11-round

### Middleton on a roll as Bucks go ahead

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE LOS ANGELES

Khris Middleton and Giannis Antetokounmpo combined for 71 points as Milwaukee Bucks rallied to beat Atlanta Hawks 113-102 in game three of the Eastern Conference finals on

Middleton scored 20 of his 38 points in a blistering fourth-quarter performance and Antetokounmpo finished with 33 points and 11 rebounds as the Bucks grabbed a 2-1 series

The Bucks were down by 15 points in the first quarter, went ahead in the third, and finished with a 25-7 scoring surge.

Trae Young led the Hawks with 35 points. The result: Eastern Conference finals: Milwaukee Bucks 113 bt Atlanta Hawks 102 (Bucks lead series 2-1).

# Rahi strikes gold with a superb display

Unleashes a series of perfect scores in women's 25m sports pistol to win by a big margin

### SHOOTING WC

SPORTS BUREAU

Asian Games gold medallist Rahi Sarnobat unleashed her best performance to outclass a strong field and win the 25metre sports pistol gold with a thumping margin in the shooting World Cup here on Monday.

The 30-year-old, who had won World Cup gold earlier in Changwon (2013) and Munich (2019), shot 39 in the final, one short of the world record, to beat Mathilde Lamolle of France by eight points for the gold. In fact, Rahi had sealed the gold even before the last series, as she had an unbeatable sixpoint lead.

"This give me the assurance that I am on the right track. I have to keep working on this," said Rahi.

Shooting five rounds of perfect-5s in the first six series, Rahi intimidated a world class field, which saw Top shot: Rahi Sarnobat, flanked by Mathilde Lamolle, left, and Vitalina Batsarashkina after getting her reward for her stupendous show. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT the reigning Olympic cham-

pion Anna Korakaki being

pushed to the fifth place. In sports pistol final, only a score of 10.2 or more is taken as a hit for one point.

Seven other shooters put together could muster only two perfect-5s between them in 52 rounds!

**Bhaker finishes seventh** Rahi had qualified with a majestic 591, following 296 in the rapid fire section. Manu Bhaker also shot 296 in

COPA AMERICA

Brazil failed to win for the

first time in 11 games but still

qualified top in Group B for

the Copa America quarterfi-

nals with a 1-1 draw against

The hosts went in 1-0 up

at half time thanks to an ac-

complished header from de-

Ecuador on Sunday.

Solanki

Arjuna

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tokyo Olympics-bound

Simranjit Kaur, Common-

wealth Games gold medal-

list Gaurav Solanki and

World championship sil-

ver winner Sonia Chahal

have been nominated for

the Arjuna Award by the

Boxing Federation of

Simranjit (60kg) is a

2018 Worlds bronze win-

ner and is among the four

Indian women boxers who

have qualified for the

Solanki (57kg) had won

his CWG gold in the 2018

edition, while Sonia (57kg)

claimed the Worlds silver

in the same year. She is al-

so a former national cham-

The federation has also

decided to nominate wo-

men's assistant coach

Sandhya Gurung and na-

tional youth head coach

Bhaskar Bhatt for the Dro-

nacahrya Award.

REUTERS

rapid fire to qualify for the final with 588, but ended up seventh.

It was the second World Cup medal this season for Rahi, who had lost the shootoff for the gold to Chinki Yaday in the World Cup in Del-

Ecuador makes the last eight

Peru also qualifies beating Venezuela

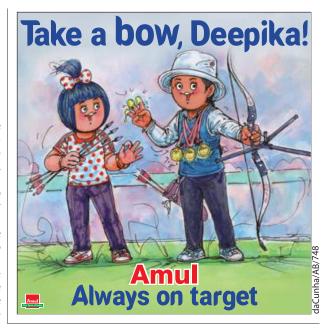
In the women's 50-metre

rifle 3-position event, Tejaswini Sawant (1168) and Anjum Moudgil (1162) returned modest scores.

Tejaswini looked set to make the final midway through the standing series, but dropped 14 points in the last two series and slipped to the 20th place.

Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, the gold medallist in the Delhi World Chp, had made the men's 50-metre rifle 3position event on Sunday, but ended up sixth. The results:

Men: 50m rifle 3-position: 1. Serhiy Kulish (Ukr) 460.0 (1182), 2. Sergey Kamenskiy (Rus) 458.6 (1179), 3. Patrik Jany (Svk) 447.6 (1179); 6. Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar 416.4 (1176); 17. Sanjeev Rajput 1173. Women: 25m sports pistol: 1. Rahi Sarnobat 39 (591), 2. Mathilde Lamolle (Fra) 31 (584), 3. Vitalina Batsarashkina (Rus) 28 (584); 7. Manu Bhaker



### S. Africa levels series

Spinners Linde and Shamsi star



Overjoyed: George Linde celebrates the dismissal of Nicholas Pooran. • AFP

### SA IN WINDIES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

(ST. GEORGE'S, GRENADA) Spinners were the stars as South Africa rebounded from a hammering in the first encounter of the fivematch T20 International series to defeat the West Indies by 16 runs in the second fixture here on Sunday.

Defending what appeared to be another modest total of 166 for seven, George Linde and Tabraiz Shamsi combined for three vital wickets in eight economical overs to limit the home side to 150 for nine.

It leaves the series locked 1-1 going into the third match at the same venue on Tuesday.

A late assault by Fabian Allen, who smashed five sixes in 34 off just 19 balls, caused the only anxiety for Temba Bavuma's team. South Africa 166.7 (Reeza

Hendricks 42, Q. de Kock 26, Temba Bavuma 46, Kevin Sinclair 2/23 Obed McCoy 3/25) bt West Indies 150/9 (Andre Fletcher 35, Fabian Allen 34, Kagiso Rabada 3/37, George Linde 2/19). Toss: West Indies; MoM: Linde:

South Africa won by 16 runs to level five-match series 1-1.

Cash reward

for Sajan

## Deepika ranked No.1 after Paris exploits

### **ARCHERY**

Y.B.SARANGI

Ace archer Deepika Kumari, who won three gold medals in the World Cup Stage-3 in Paris, jumped to the number one spot in recurve women's individual world rankings on Monday. In the latest rankings is-

sued by World Archery, the Tokyo Olympic-bound Deepika gathered 90 points from the Paris event to total 263.7 and climbed two places to the top position. Deepika was nearly 38 points clear of second-placed Frenchwoman Lisa Barbe-

Her husband Atanu Das (163.5) leaped four slots to be ranked ninth in the re-



Deepika. ■ WORLD ARCHERY FEDERATION

curve men's individual category. Abhishek Verma, who won the compound men's individual gold in Paris, rose 14 places to be slotted eighth with 146.725. V. Jyothi Surekha (122.375) was placed 18th in the compound women's

## BWF rejigs calendar

Indian & Hyderabad opens cancelled; Sudirman Cup shifted from China

### **BADMINTON**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

The India Open Super 500 and Hyderabad Open Super 100 tournaments were on Monday cancelled by the Badminton World Federation (BWF), which announced a revamped international calender to salvage the remaining season affected by COVID-19.

The \$400,000 India Open, which was supposed to be one of the qualifiers for the Tokyo Olympics, was scheduled to be held from May 11 to 16 but was postponed in April due to rising COVID cases in the national capital.

The \$100,000 Hyderabad Open was slated to be held from August 24 to 29.

he Syed Modi India International Super 300 tournament, scheduled to be held in Lucknow from October 12 to 17, remained on course, according to the new calender.

"A number of tournaments previously classified as postponed from Q1 and Q2 or originally slated for Q3 and Q4 of 2021 have subsequently been cancelled," BWF said in a statement.

In other announcements, the world body on Monday said that Finland will host the Sudirman Cup Finals in September-October while the season-ending World Tour Finals will be staged in Indonesia.

China was scheduled to host both the Sudirman Cup Final and the World Tour Finals but BWF decided to move both the events out of the country due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The apex body also decided to push the prestigious World Championships, to be held in Spain, by

#### fender Eder Militao. Brazil was surprisingly The equaliser: Angel Mena, left, put Ecuador through to the pegged back for the first 15 next stage with this strike. • AP

minutes of the second period and substitute Angel B game, Peru joined Brazil, Mena equalised for Ecuador. Colombia and Ecuador in With Peru defeating Venethe quarterfinals as Venezuela 1-0 in the other Group zuela exited.

The results: Group B: Brazil 1 (Militao 37) drew with Ecuador 1 (Mena 53); Venezuela O lost to Peru 1 (Carrillo 47).

> **Injured Roehler not to** defend javelin gold

### Simranjit and **OLYMPICS CALLING** nominated for



Defending men's javelin champion Thomas Roehler has pulled out of the Tokyo Olympics due to a back injury he confirmed on Monday. Roehler, also the reigning European champion, claimed gold at Rio with a winning throw of 90.30m. AFP

### World champ Lyles runs world-leading 200m

World champion Noah Lyles scorched to victory in the 200m at the US Olympic trials here on Sunday in a world-leading 19.74s. Lyles had struggled to show his best form in the early rounds. Kenny Bednarek was second in 19.78s while 17-year-old prodigy



Erriyon Knighton third in 19.84s. AFP



#### Aussie TT veteran Jian set for sixth Olympics

Australian table tennis veteran Jian Fang Lav (48) was on Monday selected for a sixth Olympics. Born in China, Jian moved to Australia in 1994 and will now join equestrian Mary Hanna, who will also be in Tokyo, as the only Australian women to compete at six

## McLaughlin sets 400m hurdles World record Sydney McLaughlin scorched

to a World-record breaking 400m hurdles victory (51.90s) at the US Olympic track and field trials here on Sunday. The 21-year-old McLaughlin became the first woman to duck below the 52-second barrier after a superb tactical race against reigning Olympic and World champion Dalilah Muhammad. AFP

#### Fraser-Pryce goes for Games double

Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce clocked a personal-best 21.79s to win the 200m and complete a sprint double at the Jamaica Olympic trials on Sunday. The 34-year-old two-time Olympic 100m champion had never dipped below 22s before Sunday. AFP

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA The Swimming Federation

of India president R.N. Jayaprakash on Monday announced a cash reward of ₹5 lakh for Sajan Prakash who became the first Indian swimmer to earn a direct qualification for the Olympics.

"SFI president Shri R N Jayaprakash announced a personal cash award of ₹5 lac to Sajan Prakash, who is the first Indian to achieve the Olympic 'A' qualification time in 200m butterfly event at the Sette Colli Trophy in Rome," SFI said in a statement.

The Tokyo Games will be the Kerala swimmer's second Olympics, having competed in 2016 through a Universality quota.

A day after Prakash's Srihari breached the 'A' standard time by clocking 53.77s in the men's 100m backstroke at the same meet. Since his effort came at a time trial, his participation in Tokyo will be confirmed only if FI-NA approves the timing.

## Main objective — avoid early setbacks: Mukesh

Singles out the experienced Sreejesh as the player to watch out for

### HOCKEY

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

India needs to play fearless hockey even while displaying the typical Asian skills to be in with a chance of winning a medal in the Tokyo Olympics, N. Mukesh Kumar, who holds the Games record of scoring the fastest goal -32 seconds against Australia in the 2000 Sydney edition –

"India is in a tough group. The main objective should be to avoid early setbacks or else it would have a demoralising effect," he said in a chat with The Hindu on Monday. "Olympics is a diffe-



rent proposition altogether in terms of pressure and expectations.'

Mukesh singled out goalkeeper P.R. Sreejesh as the player to watch out for be-

cause of his experience, class and confidence. "He is such an inspirational figure in the team," he added. "Most of the teams are

short of match-practice. It will be interesting to see how the players come up with the required endurance and match-fitness levels. Generally, the preparations include playing in a three-nation event or even Test matches. So, the onus will be on the seniors to raise the bar," said Mukesh, who featured in the 1992, 1996 and 2000 Games

**Demanding task** "The coaches, too, have a demanding task of relying a lot on video analysis and their success in translating the boardroom strategies into on-field execution will play a big role in any team's Mukesh hoped that the

tradition of Olympics throwing up unexpected heroes will continue and India too can have a share of this. "The emphasis of this In-

dian team seems to be to send players with the specific direction of going flat out in 10 minutes in any posi-"If we are good in this and

combine our traditional mastery in skills too, India should be a formidable force," Mukesh said.

## Snehit to play in the Polish League

### **TABLE TENNIS**

v.v. subrahmanyam HYDERABAD

Former youth national table tennis champion S. Fidel R Snehit signed to play for one year with the Polish First League Club UKS Villa Verde Olesno in the next season.

The city-based paddler, who also picked a bronze in the last senior nationals, met club owner Marek Tatarczuch and signed a contract on Sunday.

### **Excited**

Snehit, who happens to be the only table tennis player from the state to play in the European league, said he was really excited to play in the league which would start in September this year.



Snehit met with UKS Villa Verde Olesno owner Marek Tatarczuch to sign the contract. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"It is a new journey that tional match exposure," said Snehit, a final year Mass would give me a great opportunity in terms of interna-

Communication and Jour-

nalism student of St Joseph's College. Snehit has been in Spain for the last two months play-

ing club league champion-

ship before moving over to Poland where he won a league title last week. He is all set to play in a couple of league matches in Germany in July before com-

ing to Hyderabad to attend his final examinations. Thanks coach Snehit thanked his coach

Somnath Ghosh of 'Somnath Ghosh MLR-UTT Academy for his strong support and guidance. "I am happy for Snehit. It

is a great opportunity for him to be in the league of international players," Ghosh said.