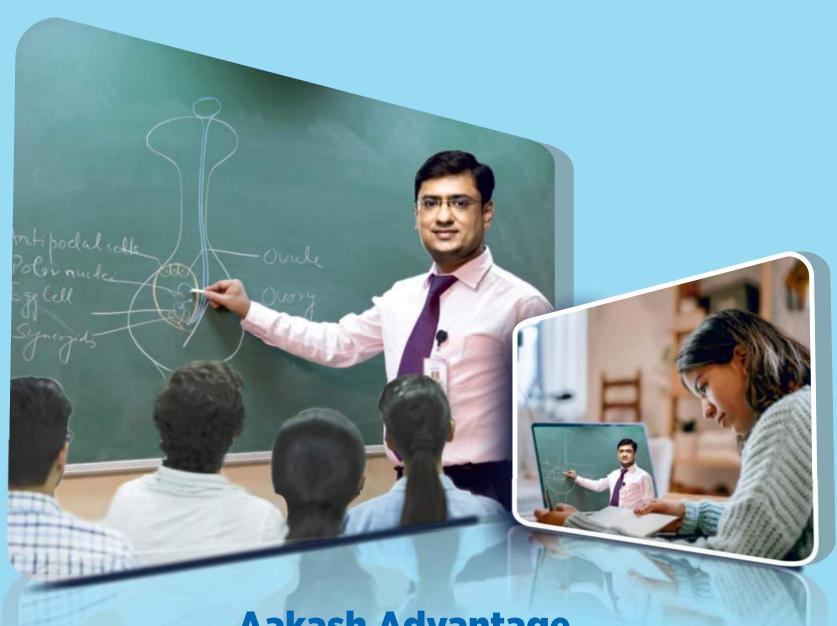
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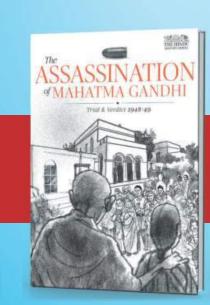
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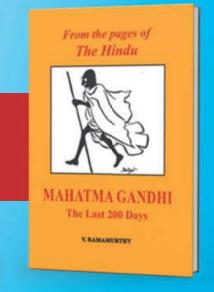


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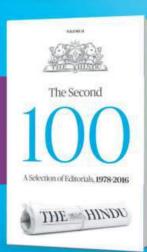




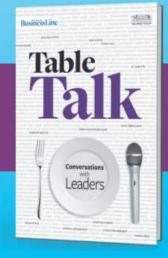




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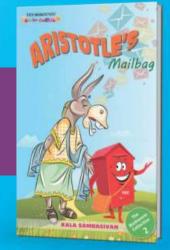








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Defending champion page 13

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**Protesting farmers back** at Ghazipur border

GHAZIABAD Farmers have once again started assembling at the Ghaziapur border in large numbers to protest against the contentious farm laws as the number of COVID-19 cases dipped in western Uttar Pradesh. On Friday, Bhartiya Kisan Union president Naresh Tikait led a tractor rally from Saharanpur via Muzaffarnagar and Meerut to Ghazipur border

**NORTH** ▶ PAGE 4

# CBSE optional exams in August

Class 10, 12 students unhappy with assessment formula can take it, says Nishank

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Students of Class 10 and 12 who are not satisfied with their marks assigned under the assessment formula of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) will be given a chance to write their examinations in August, Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank said on Friday.

However, Mr. Nishank cancelled his planned interaction with students, failing to answer their queries on private CBSE candidates, entrance examinations and the current CBSE syllabus. The



Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank

Minister's office said he could not directly interact with students as he was still in hospital due to post-CO-VID complications.

The Minister posted a short audio message on Twitter detailing the decision by the Centre to cancel the Class 10 and 12 board examinations due to the CO-VID-19 pandemic, as well as the tabulation policy which the CBSE is using to calculate the results based on internal marks and scores from previous exams. The board will declare results by July 31.

"For those who are not happy with the assessment formula, there is no need to worry. Exams will be conducted for you in August," Mr. Nishank said.

He stressed that the health of the students was the top priority of the government. The CBSE has said that those who choose to write the exams will have to abide by the marks they score, and cannot revert to the assigned marks under its tabulation policy.

Mr. Nishank had previously said he would be interacting with students, and invited them to send in questions, concerns, doubts and suggestions via Twitter and Facebook. A number of such queries poured in from students, especially private candidates registered with the CBSE, seeking clarity on their examinations.

**CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 8

## Delhi CM, deputy attack PM, BJP over oxygen report

While Kejriwal reminded Modi of his poll rallies, Sisodia denied the existence of the report altogether

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, in a broadside at Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, said he was making arrangements for oxygen in Delhi when the latter was busy participating in rallies in poll-bound States.

His statement came in the backdrop of a report submitted by a Supreme Court-appointed oxygen audit team, which said the Delhi government "exaggerated" its oxygen requirement by four times during the peak days of the second COVID-19 wave.

BJP leaders had been attacking the Kejriwal-led government over the report since Friday morning.

"My crime - I fought for the lives of 2 crore people of Delhi. When you were doing election rallies, I was awake all night making arrangements for oxygen. I fought, pleaded with people to get oxygen. People have lost their loved ones due to the lack of oxygen. You shouldn't call them liars, they will feel really bad about it," Mr. Kejriwal said in a tweet.

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who was



An oxygen tanker being refilled in Delhi.

appointed as the point man for COVID-19 management in the Capital on April 16, denied the existence of the report altogether. "From today [Friday] morning BJP is abusing Chief Minister Arvind Keiriwal on the basis of a socalled report on oxygen. No such report exists. BJP is lying," he said in a video statement. "The Supreme Court had formed an oxygen audit committee. We talked to many members of this committee. They all said that they have not signed any such report, they said they have not approved any report. Then which report is this?"

#### Sisodia's challenge

Mr. Sisodia said BJP leaders are alleging that the "socalled report" states that the oxygen demand in Delhi was inflated by four times.

"I challenge you, get the report which has been approved and signed by members of the oxygen audit committee. BJP leaders should be ashamed. They sit in BJP headquarters and make a report and call it the oxygen committee's report," he said.

The report, authored by a team led by AIIMS Director Dr. Randeep Guleria, was annexed to an affidavit filed by the Health Ministry in the Supreme Court.

SEE ALSO ▶ PAGE 3 'DELHI GOVT. EXAGGERATED O2 NEEDS BY 4 TIMES' ▶ PAGE 10

## Pakistan to remain on FATF greylist

SUHASINI HAIDAR NEW DELHI

Pakistan was retained on the greylist, or the list of countries under creased monitoring", by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), as the Parisbased UN watchdog judged it deficient in prosecuting the top leadership of UN Security Council-designated terror groups, including Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e Mohammad, Al Qaeda and Taliban.

Announcing the decision at the end of its latest plenary session held virtually from June 21-25, the FATF said despite completing 26 of the 27 tasks it had been handed, Pakistan's failure to complete the last task on convicting terrorists and terror entities meant it would not be delisted for now. In addition, the FATF handed down another six-point list of tasks, mainly on money laundering actions.

"The FATF encourages Pakistan to continue to make progress to address as soon as possible the one remaining Countering Finance of Terrorism-related item by demonstrating that Terror Financing investigations and prosecutions target senior leaders and commanders of UN-designated terrorist groups," the FATF president said.

**RELATED REPORT ON ▶** PAGE 8

## Kerala 'excess deaths' 1.6 times official toll

Count rises this year after fall in 2020

#### Low undercount

Kerala's estimated undercount factor for COVID-19 deaths (1.6) for the entire pandemic period is among the lowest for States for which full data on registered deaths for 2020 and 2021 (till May) have been made available so far. The undercount factors for 2021 alone for Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh are 42.3 and 33.8 respectively, compared to Kerala's 2.7 FOR APRIL 2020-MAY 2021

JK AFKIL 2020	) WAT 2021		
State	Excess deaths	COVID-19 deaths	Undercount
(erala	13,868	8,816	1.6
Karnataka	1,67,788	29,090	5.8
Tamil Nadu	1,51,408	24,231	6.2

SRINIVASAN RAMANI

After registering a lower number of deaths overall in 2020 compared to 2019, Kerala witnessed a significant increase in the overall death count due to the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021, resulting in an estimated 15,222 "excess deaths" till May 31, month-wise data from the Civil Registration System show.

overall "excess deaths" for the period April 2020-May 2021 were 13,868, which is 1.6 times more than the official COVID-19 death toll of 8,816 during this period. Not all excess deaths will

be related to COVID-19, but a bulk of them will be during the pandemic

IT Minister slams Twitter for blocking <sup>+</sup>

Kerala's estimated under-

count factor of 1.6 is lower than what The Hindu estimated for Karnataka (5.8) and Tamil Nadu (6.2) for the same period.

The undercount factor for 2021 alone (2.7) is also much lower than that of Karnataka (4.7), Tamil Nadu (6.5), Andhra Pradesh (33.8) and Madhya Pradesh (42.3).

It is also the same as the World Health Organization estimate for the Americas and Europe in 2020 - 1.6 times the recorded CO-VID-19 death toll. The "excess deaths" were estimated by calculating the difference between the overall death count registered each month during the pandemic years and the average death tally in the pre-pandemic years (2015-2019).

**CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 8

## Ready to serve



in Srinagar on Friday. A total of 614 men were formally inducted after 11 months of training. • NISSAR AHMAD

Less than 20% of Indians have received at least one dose of

the vaccine and only 4% are fully vaccinated. ■FILE PHOTO

## ED raids five places linked to Deshmukh

DEVESH K. PANDEY

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday conducted searches on five premises linked to former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh in Mumbai and Nagpur in connection with a money laundering case.

The premises of Mr. Deshmukh's chartered accountant was searched. His private secretary was later taken to the ED's Mumbai office for questioning. In April, the CBI had carried out searches in Mumbai and Nagpur after registering a corruption case against Mr. Deshmukh and others.

The case alleges attempt to obtain undue advantage for improper and dishonest performance of public

## He accuses site of violating new IT rules

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

platform Microblogging Twitter on Friday briefly blocked the account of Union Information and Technology Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad after receiving a complaint for violation of U.S. copyright law.

After his account was unblocked, Mr. Prasad lashed

out at Twitter, accusing it of violating the new Informaice of the action, and of taking "high-handed and arbitrary" action against those

his account, taking 'arbitrary' action

who do not suit its agenda. Mr. Prasad said his account was blocked for almost an hour.

He shared a screenshot of Twitter's notice which said that it had received "a compliant Digital Millennium Copyright Act notice for

content posted on your ac-

count", and warned that "accruing multiple DMCA tion and Technology Rules strikes could lead to a susby not giving him prior not-pension of your account".

> The incident comes in the midst of a tussle between the Central government and Twitter over the company's failure to comply with the new IT Act Rules which came into effect a month ago.

> Last week, the Uttar Pradesh Police filed an FIR against Twitter for the circulation of videos related to an attack in Ghaziabad.

#### **Defending the nation:** Newly recruited soldiers of the Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry celebrate during a passing out parade **DETAILS ON ▶** PAGE 9 'Third COVID-19 wave unlikely to be as severe as second' Scientists from Indian Council of Medical Research, Imperial College London conduct modelling study thwarting immunity than could reduce symptomatic the ones observed; the imincidence by around 55%. pact of moving out of lock-Less than 20% of Indians downs; and the role of a have received at least one

## Research (ICMR) and the Im-

Indian Council of Medical perial College London, U.K. For it to be as devastating, at least 30% of the population that had been infected earlier must entirely lose their immunity, or an emerging variant of the virus must have a reproductive rate (R) over 4.5, and these must occur almost immediately after the second wave ends. The authors, who include Balram Bhargava, Director-

General, ICMR, and Samiran

Panda, Head, Infectious Dis-

ease Unit, ICMR, suggest

that these scenarios are im-

A potential third wave of CO-

VID-19 would unlikely be as

severe as the second wave,

as per a modelling study by a

team of scientists from the

ЈАСОВ КОЅНҮ

cause a major third wave in the face of this pre-existing immunity, extreme scenarios for the abrogation of that immunity are required, or for that matter, for the transmission fitness of any novel virus," they report in

their article that appears in

plausible. "...For a virus to

the in-house Indian Journal of Medical Research as a pre-print. The scientists modelled a

potential third wave under several scenarios: a complete loss of immunity from previous waves; emergence of a variant that was more infectious and capable of highly infectious variant in case of a certain percentage of people getting vaccinated. **Expanding vaccination** 

Results showed that under all these situations, the peak

infections remained much lower than in the second wave, unless the R rate exceeded 4.5, or those previously susceptible exceeded 30%. The emergence of a third wave could be buffered by expanding vaccination, they say. The authors calculate that were vaccines rolled out in a way to cover 40% of the population with two doses over a period of three months following the

end of the second wave, it

dose of the vaccine and only 4% are fully vaccinated. The Centre proposes to vaccinate all adults - about 94.4 crore – by the end of 2021. However, Dr. Panda told The Hindu that while several

for a third wave as devastating as the second, complacency in observing safety could be dangerous. This is the first time that the ICMR's scientists have at-

In spite of several modelling experts, no group estimated or warned of the severity of the second wave that saw new infections rise to nearly 400,000 a day.

a future wave.



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#### IN BRIEF

#### 'Dormant borewells to be used for water harvesting

The DDA on Friday said borewells lying dormant in 80 parks will be revived and used for water harvesting under the "Jal Shakti Abhiyan" campaign. "As part of these efforts to boost water table level and improve environment, it has been planned to revive borewells lying dormant in 80 parks to use them for water harvesting. Under the campaign, catchment areas have been identified and provision will be made to underground," officials said.

#### Farm laws: SKM submits memorandum to Kovind

NEW DELHI The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) on Friday submitted a memorandum to President Ram Nath Kovind, urging him to direct the Centre to immediately repeal the three "anti-farmer laws". Through its memorandum, the SKM said, it conveyed "anguish and deep anger" of crores of farming families to the president. Farmers have been camping at Delhi borders since November last year, demanding the withdrawal of these three laws and that a new law be made to guarantee MSP for their

# Honour killing case: brother and cousin involved, alleges woman

23-year-old man dead, wife critical after they were attacked on Thursday night

HEMANI BHANDARI NEW DELHI

For the first time in nearly a year, Vinay and his father spoke over the phone 10 days ago, "It was a 10-minute call, He asked me how I was and I said I was fine," the father said before breaking into

In a suspected case of honour killing, the 23-year-old man, Vinay, was shot dead while his 19-year-old wife injured in a village in Dwarka on Thursday night, the police said on Friday. The woman, Kiran Dahiya, who sustained five bullet injuries, is said to be critical.

Vinay's 59-year-old father Om Prakash, who works at a post office, was at Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital on Friday along with his brother and his son's friend. He was waiting for his son's body. The last time he had met the son was in August 2020, right before the couple left the village to get married.

"They both belong to the same clan and lived in the same village. How could they



Om Prakash, father of Vinay Dahiya, at the DDU mortuary on Friday. • HEMANI BHANDARI

in the society and their marriage is an insult to us," Mr. Prakash said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka) Santosh Kumar Meena said Vinay and Kiran belonged from Sonipat's Kharkhoda village. Vinay worked as a driver, he said, adding that the incident happened at the couple's rented accommodation in Ambrahi village.

Six men barged into their residence at 9 p.m. and shot at both of them multiple times, an officer said. Vinay succumbed to four injuries and Kiran is undergoing treatment at a private hospiThey [couple] both come otherwise," he said, adding: "Vinay's mother had belonged to the fallen sick worrying about same clan and him in February and was lived in the same hospitalised as well." village. How could

Mr. Prakash was informed they get married? about his son's murder on We have to live in Thursday night. On Friday, the society and he went to the hospital to their marriage is meet his daughter-in-law an insult to us for the first time after their wedlock. "She told me her brother and cousin had Vinay Dahiya's father come along with a few others Mr. Prakash said the couand shot at them. The police

have picked up her family members to ask about the two," he said.

In a video captured in a

CCTV close to the spot, the

accused can be

'Tea with couple' Police sources said the accused didn't shoot at the couple right after entering the house but first spoke to the woman and also had tea with the couple.

Police teams are now looking for the woman's brother and cousin and conducting raids at their suspected hide-

## Students can now request confidential results: DU

Move to help them apply for jobs, studies

job."

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi University on Friday announced that students will be able to request for "confidential results" before the results are officially declared to meet the deadline for applications to higher studies or jobs.

Colleges will have to scrutinise the applications and send it to DU's examination branch by July 6, said senior officials.

DU Dean of Examinations D.S. Rawat, said: "Confidential results are the results which students often seek before the results are officially declared as they want to apply for higher studies or while seeking jobs. Last year the examination branch issued around 650 such confident results but the process usually becomes chaos. So this year we thought of streamlining the procedure."

In the notification issued, the university said, "...students are advised to send their request to the concerned department or college. Examination branch will try its level best to expedite the evaluation of those

quires confident result for the purpose of admission to higher studies or joining a

Mr. Rawat further explained: "The examination branch ends up getting hundreds of requests but incomplete applications and many times genuine applications get lost in the process. So I spoke to college principals as well. It is easier to screen out at the college level as the number of applications will be lesser. So by July 3 colleges will have to scrutinize the applications and by July 6 they have to send the same to the examination branch."

The notification further read, "Students are advised to talk only to the nodal officers of the respective colleges regarding confidential results or result-related queries. Merely applying for the confidential result will not guarantee the issuance of the confidential result."

## 'Civil work on Pink Line's missing link completed'

STAFF REPORTER

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on Friday said after repeated delays due to the pandemic, civil construction was completed in April on the missing Trilokpuri section of the Pink Line.

The officials said the track laying work is expected to be completed by June end and preliminary trials expected to begin after that. To expedite work on the Trilokpuri section, steel girders were used instead of the conventional concrete ones, they explained.

"A total of 40 steel girders have been placed on 10 spans for the 290-metrelong section. These steel girders have been fabricated and brought from a workshop in Ambala in Harvana. This has not only saved time but also there was no need to create a separate casting yard for the concrete casting of the girders," said DMRC spokesperson Anuj Dayal. Civil construction on the stretch began in early 2020 and was affected by the pandemic leading to missed deadlines.

"Work was repeatedly hampered by the pandemic induced lockdowns and issues such as non-availability of workforce. Now, track laying and other ancillary works have commenced on this stretch between Mayur Vihar Pocket 1 and Trilokpuri Sanjay Lake following completion of civil work. In addition, overhead electrification work is also under progress," Mr. Dayal said.

Senior officials said the section will be made operational immediately after receiving mandatory cleaconcerned.

#### me to come for post-mortem formalities. I wouldn't have outs in Haryana. get married? We have to live students' scripts that re-Shoe factory blaze: forensic team collects samples; six workers still missing

ple got married on August 13

last year and they got to

know about the marriage

court marriage in Chandi-

garh. A lawyer from the vil-

lage informed a family mem-

ber, who further told us. I

hadn't seen my son since,"

he said, adding that he

doesn't know if his wife ever

Though in tears, Mr. Pra-

kash still holds a grudge

against his son for marrying

within the clan. "I was help-

less because the police called

"They [couple] had a

three days later.

spoke to Vinav.

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Four days after a massive fire broke out at a shoe factory in west Delhi's Udyog Vihar, a forensic team on Friday collected charred human remains from the two-storey building.

Meanwhile, six of the workers present at the godown during the incident are still missing.

The officers added that they are conducting raids to nab the godown's owner, Pankaj Garg, who has been on the run since the day of the inci-

The police said the search operation will continue till all areas of the building have been scanned.

The fire broke out in the building, where shoes were assembled and packed for sale, on Monday and 35 fire tenders and around 140 firefighters were pressed into ser-

vice to douse the blaze. DCP (Outer) Parvinder Singh said, "One set of human remains has been collected from the second-floor of the building by Forensic Science Laboratory experts. No identification has been possible. The remains have been sent to a mortuary for preliminary autopsy, pending further investigation."

Director of Forensic Science Laboratory, Rohini, Deepa Verma, said: "Two forensic teams have been deployed at this site for finding and collecting biological evidence." "From a forensic point of view, individual identification is a very challenging task in the case of a fire, especially when the body is highly decomposed or dismembered to deliberately conceal the identity of the individual. In such cases, various techniques of forensic biology are employed to identify individuals through bones or body parts. "In the current scenario, our forensic experts are

involved in searching the body/skeletal remains at this scene of the fire," she said.

Crime scene examination in-charge (FSL), Sanjeev Gupta, said: "The burned material at the scene, including biological tissue, often ends up looking similar. Bones become discoloured, brittle, and highly fragmented. As a consequence, these remains are often disturbed, altered, or even destroyed during scene processing with the existing protocols."

DFS Director Atul Garg said, "Although it is dangerous to enter the building because of the heat. Some of its portions have already collapsed. Our priority is to search for the remains."

The SDMof Punjabi Bagh held a meeting on Thursday to discuss a further course of action to search for the missing workers, officials said. The SDM sought suggestions from the departments concerned, especially the NDRF, the DFS, the municipal corporation and the Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation and police, regarding the extraction of the bodies, they

During the meeting, the civic authorities said the building may collapse at any time as cracks have appeared in its beams. They suggested that a step-wise demolition be carried out, the officials said.

STAFF REPORTER

Friday.

they said.

The four students – arrested

from Ladakh in connection

with the blast near the Israel

embassy in January this year

were produced before a

Magistrate court, which sent

them on 10 days police re-

mand, officials said on

The students were arrest-

ed from Kargil and brought

to Delhi on transit remand,

The police said the four

students – Nazir Hussain

(26), Zulfikar Ali Wazir (25),

Aiaz Hussain (28) and Mu-

zammil Hussain (25) - are

all from Thang village in La-

dakh's Kargil district. "They

were presented before a Ma-

gistrate court on Thursday

that sent them to police re-

mand for 10 days," a senior

in November last year and

were preparing for competi-

tive examinations, he said. All four of them were in Del-

hi on the day of incident and

their phones were found to

be switched off, an officer

said, adding that five mobile

phones have been reco-

They had come to Delhi

police officer said.

Israel Embassy blast:

four students sent to

10-day police remand

# **International Day Against** Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking June 26, 2021

# **DRUG ABUSE IS A ONE-WAY**

TICKET TO HELL

Drug abuse causes only pain and destruction to drug addicts and their families. A casual introduction to drugs becomes serious addiction, causing loss of productivity, unemployability and reduced quality of life.

## **Damaging Effects of Drug Abuse**

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## CCTV technician held for blackmailing couple

'He got camera access during repair work'

STAFF REPORTER

The police arrested a CCTV 'Accused seek ₹3 lakh' technician from Bangalore for allegedly blackmailing a couple, an officer said on Friday.

The accused – Rashid, is a technician, who worked with a company in Delhi – the police said. A few months ago, the company got a complaint of CCTV malfunction from one of their clients in south Delhi and they assigned Rashid to resolve the issue. "Rashid visited the couple's house and while repairing the camera, he fraudulently took the access of their CCTVs on his mobile phone. After this, he left the house," said the officer. Later, during the lockdown, he left the job and joined a new company in Banglore.

'A few weeks back, the couple received their intimate video on their mobile phone. The sender demanded ₹3 lakh. He threatened to upload their videos on social media. Initially, the couple agreed to pay the amount but he started asking for more money," said the officer.

The couple filed a police complaint with Cyber Cell. The complainant said they had installed the CCTVs in their house, including the bedroom, to keep watch on their maid as their daughter stays alone with her when they go to work.

Further probe is on to see if the accused blackmailed other people in a similar manner, the police added.

## HC slams AAP govt. on decision to limit non-PDS beneficiaries

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Observing that providing ration is the obligation of the State and it cannot deny food to the hungry, the Delhi High Court Friday slammed the AAP government for putting a limit of 20 lakh beneficiaries for providing them dry ration under its non-PDS

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products in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

guidelines.

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

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facilities for promotion of domestic marketing of fish & fish related

1 RFP: Selection of agency for establishing and handing over of

2 RFP: Selection of agency for establishing and handing over of Integrated Mini Fish Retail Outlets with necessary accessories

The detailed RFP documents can be downloaded from the website of

https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in and www.fisheries.ap.gov.in from 26.06.2021 and the last date for submission of bid is 05.07.2021. For more

details contact: Office of the Commissioner of Fisheries, A.P., Vijayawada.

Sd/- Commissioner of Fisheries (FAC)

Website: www.fisheries.ap.gov.in, email: apfisheriestender@gmail.com.

ntegrated Aqua Hubs with necessary accessories

"These are not issues on policy and say that file is unyour obligation under the National Food Security Act." the high court said adding that the Delhi government has "randomly and arbitrarily"

which you keep debating der consideration. This is reduced the

The students were active in social media and used to comment on posts related to Israel, India and Palestine. They left the city just before the lockdown was an-

vered from them.

nounced, the police said.

The police are likely to conduct searches at their lo cations of stay, including Mukherjee Nagar - they had been staying for a brief period. Further probe is under way, they said.

A minor IED blast had taken place outside the Embassy of Israel in the heart of Lutyens' Delhi on January 29. There were no casualties. Some cars were damaged in the explosion that occurred about 150 metres away from the embassy on the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam

In a joint operation with a central intelligence agency and the Kargil police, the Special Cell of the Delhi Police detained the four persons from Kargil in connection with the conspiracy to plan and execute terror activities in the national capital, a statement quoting Delhi Police PRO Chinmoy Biswal said. "They have been brought to Delhi for

questioning," he said. The Delhi Police Special Cell had registered a case of "conspiracy" behind the blast. The Ministry of Home Affairs had handed over the probe of the blast to the NIA on February 2. Recently, the NIA announced a reward of ₹10 lakh each for the identification of two people captured on CCTV camera.

## Delhi govt. announces contest for online window for public services

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has announced a contest for suggesting the name of its new online single window portal for public services. The winner will be awarded a cash prize of ₹1,50,000 while 21 shortlisted entries will be awarded ₹10,000

The portal – https://edistrict.delhigov.nic.in - will have 400 services of all departments available online. The candidates can submit their entries to the portal

https://delhi.gov.in/newname. The last date for submission of entries is July 4.

CM YK

SATURDAY, JUN. 26									
RISE	05:26	SET 19:23							
RISE	21:15	SET 06:43							
SUNDAY, JUN. 27									
RISE	05:26	SET 19:23							

RISE 22:04 SET 07:50 MONDAY, JUN. 28 RISE 05:27 SET 19:24

RISE 22:45 SET 08:55

**Delhi Weather** Delhi City 25 Safdarjand

#### **Delhi Palam Today** 38°C Rain or thunderstorm

with gusty winds likely at some places. Hot and humid day with partly cloudy to cloudy

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow** 39°C The weather will be hot and humid with uneasy afternoon. Night will be slight warm. Chances of thuderstorm.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2019 All rights reserved.

#### THEMANHINDU

### IN BRIEF

#### Govt. to provide tabs to over 2,000 teachers

The Delhi government has decided to provide tabs to over 2.000 teachers newly appointed by the Directorate of Education, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said on Friday. Mr. Sisodia, in an official statement, said the vision of the Delhi government is to provide excellent education to each child, and providing tablets to teachers is a step in this direction. Use of tabs by teachers will enable better teaching and learning, the

# BJP demands arrest of Kejriwal, criminal case against Ministers

Deaths during the second wave due to 'pretended oxygen shortage', claims party

The BJP on Friday demanded that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal be arrested and criminal cases filed against other Delhi government Ministers for the loss of several lives due to the alleged mismanagement of oxygen in the Capital.

The deaths of several innocent people during the second wave of the pandemic were due to the "pretended oxygen shortage" claimed by the Delhi government as pointed out in the report of oxygen audit by the Supreme Court, it alleged.

"The Kejriwal government is responsible for the loss of thousands of lives



Relatives of COVID-19 patients waiting for oxygen refill during the second wave of the pandemic in the Capital. • FILE РНОТО

and he should be arrested for the same. While only 209 MT oxygen was needed, it [the Delhi government] asked for 1,140 MT and it conspired to shift entire

blame on the Centre," Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta alleged.

Leader of Opposition Ramvir Singh Bidhuri urged Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal to register a case of murder against the CM, Deputy CM and Health Minis-

#### Court's seal

"Even the managements of big hospitals of Delhi had held the State government responsible for not getting oxygen and now the court's committee has also given its seal of approval on this," Mr. Bidhuri said.

Delhi BJP spokesperson Harish Khurana alleged that the Delhi government's "toolkit" to defame the BJPled Centre had been exposed which was why it was levelling baseless allegations for which it would be dragged to court by the BJP.

## Reply sought on plea for FIR against Jaipur Golden Hospital

21 patients died at hospital allegedly due to oxygen crisis

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Friday sought a status report from the police on a plea seeking registration of an FIR for the offence of murder against Jaipur Golden Hospital management for deaths of CO-VID patients allegedly due to oxygen shortage.

As many as 21 critically-ill COVID-19 patients had died at the hospital on the night of April 23-24 as the hospital allegedly awaited the oxygen supply to be replenished. Six family members of the deceased have approached the court claiming that the hospital management should be punished but police, with mala fide intention, have neither arrested nor set up an inquiry against them.



ospital during the second wave. ■FILE PHOTO

#### Hearing on July 13

Metropolitan Magistrate Vivek Beniwal has directed Delhi Police to submit the status report on the plea and posted the matter for July 13 for further hearing.

The families have requested the court to take cognisance of the offences such as murder, criminal intimidation, death by negligence, cheating, criminal conspiracy and disappearance of evidence, summon and try the accused for these offences.

In the petition filed through advocates Sahil Ahuja and Siddhant Sethi, the complainants have stated that the hospital management should have stopped admitting the patients or start discharging them if they were low on oxygen supply.

"Keeping everyone in dark and thereby not providing the proper oxygen support which led to the death is an act of culpable homicide on their part all whilst the accused hospital minted money and raised invoices,"

## 1.5 lakh vaccinated, highest in a day

Capital reports 115 fresh COVID-19 cases and four deaths

STAFF REPORTER

A whopping 1,56,636 doses of vaccines – the highest in a day till now - were administered in the city on Thursday, said AAP MLA Atishi, who presents a daily vaccination bulletin.

"Yesterday [Thursday], more than 1.5 lakh doses of vaccines were administered. With this, Delhi's total number of vaccine doses administered has reached more than 69.50 lakh. Out of the 1.5 lakh+ doses administered, 1.25 lakh were administered to youth. They either registered themselves on the CoWIN app or used the



A health worker administering Covishield to a man in the City. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

walk-in vaccination facility," she said.

"Delhi has 1.20 lakh Covaxin doses and 7.70 lakh Covishield doses, 13 days stock of Covaxin available for administering the second dose and five days stock for Covishield," she added.

Meanwhile, the Capital reported 115 new COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours, taking the total cases to 14,33,590, according to the bulletin released by the Delhi government. Moreover, four deaths were reported, which takes the total count to 24,952.

#### 77,477 tested

A total of 77,477 tests were done and that test positivity rate (TPR) was 0.15%. Of the total cases, 14,06,958 have recovered and there are 1.680 active cases

## Sushil to remain in jail as court extends custody

Olympic medallist is facing charges of murder, culpable homicide and kidnapping

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

A Delhi court on Friday extended the judicial custody of Olympic medallist wrestler Sushil Kumar till July 9 in connection with the alleged murder of a young wrestler at Chhatrasal Stadium here.

Sushil was produced before Metropolitan Magistrate Mayank Aggarwal at the end of the 14-day judicial custody. He is facing charges of murder, culpable homicide and kidnapping.

According to the counsel of the accused, he has been shifted to Tihar jail number 2 from Mandoli jail, where



Olympic medallist wrestler Sushil Kumar being shifted from Mandoli jail to Tihar on Friday. • РТІ

he was earlier lodged.

Sushil, along with his associates, allegedly assaulted Sagar Dhankar and two of

his friends at the stadium on the intervening night of May 4 and 5 over an alleged property dispute. Sagar (23) succumbed to the injuries The police have claimed

that Sushil is the "main culprit and mastermind" of the murder and said that there is electronic evidence wherein he and his associates could be seen beating Sagar.

#### 10 arrested so far

Sushil was nabbed on May 23, along with co-accused Ajay Kumar Sehrawat. Till now, he has undergone police and judicial custody of 10 and 23 days, respectively. A total of 10 people, including Sushil, have been arrested so far in connection with the incident.

## Parched throats

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Lieutenant Governor Anil

Baijal on Friday chaired the

fourth meeting related to the

proposed redevelopment of

the New Delhi Railway Sta-

tion along the lines of the In-

dira Gandhi International

(IGI) Airport as part of a firstof-its-kind initiative in the

Apart from solving a sig-

nificant issue related to pu-

blic transportation – 1,400

buses plying on 46 routes

daily but without a single

bus terminal in its vicinity -

two multimodal transit hubs

and an underground tunnel

housing an Automated Peo-

ple Mover (APM) replete

with travelators and electric

vehicles are part of the pro-

posal which *The Hindu* has

The project will, over the

next four years, seek to rede-

Four-year project

Deputy CM said.



Girls carrying drinking water to their homes on the banks of the Yamuna in Delhi on a hot and humid Friday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

Two multimodal transit hubs part of

New Delhi Rly Station redevelopment

Traffic decongestion and parking topics discussed at meet

of approximately 4.5 lakh

passengers, both from with-

out and within, according to

a senior government official.

cluding grant of NOCs by va-

rious departments and prep-

aration of influence zone

plans was reviewed," Mr.

According to Raj Niwas,

several key components of

the project including decon-

gestion of traffic in the area,

linking of greens for im-

proved pedestrian expe-

rience, parking manage-

Baijal tweeted.

"Status of the project in-

## special CoWIN session for the homeless

Chaos mars

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Without an identity proof or a mobile phone, 46-yearold Sunil Thakur waited for four hours to get vaccinated at a special inoculation centre set up for homeless people at Yamuna Pushta night shelter here, while people who came from places like Baghpat and Ghaziabad and had IDs got jabs within minutes.

"Confusion marred the pace of the vaccination drive for homeless people. Nobody knew how to register such people without an identity card or mobile number," an officer at the centre said

The Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board organised the vaccination camp in association with the office of the district magistrate (Central Delhi). One of the officers present at the camp said he got to know about the drive last night.

In the absence of a mechanism to register homeless people on the CoWIN portal, those having an identity proof and a mobile number were vaccinated with Covishield first. "This drive was meant for homeless people; most of them do not have any identity proof or mobile number. So, they had to wait for hours while people from outside got themselves registered and took the jabs within minutes," a member of an NGO present at the night shelter said.

A special session, which allowed registration of "as many homeless beneficiaries as needed" was created on the CoWIN portal, Vaccination Officer Aftab Ahmed said. Around 100 homeless people were linked to an ID created with Aadhaar and mobile number of the night shelter's caretaker, he said.

## Air surcharge: Leh, Srinagar & onward — Rs. 5.00 and Kathmandu — Rs. 3.00.

**TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT** 

PH: 9820350726

THE HINDU

## WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY

ndia acting through Deputy Chie ngineer (Construction)-I, West Centra Railway, Bhopal for the following work (Single Packet system). Tender No. DY. CE-(C)-I/BPL-06-2021, Brie Description- Construction of min ridges, toewalls, drain and other iscellaneous works in connection wi liversion of rail line between km 1200/6 1207/2 between Biyavra Rajgart Pachor road section on Guna-Maksi lin due to construction of Mohanpura dam Approx. tender value (Rs.)-584.6 lakh, Earnest Money (Rs.)-Nil, Du date of Closing of tender-20.07.202 at 15.00 hrs., Completion period 04(Four) months including harvest & monsoon period. The complete information of above E-Tender is available on "http://www.ireps.gov.on and also placed on the notice Board of office of the DY.CE(C)-I/West Centra the form of e-bids shall not be accepted against above tender. Corrigendum, any issued in connection with tende will be available on above mention

Dy.Chief Enginee वैक्सीन लगवाएं, जीवन के सफर को सुरक्षित बनायें।

## THE MAN HINDU

Mr. N SELVA KUMAR

India's National Newspaper

## (E-tendering Tender Notice No.DY. CE-C-I-BPL-06-2021) dated 22.06.2021)

der on behalf of the Presid

(Const.)-I W.C.R., Bhopa For & on behalf of President of India

ColorPlus PARK AVENUE LOUIS PHILIPPE • PUNCHKUIAN ROAD, Garwal Bhawan, (Near Jhandewalan, Gole Chkr.) WAZIRPUR A-5, Near Richi Rich Banquet (Opp. Shalimar Bagh) • JANAKPURI B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543 • NOIDA , Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP • LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing

## 🚍 MAHANAGAR TELEPHONE NIGAM LIMITED

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## ONLINE OPEN **HOUSE SESSION**

on 28th June 2021, Monday from 10:30 hrs. to 13:30 hrs.

Customers are cordially invited to attend the Open House Session/ Consumer Education Workshop in their respective areas and requested to offer their valuable suggestions for further improving the services in their areas.



## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

It has always been our endeavour to become more customer friendly, more responsive to the problems/ grievances of our customers and to add more convenience to our public interface. In continuance of this endeavour. MTNL announces Area-wise Open House Session/Consumer Education Workshop as per details below:

SI. No.	Area	Link for Online Open House Session / Consumer Education Workshop
1.	ВСР	https://meet.google.com/ixx-hkom-qjo
2.	Central	https://meet.google.com/rur-awep-dky
3.	East & TY	https://meet.google.com/hsy-fgix-knk
4.	Nehru Place	https://meet.google.com/tpt-psqe-rik
5.	West	https://meet.google.com/hbh-ovcg-rqh
6.	North	https://meet.google.com/svh-zzeb-mrn

For joining the OHS, the details/procedure may be

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused persor namely Vijay Adarsh, S/o Sh. Brijlal, R/o: Village Sikanderpur P.S. Surir, Mathura (U.P.) has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 815/15 U/s 408 IPC, registered at P.S. Vikas Puri, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said Vijay Adarsh cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Vijay Adarsh has absconded (or is concealing himsel to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said Vijay Adarsh accused of FIR No. 815/15 U/s 408 IPC, P.S. Vikas Puri, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 18.08.2021.

By Order Sh. Deepak Vats Ld. Metropolitan Magistrate Room No. 9, Ground Floor Dwarka District Courts, Sector 10, Delhi

## कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमंडल, गोड्डा

## <u>शुद्धि पत्र</u>

एतद द्वारा सचित किया जाता है कि पथ प्रमंडल, गोड़ा अंतर्गत ई-निविदा ेसूचना `संख्या — RCD/GODDA/521/2021-22 (2ª Call) दिनाक— 06 / 05 / 2021, जिसका शुद्धि पत्र PR No.- PR 246833 (Road) 21-22 (D) है, में पूनः निम्नवत् संशोधन की जाती है — कार्य का नाम – गोड्डा जिलान्तर्गत "घोरीचंक–दिग्घी बाईपास पथ मोहानी (घोरीचक—दिग्घी पथ पर)—दिग्घी (MDR-201 पर) पथ (कुल लंबाई— 2.845 कि0मी0) का चौड़ीकरण एवं मजबूतीकरण / पुनर्निर्मीण

नोट :-शेष शर्ते यथा	कार्यपालक अभियंता,	
तिथि / समय		
प्राप्त करने की अन्तिम	12:00 बजे तक	12:00 बजे तक
ऑनलाईन निविदा	05.07.2021 के दोपहर	19.07.2021 के दोपहर
प्रकाशन की तिथि	10:30 बजे से	10:30 बजे से
वेबसाईट में निविदा	15.06.2021 के पूर्वाह्नन	29.06.2021 के पूर्वाह्नन
	समय	समय

PR 248574(Road)21-22\*D

संशोधित तिथि एवं

पथ प्रमंडल, गोड्डा

#### sign the largest and secondment and incorporation of 2,000 vehicles and 40 buses A total of 150 people busiest railway station in the adequate facilities for diffein addition to a commercial were vaccinated on the first DP/458/WD/2021 rently-abled persons were country with a daily footfall

Status of the project

including grant of

NOCs by various

departments and

influence zone plans

during

preparation of

was reviewed

**Proactive measures** 

ject, Raj Niwas said.

While appreciating the pro-

gress, the departments were

advised to proactively facili-

tate the approvals for timely

implementation of the pro-

December 10, 2020, the pro-

ject will see the height of the

station being increased to 70

metres, the construction of

twin towers 40 metres high,

a hangar for trains, the crea-

tion of a passengers' lounge

similar to the airport, an un-

derground parking for

As The Hindu reported on

ANIL BAIJAL

discussed

meeting.

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## Farmers back at Ghazipur border

BKU chief Naresh Tikait leads a tractor rally from Saharanpur to the protest site

Farmers have once again started assembling at the Ghaziapur border in large numbers to protest against the contentious farm laws as the number of COVID-19 cases dipped in western Uttar Pradesh.

On Friday, Bhartiya Kisan Union president Naresh Tikait led a tractor rally from Saharanpur via Muzaffarnagar and Meerut to Ghazipur border.

On the completion of seven months of protests, farmers would present memorandums to Governors of different States on Saturday.

HP / 1817/21-22



Naresh Tikait at Ghazipur border. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Addressing the farmers, Mr. Tikait said that the Central government has become arrogant. "Farmers are on road for seven months but the dumb and deaf government has not responded to their demands. 10% people

can't afford to ignore the demand of 90% people," he

#### 'Ministers powerless'

Taking the Union Agriculture Minister to task, the BKU president said had he done his job properly, the issue would have been resolved. "In this government, the Ministers have not been given any powers," he alleged.

"Farmers have once again assembled at the Delhi border. It is time that the government stop making it a matter of ego and listen to the annadata (food providers) of the country," Mr. Tikait said.

Unlike his younger broth-

er Rakesh who has been talking about teaching the BJP a lesson at the hustings, Mr. Tikait is said to be a follower of the middle path. On Friday, he once again reiterated that farmers were not against the present dispensation.

#### 'Nothing to lose'

"Accepting the demands of the farmers doesn't mean that the government would lose something. We want both the farmers and the government to be winners. In fact, it is the farmers who have put this government on the saddle. So the matter of victory and defeat doesn't arise," he underlined.

## Ensure power to farmers, Punjab CM tells PSPCL

'Purchase power to check any shortfall'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Amid protest by farmers against the Punjab government for failing to provide eight hours of uninterrupted power supply for paddy sowing, Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Friday directed the Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) to ensure supply.

He asked the PSPCL to purchase deficient power from outside the State to prevent any supply disruption in the ongoing sowing season.

Chairing a high level meeting to review the power supply to the farmers, the Chief

Minister directed the Finance Department to release ₹500 crore to PSPCL to tide over the financial crunch faced amid the pandemic. Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal, who was present at the meeting, assured that his department would release the funds without

#### 'Financial crunch'

The PSPCL earlier informed the meeting that it was facing a financial crunch as a result of slowdown in consumption and revenue collection in the last one year due to the pandemic.

## Rajasthan gets genome sequencing laboratory

It will help identify new virus variants

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The facility for genome sequencing to identify new variants of SARS-CoV-2 has been started at Sawai Man Singh Government Medical College here, making Rajasthan the first State in the country to have such a provision for complete sequencing at the State level.

Health Minister Raghu Sharma said here on Friday that the facility had been made available in the State at a cost of ₹1 crore for getting information about new variants of the virus. The samples from the State were so

far being sent to the Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology's laboratory in New Delhi.

Ten samples per day, or 300 in a month, were being sent to the laboratory, set up for Rajasthan by the Indian Council of Medical Research, as per the fixed limit. Mr. Sharma said the reports were not being received from the lab on time.

The machine installed at SMS Medical College has started functioning from June 15 with the capacity to test 20 samples a day, while the report is received in three to four days.

## HIMACHAL PRADESH Telephone No 01893-256602 Rehan Bazar old Bus Adda to Sakri road km. 0/0 to 5/500 in-cluding Bridge over Sakrikhad at C slab bridge 5 Nos. span o

#### PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY) e-Procurement Notice

The Executive Director, WAPCOS Limited on behalf of URRDA, Government of Uttarakhand invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of Roads under Pradhar Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the Districts of Uttarakashi for 03 nurnber of Package with estimated cost totaling to Rs. 36.10 Crore, District Almora for 01 number of package with estimated cost totaling to **Rs. 9.86 Crore** and District **Tehri** Garhwal for 01 number of package with estimated cost totaling to 4.16 Crore including their maintenance for Five years from the eligible contractors registered with PWD/CPWD or equivalent\*.

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 01-07-2021 Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid documents are available online and should be submitted online in www.pmgsytendersuk.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (ii) of ITB at WAPCOS Ltd, plot No. 209, Phase-I, Basant . Vihar, Dehradun Uttarakhand on a date mentioned in SBD, on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the bid either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive. No physical documents will be accepted after the closing date and time of submission of

Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 21-07-2021 01:00 PM. For further details please log on to www.pmgsytendersuk.gov.in

#### Chief Engineer URRDA, Dehradun

<u>≥</u>

39 of 03/2020-21

10-03-202

SE/Hyd/Spr

03/2020-21

10-03-202

SE/Hyd/Spr 04 of 02/2020-21

13-02-202°

SE/Hyd/Spi

02/2020-21

Dated.

13-02-202

1000 Hrs

1000 Hrs

1000 Hrs

1600 Hrs.

Non Registered bidders may submit bids, however, the successful bidders must ger registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract. Note: For e-Procurement for any sort of queries 0135-2976077 number may be entacted 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM.

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER** 

email: eeguraispwd@gmail.com

Notice Inviting e-Tender

Fresh E-NIT S. No.24/SSDG of 2021-22 Dtd.21-6-21

(4th call.)

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of J&K e-lenders (Two cover System) on Item Rate Basis including the maintenance cost for a period of Three Years which includes 12 months of DLP are invited from Reputed and resourceful contractors/Firms/Companies/Joint Venture of repute in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/Railways and other state Governments for the following works, which should be uploaded on the Procurement web porta http://jktenders.gov.in for the subjected work(s) referred below to be received by the Executive Engineer Special Subjection of the System Rentioned in this e-tender notification and to whom all the terms and conditions of detailed e-NIT/Tender Documents/PWD Form No:-25 double are accepted.

The cost of tender documents (Non-refundable/Non-Transferable) should be in the shape of e-Challan or Treasi

Estimated Cost of TD (₹ in lacs) (in ₹)

53.29

1600

1600

1600

1600

Date

MM

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2021

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(6)

AAY

AAY

Challan/Receipt in favour Executive Engineer Special Sub Division Gurez

Providing/laying and fitting of GI pipes including Construction of protection works, Intake Chamber near head site, 0.04 lac gallon SR, Sluice Chamber, supporting pillars for RWM at spots, Chain Link fencing around structures, Cattle troughs, for Retrofitting of WSS Banjiran for 100% coverage of FHTCs "Under JJM)

Providing/laying and fitting of GI pipes including Construction of protection works, Intake Chamber near head site, 0.25 lac gallon SR, Sluice Chamber, supporting pillars for RWM at spots, Crate work, Chain Link fencing around structures, Cattle troughs, PST near head site for Retrofitting of WSS Gulshanpora for 100% coverage of FHTCs "Under JJM).

Providing/laying and fitting of GI pipes including replacement /improvements of damaged / worn out pipes and Construction of Intake Chamber near head site, 0.06 lac gallon SR, Protection work at

head site, Sluice Chamber, Cattle Trough

Anchor/Saddle block, Chain Link fencing around structures for Retrofitting of WSS Nail for 100% coverage of FHTCs "Under JJM)

Providing/laying and fitting of GI pipes including

replacement /improvements of damaged / wornout pipes and Construction of Intake Chamber near

ead site. 0.10 lac gallon SR. Sluice Chambe

Cattle Trough, Anchor/Saddle block, Chain Linl fencing around structures for Retrofitting of WSS Sardaab for 100% coverage of FHTCs "Under JJM).

'http://jktenders.gov.in" as per schedule of dates given below: -

Available;

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

The Bidding documents consisting of eligibility criteria, specification, drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q) set of terms (conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the e-procurement Porta

DD

22

22

29

The tenderer should in his own interest inspect and examine the site, its surroundings/topography, nature of ound, climatic conditions, accessibility or other relevant information at his own expenses and responsibility to satisf need before tendering for the advertised work. The bidder will have to execute each part of the work i.e. Civil / Electro schanical part under the close supervision of the respective Engineer- in- Charges of Civil & Mechanical wings In area of the Scheme.

Position of Funds: -

S.No Description

Publishing date of NIT

Bid submission start date

Bid submission end date

Bid opening date (Technical Cover)

Download start date

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

Name of Work

**Special Sub Division Gurez** 

#### Himachal Pradesh **Public Works Department** "Notice Inviting Tender"

Sealed item rate tender are hereby invited in form No. 6&8 by the Executive Engineer B&R Division, HP.PWD. Sarkaghat HP.on behalf of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh for the following works from the instruction and are also registered contractor of appropriate class enlisted in HP.PWD whose registration stood renewed as peer revised instruction and are also registered dealers under the Himachal Pradesh General sales Tax Act. 1968. The important dates of tender are as under: The last date and time of receipt of application for tender form 07.07.2021 up to 4.00 P.M.

The last date for sale of tender is up to 08.07.2021 at 4.00PM.

The tender shall be received up to 11:00 AM on 09.07.2021 to be opened on the same day at 11:30 AM, in presence of the intending contractors or their authorized representative who may like to be present. The tender form can be had from this office against cash payment as shown below (Non refundable) during the working hours on 09.07.2021. The earnes money in the shape of National saving certificate, time deposit account in any post office/bank in HP. duly pledged in favor of the Executive Engineer B&R Division HP.PWD. Sarkaghat must accompany with each tender Conditional & in complete tenders and the tender received without earnest money will be summarily rejected. The offer of tender shall be kept open for 90 days. The Executive Engineer, reserved the right to accept or reject, the tender without assigning any reason

	Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost.	Earnest Money.	Cost of form.	Time allowed.
	1.	Construction of Rasher Hawani Talangra Bhalyana Road Km. 0/0 to 5/200 (SH:- Construction of B/ wall in RR Masonary at RD 2/370 to 2/400)	266092	5050	350	One Month
	2.	Construction of Rasher Hawani Talangra Bhalyana Road Km. 0/0 to 5/200 (SH:- Construction of B/ wall in RR Masonary at RD 3/165 to 3/180)	294576	6000	350	One Month
ď	TED	MS AND CONDITONS:				

## TERMS AND CONDITONS:-

Following documents should accompany with the application

- The contractor/firms should be registered as or/dealer under HP Sales Tax Act. 1968/GST The intending contractors/firms shall have to produce the copy of
- latest enlistment in HPPWD. The contractor is required to submit an affidavit for not having more
- than two works in hand in the shape of affidavit duly attested by the competent authority.
- 4. If any of the date mentioned above happened to be Gazette Holiday the same shall be processed on next working day.
- The contractor should quoted the rate of all the items in the tender both in figures and in words failing which tender is likely to be
- The copy of Employees Provident Funds (EPF Number) GST, Pan Number, should be attached with application.
- 7. Minimum one similar work done of amount not less than 40% (Forty percent) of the estimated cost (without liquidated Damage of
- compensation) in last five years) The earnest money for the above works should be attached with
- application forms 9. Cost of tender for the above works may be deposited in cash with application.
- 10. All the required documents should be submitted with the application others wise single application may be rejected.
- 11. The Executive Engineer reserves the right to accept / reject any tender / application or all tenders without assigning any reason.

Executive Engineer. Sarkaghat Division HP.PWD, Sarkaghat.

## HP / 1848/21-22

Contain KERALA STATE CENTRE FOR ADVANCED PRINTING AND TRAINING Head Office Complex, Vattiyoorkav Ph: 2365678, 2365415 C-APT/1587/20-21/MTL E-TENDER NOTICE

Single Bid Cover e-tenders (Tender N 31/21-21/MTL) are invited from reputed suppliers of NCERT/CBSE Text Books or LKG to Class X through online vide e-Tender id 2021 CAPT 427533 1. Due date & Time of tender / bid submissio (online) 05.07.2021 up to 11.00 AM. Fo detailed information log on the website https://etenders.kerala.gov.in 8 www.captkerala.com Sd/- MD, C-apt

## CLASSIFIEDS MART PUBLIC NOTICE सार्वजनिक सूचना

सार्वजानिक सूचना
सर्वसाधारण को स्थित किया जाता है कि
मेरे मुविकेकल श्री भगवान दास पुत्र स्व. श्री
माता प्रसाद निवासी डब्लू-264ए, गली नं.
6बी, वन्दर शेखर गलह, निकट अनूप सिंह वाटिका, वैस्ट बाबरपुर, दिल्ली नं अपने
बड़ा पुत्र जित्र का उसकी पत्नी पायल को उनके गलत आचरण व अनापेक्षित व्यवहार के कारण अपनी समस्त चल व अचल सम्पत्ति से बेदखल कर अपने सभी सम्बन्ध विकेद कर लिये हैं, मेरे मुविकेल उनके किसी भी तरह के कार्यों के लिए जिम्मेदार नहीं होगा। जो भी व्यक्ति उनसे सम्बन्ध रखेगा वह स्वयं सत्तरदायी होगा पी.पी. सिंह राणा (अधिवक्ता) सीट नं. 31, ट्रेसरी गेट, तीस हजारी कोर्ट, दिल्ली

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE
BE ITKNOWN TO ALL PERSONS that I,
Smt Snatara Devi, w/o Sh. Ram Kishan,
R/O House No F-18, Lado Sarai, New
Delhi-110030 had revoked /cancelled
the General Power of Attorney and the
Special Power of Attorney and the Will
dated 06" January 2016 whereby I had
appointed my son Sh. Manoj Kumar as
my lawful Attorney in respect of my
immovable property measuring 219 Sq
Yards bearing Plot Nos. 7 and 8 of Bajaj
Enclave, a part of Khasra No. 16/3
situated in revenue estate of Kakrola situated in revenue estate of Kakrola village, Old Palam Road, New Delhi-78 and now the public at large be informed not to deal / contract / transact with Sh. Manoj Kumar in any manner in respect of said immoveable property.

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VAID'S ICS, DELHI

On July 4 at 2:00 pm

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

## PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that Mr. Udit Vats s/o Mr. Mukesh Kumar Sharma (hereinafter referred to as the said Mortgagors/Borrowers), is purchasing Property No. 4/48, admeasuring127.48 Sq. Mfrs., Sector 4, Rachna, Vaishali, Ghaziabad (hereinafter referred to 'said property') from Mr. Asbwai Ghaziabad (hereinafter referred to 'said property") from Mr. Ashwani Kumar Tiwari s/o Mr. Brij Bhushan Tiwari who is it's absolute owner vide Sale Certificate dated 28.06.2019, registered in the office of the sub registrar concerned as Document No. 8963, in Addl. Book No. I, Vol. No. 38028, on pages 77-142, on 28.06.2019. Mr. Udit Vats will create mortgage in respect of the will create mortgage in respect of the said property in favour of our clients DFC First Bank Limited, 2nd Floor, xpress Building, 9-10, Bahadu hah Zafar Marg, New Delhi

Any person, body, individua institution having any claim and/or objection in respect of the said property by way of sale, exchange, lease, lien, mortgage, charge encumbrance, gift, trust, easement maintenance, inheritance testamentary deposition of otherwise or having in their custody any title documents pertaining to the said property shall communicate the same to the undersigned at our address within 10 days from the publication of this notice with documentary evidence in support thereof, failing which all the claim, of such person shall be considered to ave been waived and/or abandoned. Any objections raised after the completion of the 10 days shall not be binding upon the said property or my Client.

property or my Client.
P.K. Sinha (Advocate)
Plot No. E-56 (LGF),
Sector 72, Noida (U.P.)
Contact: +91-9667070233

Appeal for Identification



General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body Name: Unknown, S/o Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 35 vears, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Shallow, Built: Medium, Face: Oval Wearing: White shirt with black lines pattern with Green color half underwear & . bared foot was found dead outside the MCD Pink Toilet, behind V3S Mall Nirman Vihar, Delhi on 24.06.2021. In the

area of PS Preet Vihar, Delhi. In this regard, a DD No. 18-A dated 24.06.2021 has been lodged at PS Preet Vihar, Delhi The dead body has been preserved in the mortuary of Subz Mandi Mortuary, Delhi for 72 hours.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information

about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any, person having any information or clue about this persor may kindly inform to the following.

P.S., Preet Vihar, Delhi DP/571/ED/2021 **Ph.: 011-22510291, 8750870622** 

## UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that an one male person was found dead at K.M Pole No. 20/7-20/8, UP and DN Rly Line Mundaka Halt, Delhi dated 21.06.2021 at 7.50 am. In this regard a DD No. 03A, dated 21.06.2021. has been registered at P.S. Sarai Rohilla Railway Station, Delhi. The description of the dead body is given as under Name: Unkonwn, S/o: Unkonwn, R/o:



Unkonwn, **Age:** About 40-45 years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Wheatish, Injury Mark: Head

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform

P.S. Sarai Rohilla Railway Station, Delhi Ph.: 011-28711697, 28714802, DP/168/RLY/2021 8750871308

## Guard fires at bank customer

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT LUCKNOW

over face mask

A security guard working in a bank in Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh on Friday shot a customer in the thigh over an argument that allegedly started over the man not wearing a face mask as a CO-VID-19 safety measure.

The guard was taken into custody, said police. The injured customer is in a hospital. Ravindra Kumar, Superintendent of Police, Bareilly, said the customer – Rajesh Kumar – had gone to the bank at 11:30 a.m. when he got into an altercation with the guard.

The officer said only after the victim's statement was recorded they would be able to ascertain the reason for the argument.

A relative of the bank customer said that when he arrived at the bank, the guard stopped Mr. Kumar from entering as he did not have a mask on. Mr. Kumar wore a mask and returned but the guard still denied him entry and asked him to come after + the lunch break, said the relative. The guard then pushed him and shot him, she alleged.

#### Government of Jharkhand **Urban Development and Housing Department** Dhanbad Municipal Corporation, Dhanbad e-Procurement Tender Notice No. DMC/09/2021-22

NIT No.- DMC/09/2021-22 Date :- 25.06.2021 Construction of Five Storey Commercial Building in 1. Name of the work Municipal Corporation Office at Bank More, Dhanbad, Jharkhand, 2. Mode of Bid Submission e-tendering (http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in) 3. Estimated Cost (Rs.)4. Tender Fee and Bid S Rs. 23,78,33,300.00 : - INR 25,000 /- (Twenty Five Tender document fee Thousand Only) Non-Refundable. Bid Security: Rs 23,79,000.00 (Rupees Twenty Three Lakh Seventy Nine Thousand Only) Time of Completion Date / Time of Publication of Tender on WebsiteLast Date / Time for receipt of bids Online 01.07.2021 at 04:00 PM 15.07.2021 (On line) till 03:00 PM Last Date / Time for receipt of bids Online Upto 16.07.2021 till 03:00 PM at DMC, Luby Circular Date of Receiving Hard Copy of Earnest Money Road, MADA Building, Dhanbad. & Cost of Tender Fee Date and Time of Technical Bid Opening Online 17.07.2021 (On line) from 09:00 AM Name & address of office Inviting tender Chief Executive Officer, Dhanbad Municipal corporation, Dhanbad 11. Contact no. of Procurement officer 12. Helpline number of e-Procurement cell

(I) Only e-Tenders will be accepted. Further details can be seen on website http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in. (ii) Contractor should be registered in appropriate class as per NIT

(iii) Estimated Cost / Quantity May Vary PR 248601 Urban Development (21-22)\_D

Executive Engineer. **Dhanbad Municipal Corporation, Dhanbad** 

REMEMBRANCE

Sri Ramkrishna Prasad

Date of death- 26 June 2013

"A grandfather is someone with silver in his hair and gold in his heart."

A tribute of love from his Wife,

Daughter, Grandchildren.

For enquiries on

announcements in this

section, please contact our

office at the following number

New Delhi : 011- 43579797

## **OBITUARY &** REMEMBRANCE

## **DEATH ANNIVERSARIES**



Former General Secretary,
Lakshmi Vilas Bank Employees Union
Former Vice - President, NCBE
Former General Secretary,
LVB Retirees Organisation
ounder - Managing Trustee - Unity Foundait
Time files feet. - Vife goes on...
But some memories on never he foreotten o

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charge of the Scheme.

1.2 If L1 fails to start the work within 15 days of the issuance of letter of intent or allotment, whichever is earlier, the department shall allot the work to the other willing Lowest bidder like L2, L3, L4 and EMD of the lowest bidder including the additional Security Performance shall be forfeited, besides debarring the Contractor for a period of two years for participating in the e-Nit's issued by the kmr. PHE Department Srinagar. 16.0 The validity of the offer shall be 90 days from the date of opening "Price Bid". 17.0 For any clarification the Bidders can contact divisional office or can email the Department at the email eeguraispwd@gmail.com. exclusively responsibility of the contractor and no additional cost shall be paid to the contractor. 19.0 In case of any disputes /differences, the jurisdiction shall be to the Courts situated in Srinagar only. Supplies, involved any, will be deducted at prevalent stock rates at the time of tender for such material. We look forward to you For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of Jammu & Kashmir. DIPK-3424/21

## **Executive Enginee** Special Sub Division Gurez,

#### IN BRIEF



Former Kerala DGP gets bail in ISRO case

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM A court here has granted anticipatory bail to retired Director General of Police Siby Mathews in a "police frame-up" that led to the infamous "ISRO spy scandal" case in 1994. Last month, the CBI had indicted Mr. Mathews for the alleged wrongful arrest and custodial torture of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) scientist Nambi Narayanan and others in the case. Mr. Mathews had headed the Special Investigation Team then.

#### 10 held for illegal sale of black fungus drugs

The Tirupati Urban police arrested 10 persons for allegedly selling medicines to cure black fungus in the black market. Liposomal Amphotericin B Lambin, Amfolin, Ambisome drugs were seized from their possession. The modus operandi of the group was to befriend attendants in corporate hospitals and get information about patients needing the drugs. They used to sell the drug costing ₹7000 for anything between ₹18,000 and ₹30,000.

#### Appeal to COVID-19-hit **Maoists to surrender**

KAKINADA East Godavari SP Adnan Nayeem Asmi on Friday appealed to the Maoists belonging to the Galikonda Area Committee (Visakha agency), BK-East Godavari Division (Andhra-Telanga border), and Konta Area Committee (Chhattisgarh) to surrender before the Andhra Pradesh police to get access to timely treatment for COVID-19. Referring to the recent death of some Maoists, Mr. Asmi said intelligence inputs had confirmed that many more among them were battling COVID-19.

# SC lauds A.P. for scrapping Class 12 exam

Court had earlier criticised the State over the issue

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday lauded the Andhra Pradesh government's "pragmatic stand" to cancel its Class 12 exams, saying it will be "very harsh" and "very unpredictable" to expose students to the dangers of the pandemic.

Senior advocate Dushyant Dave, appearing for Andhra Pradesh, said the State did not want to do anything that would later "weigh heavy" on its heart, especially when nobody is being held accountable for Kumbh Mela and the West Bengal elections. These two events were reported super-spreaders.



Appearing before a Bench of Justices A.M. Khanwilkar and Dinesh Maheshwari, Mr. Dave said he had directly contacted Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy about the "sentiments" expressed by the Supreme Court on the

conduct of the exam. Mr. Dave said Mr. Reddy had "gracefully agreed" to cancel the exams as done by other States across the country. "If the entire country is going in one direction, there is no point going in another

**Court warning** 

submitted.

On Thursday, the Supreme Court had pulled up the Andhra Pradesh government for its insistence on conducting the exam amid the pandemic. The court had warned that the State would be held responsible even if there was one fatality and even ordered to pay a fine of ₹1 crore as compensation. The Bench had asked whether the State

who was hacked to death

outside her office at Cotton-

pet on Thursday. A police

team shot at two men - Pe-

ter and Surya – who are be-

lieved to have stabbed the

corporator. Both were form-

er associates of her late hus-

duo to a wooded area in Sun-

kadakatte. The police fired

at their legs when the two al-

legedly tried to attack them

and flee. They have been ad-

mitted to a private hospital.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Rescue workers on Friday af-

ternoon retrieved the third body of the miners trapped

in a coal mine in Megha-

laya's East Jaintia Hills dis-

sioner Ethelbert Kharmalki

said an inquest was conduct-

ed by an executive magis-

trate at the spot and the bo-

dy was later transported to

District Deputy Commis-

trict since June 30.

GUWAHATI

"While the complainant

Third body of trapped

coal miner retrieved

Special teams traced the

band Kadiresh S.

## 'No other option before us'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Andhra Pradesh Education Minister A. Suresh on Friday claimed that about 74% of the students wanted the examinations to be held.

"The government had no other option than cancelling the exams as it is not in a position to complete the assessment process within the deadline [of July 31 set by the Supreme Court]."

was "trying to prove it was different" by holding the exam when young lives were at

"You could have taken this stand yesterday... We were pushed to say some things which could have been avoided," Justice Khanwilkar addressed Mr. Dave and advocate Mahfooz A. Nazki, for the State government.

Mr. Dave said the State would form a High-Powered Committee which would consult with experts and de-

Police crack ex-councillor

murder case in Bengaluru

cide the internal assessment scheme for evaluating the marks of Class 12 students. The State assured the court that it would adhere to the timelines given by the court. The court had ordered States to finalise their respective assessment schemes in 10 days and declare their results by July 31, in time for University Grants Commission admissions to colleges.

Closing the proceedings, Justice Khanwilkar said "all is well that ends well".

were at least five members in

the hit team, including Peter

and Surya. "We have de-

rowdy-sheets against them

that were recently closed.

'They were upset with Rek-

ha for sidelining them after

her husband's death," a pol-

ice source said. Rekha, a BJP

## Forecast for Saturday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, coastal Andhra Pradesh and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Muzaffarabad, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Yanam

.11Y	KAIN	IVIAX	IVIIIV	CITY	KAIN	IVIAX	IVI
Agartala	8	34.2	26.2	Kozhikode		32.9	25.
Ahmedabad		35.9	26.7	Kurnool	4	35.0	24.
\izawl	9	–	22.2	Lucknow	3	33.9	25.
Allahabad		33.4	25.9	Madurai		39.4	24.
Bengaluru		29.7	20.1	Mangaluru	3	30.2	24.
Bhopal		32.9	22.4	Mumbai	0.3	29.5	27.
Bhubaneswar		34.6	25.9	Mysuru		29.9	19.
Chandigarh	–	39.8	27.2	New Delhi		40.1	25.
Chennai	–	37.7	28.6	Patna	0.2	32.8	28.
Coimbatore	–	34.4	23.6	Port Blair	13	31.2	23.
Dehradun	–	35.0	23.9	Puducherry		37.4	25.
Gangtok	3	23.3	17.5	Pune	0.8	28.1	22.
Goa	27	30.0	24.0	Raipur		29.2	23.
Guwahati	–	35.2	27.6	Ranchi	7	30.5	22.
łubballi	–	27.0	21.0	Shillong	6	26.3	17.
Hyderabad		32.8	23.5	Shimla	10	28.5	19.
mphal		31.4	21.7	Srinagar		28.0	13.
laipur	4	38.8	25.0	Thiruvananthapuram.		32.8	24.
(ochi	3	31.4	24.8	Tiruchi		37.7	26.
(ohima	–	26.0	18.2	Vijayawada		38.2	28.
(olkata		35.1	27.9	Visakhapatnam		35.0	27.

#### (Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius) Pollutants in the air you are breathing

## ....53 .125 ..7 .52 58 ... 202 .174 ..2 .79 14 ....22 ...... 10 .21 23 ....19 ...25 Visakhapatnam 13 .51 50 ....51 ...84

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

## Josephine quits as Kerala women's panel chief

'Tone towards petitioner indefensible'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Women's Commission chairperson M.C. Josephine has resigned.

Ms. Josephine had drawn public ire for allegedly slighting a victim of domestic violence during a televised phone-in programme. When the victim said she had not filed a police complaint, Ms. Josephine retorted saying "then you suffer".

The incident unleashed a social media storm, with women activists, human right organisations and Opposition parties wading into the melee.

The State secretariat of the ruling CPI(M), which met here on Friday, concluded that Ms. Josephine's continuation at the helm of the commission was politi-



M.C. Josephine leaving after a CPI(M) meeting in Thiruvananthapuram.

cally untenable. The secretariat reportedly said her "needlessly strident tone" towards the petitioner was indefensible.

CPI(M) State secretary A. Vijayaraghavan said Ms. Josephine regretted the episode at the meeting. She ex-

#### Two accused were shot at after they tried to escape STAFF REPORTER BENGALURU The Bengaluru police on Friday cracked the murder of former Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) councillor Rekha Kadiresh,

Rekha Kadiresh and her

of the deceased and one of the first responders after the attack, identified Peter and Surya, we recovered CCTV footage from the area that showed the two fleeing the spot after the murder," said a

The police believe there

#### tained some of them and are on the lookout for the others," said the officer The former councillor's husband met a similar end in 2018, when he was stabbed to death in Cottonpet. Peter and Surya, who were his associates at that time, had

husband, who was murdered in 2018. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

in the case, Sanjay, nephew police officer.

the civil hospital in district

headquarters Khliehriat for

relatives of the victims from

Cachar, Barpeta and Kam-

rup districts in Assam and

North Tripura district

through their respective Su-

perintendent of Police to

identify the retrieved bo-

dies," he said. No one has

come forward to identify the

bodies, he added.

"We have informed the

post mortem.

leader, had blocked a garbage contract to Peter and 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 stopped giving the duo money. "The duo recently had a lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and prematur bitter tiff with her over the death in people with heart or lung disease

ERMAL POWER STATION
E-TENDER NOTICE

nline E-tenders are invited for TN-27028(RVU2122GLOB00400) Supply of MSER\ pipes and TN-18196(RVU2122GLOB00381) Supply, Erection, Testing Commissionin nd Buy Back along with AMC for five year of 03 Nos. Exide make 220V/800 AH Batter Bank, Tender details are available on http://eproc.raiasthan.gov.in (for e-tender www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvunl & www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.i

## NORTH & EAST

# Cong. flays Haryana for 'anti-farmer' decision

'Market fee hike will push farm business to private players'

VIKAS VASUDEVA CHANDIGARH

The Congress leaders on Friday said the Haryana government's decision to increase the market fee and rural development fee on paddy had yet again revealed the "antifarmer" attitude of the Bharatiya Janata Party-Jannayak Janta Party coalition.

The party's national general secretary and chief spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala has demanded immediate withdrawal of the decision. He said the government's move is a short sighted decision. "The farmers will be compelled either to sell off their crops in the neighbouring States or to traders at a lower price," he

Mr. Surjewala said, on one hand the government insists



Randeep Singh Surjewala. •

that the grain markets are not being abolished, but on the other hand such decisions in the name of reducing the losses of the Haryana State Agricultural Marketing Board were clearly indicative of its intention to eliminate mandis and "push the farm business to big private players".

The Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, Bhu-

pinder Singh Hooda, said after inflation, recession and the massive increase in petrol and diesel prices, the government had placed another burden on the farmers. "The fee is much higher as compared to the neighbouring States. Traders would prefer to do business in other States instead of in Haryana and this would lead to a direct loss to the market system and farmers of the State," he said.

Congress State president Kumari Selja said the decision would hit the farmers badly. She said even the rice traders would suffer a big blow. Such decisions make it evident that the State government was not concerned with securing the interests of anyone, she

## **SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**



General Public is hereby informed that one lady Namely: Pooja, W/o: Dharmendra, **R/o**: H.No. C-33, 100 Quarter Firoz Shah Kotla Harijan Basti, ITO, Delhi, Age: 20 Years, Height: 5', Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Wearing: Yellow Colour Kurti, lagging and blue colour ladies shoes in her feet has been missing/kidnapped since 17.06.2021 from the area of P.S. IP Estate, Delhi.

**POOJA** 

In this regard DD No. 81, Dated 19.06.2021, has been lodged at P.S. IP Estate, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped lady but no clue has come to light so

far. If anyone have any information about this missing/ kidnapped lady may please be informed to the undersigned. Web-site: http://cbi.nic.in E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in

Fax: 011-23011334 DP/845/CD/2021

P.S. IP Estate, Delhi Ph: 011-23370928, 23232294 & 8750870426

## FIR against web portal in U.P.

Fourth such instance in 14 months, says *The Wire*'s editor

OMAR RASHID

An FIR was lodged against news portal The Wire in Uttar Pradesh for allegedly spreading false information that religious scriptures of a particular community were thrown into a river and drain following the demolition of a mosque by the administration in Barabanki.

The FIR was lodged for a documentary titled 'How a Mosque in U.P.'s Barabanki was Demolished', which showed members of the committee of the demolished mosque terming the administrative act illegal and claiming that they had documents to prove the structure was legal.

In May, the Barabanki administration, after carrying out the demolition, said an "illegal residential complex" was found situated opposite to the Sub-Divisional Magistrate's residence in the Ramsanehi Ghat tehsil com-

The Allahabad High Court recently issued notices to the administration on the demolition after petitions were filed before it terming the administrative act illegal and arbitrary.

Adarsh Singh, District Magistrate, Barabanki, said the FIR against The Wire was lodged for allegedly spreading misleading and false information, trying to spread religious animosity and frenzy and spoiling communal harmony.

Mohammad Anees; Mohammad Naeem; Seraj Ali, journalist of The Wire, who reported the documentary; Mukul S. Chauhan and The Wire were named in the FIR.

The Wire editor Siddharth Varadarajan said this was the fourth FIR filed by the U.P. police in the past 14 months against the portal and/or its journalists and "each of these cases is baseless". The Yogi Adityanath government did not believe in media freedom and was criminalising the work of journalists who were reporting what was happening in the State, he said.

## UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY



General Public is hereby informed that one person Namely: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, Address: Unknown, was found in unconscious condition and admitted in Safdarjang Hospital, New Delhi, vide MLC No. 163089/21 During the treatment Doctors declared brought him dead on 23.06.2021 in the area of

P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi. In this regard a case has been lodged vide DD No. 14A dated 23.06.2021 at P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, Delhi. The description of the dead person is as under:- Age: About 35 years, Sex: Male, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Wearing: Blue-white colour checked shirt and brown-black colour lower. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned. SHO

DP/710/SW/2021

P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, Delhi Ph.: 011-24106345, 7065036231

## WESTERN RAILWAY TO EXTEND TRIPS OF

1	4 PAIRS (	of festiv	AL SPE	CIAL TR	AINS
Train No.	From	То	Frequency	Notified up to	Extended up to
09271	Bandra (T)	Patna Jn	Weekly	28.06.2021	30.08.2021
09272	Patna Jn	Bandra (T)	Weekly	30.06.2021	01.09.2021
02913	Bandra (T)	Saharsa Jn	Weekly	27.06.2021	29.08.2021
02914	Saharsa Jn	Bandra (T)	Weekly	29.06.2021	31.08.2021
02929	Bandra (T)	Jaisalmer	Weekly	25.06.2021	27.08.2021
02930	Jaisalmer	Bandra (T)	Weekly	26.06.2021	28.08.2021
09027	Bandra (T)	Jammu Tawi	Weekly	26.06.2021	28.08.2021
09028	Jammu Tawi	Bandra (T)	Weekly	28.06.2021	30.08.2021
09017	Bandra (T)	Haridwar	Weekly	30.06.2021	25.08.2021
09018	Haridwar	Bandra (T)	Weekly	01.07.2021	26.08.2021
09057	Udhna Jn	Manduadih	Weekly	25.06.2021	27.08.2021
09058	Manduadih	Udhna Jn	Weekly	27.06.2021	29.08.2021
05564	Udhna Jn	Jaynagar	Weekly	27.06.2021	29.08.2021
05563	Jaynagar	Udhna Jn	Weekly	24.06.2021	26.08.2021
05270	Ahmedabad Jn	Muzaffarpur Jn	Weekly	26.06.2021	28.08.2021
05269	Muzaffarpur Jn	Ahmedabad Jn	Weekly	24.06.2021	26.08.2021
05560	Ahmedabad Jn	Darbhanga Jn	Weekly	02.07.2021	27.08.2021
05559	Darbhanga Jn	Ahmedabad Jn	Weekly	30.06.2021	25.08.2021
09205	Porbandar	Howrah Jn	Bi-Weekly	30.06.2021	26.08.2021
09206	Howrah Jn	Porbandar	Bi-Weekly	02.07.2021	28.08.2021
09451	Gandhidham Jn	Bhagalpur Jn	Weekly	25.06.2021	27.08.2021
09452	Bhagalpur Jn	Gandhidham Jn	Weekly	28.06.2021	30.08.2021
02905	Okha	Howrah Jn	Weekly	27.06.2021	29.08.2021
02906	Howrah Jn	Okha	Weekly	29.06.2021	31.08.2021
09313	Indore Jn	Patna Jn	Bi-Weekly	30.06.2021	30.08.2021
09314	Patna Jn	Indore Jn	Bi-Weekly	02.07.2021	01.09.2021
09321	Indore Jn	Patna Jn	Weekly	26.06.2021	28.08.2021
09322	Patna Jn	Indore Jn	Weekly	28.06.2021	30.08.2021

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## **Future State**

Restoration of Statehood should be at the start

of the revival of the democratic process in J&K olitical leaders from Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) who attended a meeting called by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday came away with a sense of optimism: restoration of Statehood is somewhere on the horizon, even if a total reversal of the withdrawal of the special status remains unlikely. The meeting itself was a surprise, and came at a time when expectations of any quick resolution were very low. But the fact that a spectrum of political leaders got the invitation from the Centre without any set pre-conditions had raised hopes of progress. Eventually, the meeting gave reason to Kashmir's political class to believe in possibilities that did not seem to exist just a week earlier. But restoration of Statehood to J&K, which was reorganised as two Union Territories, should be the first step in the revival of the democratic political process and not the culmination of some elaborate negotiation strategy. Mr. Modi described the meeting as an "important step in the ongoing efforts towards a developed and progressive J&K". While committing to strengthen grassroots democracy, he called for quick delimitation of constituencies, after which legislative polls could be held. Home Minister Amit Shah insisted the restoration of Statehood will follow delimitation and elections. Not surprisingly, many participants were not convinced by this sequence suggested by the Centre. But the positives are that the long meeting was freewheeling, without rancour and all parties were united in the demand for the restoration of Statehood. Most participants also sought an assurance to return the domiciliary rights concerning land and State services, but considering the BJP's strident position, this might be difficult.

As Mr. Modi argued, the focus must be on the future, but this will have to be built on the trust and cooperation of the people of J&K. Decades of turmoil have created unique problems of governance and mistrust. The NC and the PDP, with all their deficiencies, remain India's best messengers to the people of the Valley. In deciding to engage them, and other parties, the Centre has made a departure from its earlier position. By seizing the opportunity, these parties also showed maturity. Global and domestic factors might have nudged the Centre towards what appears to be a tentative accommodation of other viewpoints. But the political challenge to its decision to hollow out Article 370 is all but fading. The restoration of Statehood has been placed so far down the path that any discussion on special status is unthinkable in the near future. In that sense, the Centre and the BJP have irreversibly reset the conversation on J&K. That success should not blind them to the resentment among the people. Mr. Modi and Mr. Shah will have to look forward to the future rather than being bound by their past rhetoric on Kashmir.

## Top play

Euro 2020 seems to belie fears of subdued performances due to the pandemic

rvative play is often international football's bugbear. National team players spend very little time together for attacking structures and synchronous moves to develop, and a safety-first approach always seems around the corner. Ahead of Euro 2020, there were fears that players will be less on the front foot because of the physical and mental toll the CO-VID-19 pandemic had exacted. By that yardstick, Euro 2020 has thus far proved to be an entertaining fare, with the enthralling play matching the energy of the returning fans. Compared to the previous edition's group stage, there have been 25 goals more (94 to 69) and four fewer matches with one goal or less (10 to 14), with just two goalless draws (down from four). Overall, 15 of the 16 countries in the knockouts have a better group stage record than champion Portugal five years ago. Top sides such as the Netherlands, Italy, Belgium and Spain have not moved away from their lively, pressing style of football, despite the tournament coming at the fag end of a long and tiring season. World Champion France has not been swashbuckling, but seems efficient, while Portugal is always a threat with Cristiano Ronaldo around (five goals and one assist). Denmark's has been the feelgood story, recovering from talisman Christian Eriksen's on-field collapse owing to cardiac arrest in its opening match, to make it to the next round. Eriksen is now out of danger and Denmark has quickly become the neutral's choice.

However, it remains to be seen how much of the positivity spills over into the round-of-16, which begins in Amsterdam on Saturday with the Denmark-Wales clash. If ever there was a time for cautious play, it is now, with the competition essentially a single-elimination, winner-take-all affair. France, having won the 2018 World Cup, knows a way around such situations, and with midfielder Paul Pogba in imperious form, it remains the favourite. Italy has been the stand-out team, with its young and energetic outfit coached by the astute Roberto Mancini expected to go far and bury the ghosts of 2018 when it did not qualify for the World Cup. Belgium's golden generation, led by Eden Hazard, Kevin De Bruyne and Romelu Lukaku, seems well-placed to realise the dream of a first major trophy. But its shaky defence needs some shoring up, first against Ronaldo's Portugal. The most-anticipated pre-quarterfinal clash will however be between England and Germany at Wembley. But both sides have been middling so far, with their halos significantly dimmed. Germany, in particular, was minutes away from elimination, before Leon Goretzka's deflected goal against Hungary saved the day. But the weight of history can hang heavy on England, for it has won just three out of 11 competitive fixtures against Germany, the last coming 20 years ago.

# Prepare the ground for a 'Naya J&K'

It must capture the best practices of democratic governance globally, yet be reflective of the idea of India



AMITABH MATTOO

t is too early to conclude whether the all-party meeting held at ■Prime Minister Narendra Modi's residence to reduce the trust deficit between New Delhi and the leaders of Jammu and Kashmir will succeed in building the foundations of a 'Naya Jammu and Kashmir'. That the meeting was held, remarkably without rancor, does signal a new beginning after the momentous events of August 2019, which included the dilution of Article 370 and the preventive detention of many of the leaders who attended the all-party meeting.

There are also signals that a new minimal consensus could be forged between the mainstream of political leaders in Jammu and Kashmir and the central leadership that could lead to an early return of democratic governance and full Statehood. In its long and chequered history, there have been several and previous occasions during which federal relations have been rebooted and reset and this would not be the first time that a new, forward-looking political compact is executed.

Centre's policies, the world

It is tempting, especially for out-ofwork diplomats, to over-analyse New Delhi's latest moves within a chessboard of a 'great game' being played out, reminiscent of 19th century British strategies in the region. Anyone who has studied New Delhi policies since the troubles of the 1990s will recognise that the Centre's policies on Jammu and Kashmir rarely shift under international pressure, even while tactical gestures may be made to assuage the sentiments of what the establishment often describes as woolly-headed liberals.

In the hostile atmosphere of the early 1990s, when India was confronted with a full-blown insurgency in the Kashmir Valley and India's staunchest ally, the Soviet Union had collapsed, the United States Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia (and Central Asia), Robin L. Raphel (with direct access to U.S. President Bill Clinton) questioned Jammu and Kashmir's accession to India. Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's fragile coalition, within an economically precarious India, refused to concede ground in any substantial measure. Surely, it is surreal to believe that the Modi government would do so under pressure from the Joe Biden administration or gratuitous advice from its Acting Assistant Secretary for South Asia, even while the photo opportunity presented by the all-party meeting would, of course, be flashed by the media czars of the Ministry of External Affairs across the globe.

Similarly, while the dangers to Afghanistan from the gradual takeover by the Taliban are real and present, it is difficult to find any evidence that the once-messianic students rooted in the madrassas of the Frontier will now turn their attention to Kashmir. Moreover, any backchannel that exists between India and Pakistan that led to a successful ceasefire on the Line of Control is reflective much more of Rawalpindi's own internal fault lines and problems on multiple fronts, than any real concession toward India. To be sure, if Pakistan's leadership wanted a face saver to stand down from its fierce reaction to the 'Ides of August', Mr. Modi has provided the very steps to down the ante.

From a position of strength

Counterintuitively, the Modi government seems to have acted unilaterally precisely because there is a window of opportunity where

tion of almost absolute strength. Even while there are stray incidents of violence, terrorism and militancy are at their lowest levels in recent years; there is little popular disquiet that is finding expression in the streets of the towns and the cities of Kashmir; and the separatists are either in jail or are surprisingly silent. The popular press, once a source of anxiety for the establishment, has either been arm-twisted into projecting good news or found it pragmatic to do so given the scrutiny of central law enforcement agencies on almost every private institution of importance and influence in the Union

Territory. The mainstream of political parties, who had been derided by the Centre as the 'Gupkar gang' et al and detained for months, (who had taken an absolutist stand on the dilution of Article 370) seem to have found at least a modicum of accommodation with the Centre. at least good enough for all of them to respond positively to the Prime Minister's invitation. In sum the employment of the entire spectrum of Kautilyan policies (saam, daam, dand and bhed persuade, purchase, punish, and exploit the weakness) have helped to create this new space; this is not to justify the Centre's conduct, but merely find a convincing explanation for the remarkable degree of acquiescence to the Centre's policies, admittedly within the conve-

nient judicial cover provided by the Supreme Court of India having admitted but not heard the case on the legitimacy of the dilution of Article 370. As the Harvard trained legal ace, Muzaffar Beigh, apparently declared in the all-party meeting: any discussion on Article 370 could be tantamount to contempt of the Supreme Court given its sub judice status.

In turn, the Centre also seems to have realised that there are limits to which Chaplinesque 'little dictators' from the bureaucracy, and their minions can deliver in terms of better public services or investment opportunities despite the laudable intentions of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha.

The state of delivery of public service has not improved significantly nor has promised investment from corporate groups translated into reality. The promise of Kashmir remains just that: the promise of Kashmir!

#### Need for a local connect

Moreover, the experience in Jammu and Kashmir has amplified the Sangh Parivar's long-standing recognition that real leaders cannot be manufactured, but have to be connected organically to the grassroots and supported by a cadre of dedicated workers. The over-reliance on a new crop of shifty leaders, who were paraded into television studios or before visiting diplomats (and who zealously mouthed Bharat mata ki jai) had the strong imprint of an intelligence operation, and was, in any case, counterproductive amongst even those already sympathetic to New Delhi's narrative on Kashmir. The elections to the District Development Council demonstrated that the Bharatiya Janata Party, the National Conference, the Congress, Peoples Democratic Party, People's Conference and the Apni Party – all of whom relied on the political leaders of the so-called

Ancien Régime - still had a significant constituency amongst the voters of the State.

Federal relations are dynamic even in countries with almost inviolable rights of the States, including the United States. For most of the 20th century, even much before India's Independence, New Delhi's policies towards this border region have moved between tight central control and a gentler federal grip that provided space for autonomous self-governance. When the British sold Kashmir to the Dogra ruler, Gulab Singh, they wanted to secure the frontiers, but not be responsible for governance. But the British Empire too realised, especially within the reign of Pratap Singh, that they could not firewall security from governance.

## Use the bedrock of the young

Twenty-first century governance and empowerment requires a federal solution that is contemporary and built on best practices globally. The fresh consensus for a 'Naya' Jammu and Kashmir must capture the best practices of democratic governance globally, especially from a country such as Australia which I know best, and yet be reflective of the idea of India: a celebration of diversity in all its forms. The challenge before Jammu and Kashmir's leaders, old and new, is to arrive at a compelling blueprint for good governance within a framework of healthy federal relations that will be rooted in a vision for peace, prosperity and real empowerment. The bedrock of such a vision must be the extraordinarily talented and gifted young people of the State, who have, despite the troubles, been able to carve out a niche for themselves across the world.

Amitabh Mattoo is Professor at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and Honorary Professor at the University

# Relevant advice for health care-givers, mothers-to-be

With COVID-19 compounding maternal and neonatal complications, vaccination and special facilities must be priorities



**T**ndia's demographic dividend is **▲** birth rate. The number of births in India is ~ 72,000 per day; taking into account the 10 month duration of gestation and pregnancy losses, the number of pregnant women on any single day will be much larger. Currently, the number of new cases of COVID-19 per day and the number of daily CO-VID-19 deaths in India are among the highest in the world. Maternity services in India, both public and private, already overburdened with large numbers even in pre-COVID-19 times, face a crisis situation with the conditions caused by the pandemic.

A danger Recent reports from Kerala (The Hindu, May 14, 2021) on pregnant mothers, have uncovered many serious medical problems faced by pregnant women who contract COVID-19 and their new-born pre-eclampsia, pre-term labour maternal infections, increased caesarean section rates, fetal growth restriction due to placental insufficiency, still births, neonatal infections and respiratory distress. According to a recent publication in the Journal of the American Medical Association, maternal mortality is several-fold higher in COVID-19 positive pregnant mothers than in non-COVID-19 pregnant women. Many pregnant women need admission to the intensive care unit and prolonged

hospitalisation. Of all the CO-VID-19 deaths in the paediatric age-group, neonatal deaths are the most common.

All maternal and neonatal complications increase with maternal obesity and diabetes in pregnancy – problems that are common in pregnant women in India. These facts underscore the need for urgent action to minimise the impact pregnant mothers and new-born.

There is an urgent need for action from professional bodies to avert a serious calamity; the Government, in consultation with these bodies, should immediately facilitate counselling and care for women in the reproductive age group and provide resources to health-care professionals involved in their care.

Quite early during the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, we cautioned about the potential adverse effects of COVID-19 in pregnancy and urged pre-conceptional advice for women planning a pregnancy during COVID-19 times (The Hindu, September 14, 2020; https://bit.ly/2U3Nghq) - a simple precaution that could have averted serious problems for large numbers of women in the reproductive age group.

## Steps to be taken

With the massive increase in numbers of COVID-19 infections with the second wave of the novel coronavirus pandemic in India, and its effect on pregnant mothers, this important matter should be taken up on a war footing, alerting women in the reproductive age group and the medical profession.

Two important steps must be considered immediately: Advise all women to postpone pregnancy till both partners are vaccinated; Offer vaccination to all un-vacci-



nated pregnant women

Temporary and reversible contraception during COVID-19 times is a simple and effective way to postpone pregnancies and thereby decrease the number of women who would otherwise seek antenatal advice in crowded hospitals and risk exposure to infection. The demands on health-care personnel who provide antenatal care would decrease; they can be redeployed for COVID-19 care and the vaccination programme, public health measures that make huge demands on health-care professionals.

Reduction in the number of antenatal visits, online consultations, protocols for ultrasonography, glucose tolerance test and antepartum fetal evaluation have been introduced by many institutions. This must be followed by all caregivers

Ultrasound scans are routinely done during pregnancy. Dedicated and safe ultrasound scan centres for pregnant women, manned exclusively by immunised personnel (either vaccinated or after recovery from previous CO-VID-19 infection) is a need of the hour.

Pregnant women with fever should be considered to have CO-VID-19 unless proven otherwise and be taken care of in triage areas with all personal protective measures in place till COVID-19 test re-

sults are available. At present, COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 pregnant women coming for delivery are not strictly segregated in many hospitals, it is high time that COVID-19 pregnancies and non-COVID-19 pregnancies are handled in different settings to prevent infecting facilities should be manned by immunised personnel, the first to prevent infections in health-care personnel and the second to prevent infections in susceptible mothers. Unvaccinated healthcare workers providing care for pregnant women should be quickly vaccinated.

## Clear benefits of vaccination

The health authorities in the United Kingdom and the United States have realised the benefits and the safety of vaccinating pregnant women and have approved vaccination of all pregnant women with mRNA vaccines (https://bit.ly/3xY-ZIxX). These COVID-19 vaccines have been found to produce a good immune response and, maternal antibodies, demonstrated to cross the placenta and enter the fetus, confer protection against maternal to fetal transmission of the virus. The benefits of vaccination far outweigh the risks.

Pregnancy and the immediate postpartum period are pro-thrombotic states - they favour the formation of blood clots in veins. Of the two vaccines readily available in India, the vectored vaccine (Covishield) was found to be associated with rare but serious sideeffects pertaining to thrombosis of the veins draining critical areas such as the brain and intra-abdominal organs, a feature shared by the single dose (Janssen) vaccine;

indeed, this side-effect may be a feature of all vectored vaccines against COVID-19. In general, inactivated virus vaccines are safe during pregnancy and the World Health Organization has given a nod to the use of the inactivated Synovac vaccine bit.ly/35WzIHa). Therefore, the inactivated vaccine available in India (Covaxin) may have advantages ovield and Sputnik) for vaccinating pregnant women.

The availability and advantages of the vaccine for pregnant women should be publicised and awareness should be created among the public. Vaccine hesitancy in pregnant women is likely to be much higher than in the general population - this should be addressed by information, education and effective communication. Professional bodies recommended to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare that vaccination be offered to pregnant women after providing adequate information and counselling – and the Indian Council of Medical Research and the Ministry of Health have approved this, welcome steps in the direction

(https://bit.ly/3xRBAgl). India will do well to enhance vaccination coverage of couples planning pregnancy and pregnant women on a priority basis in order to protect mothers and their

Lakshmi Seshadri, a former Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore, is currently Senior Consultant Gynaecologist, Thirumalai Mission Hospital, Ranipet, Tamil Nadu. M.S. Seshadri, a former Professor of Clinical Endocrinology, CMC, Vellore, is currently Medical Director, Thirumalai Mission Hospital, Ranipet

## 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.

## Talks on J&K

A few days ago, few would have imagined a thaw was possible in the frozen relationship between Kashmir's political elites and the central government. A meeting between the two sides, which took place unexpectedly, points to their shared view that the restoration of political normalcy in Kashmir cannot be delayed indefinitely (Page 1, "PM

backs delimitation exercise, grassroots democracy in J&K", June 25). Since it was a meeting without any agenda, both sides listened to each other – an exercise that seems to have helped to dispel mutual mistrust and suspicion.

The Kashmiri leaders came with a long list of demands. It seems the Government's immediate priority is to conduct the delimitation exercise and hold elections. Restoration of Statehood is

also on the cards, but it depends on the peaceful conduct of elections. The Kashmiri leaders need to accept the harsh reality that Article 370 is history. The Government has managed to turn public opinion regarding its dilution in its favour. The Congress party's

demand that the government should take steps to rehabilitate the Pandits seems to be a case of belated wisdom that is

driven by political opportunism. Will the party create a climate of goodwill and safety to help the return of the Pandits? V.N. MUKUNDARAJAN,

■ Whatever decisions the Government may take. unless the confidence of the people is won, no visible change can be made. After all, democracy is only about reflecting the will of the people in governance. One

cannot expect a magic wand to change the mindset of the people overnight. Engaging constantly with the people is the solution. Empty rhetoric and a military presence cannot make any difference. T. ANAND RAJ,

## **Africa ties**

The African continent is one of the most neglected vet strategically important regions of the world. Indian diplomacy can do better,

deepening ties with Africa and helping it build better infrastructure. Being highly rich in mineral resources, strengthening ties with Africa could prove to be of great significance to India. With the Sahel region now facing increased terrorism. India should step up counter-terrorism-related activities and reach out. OMKAR ANANDKUMAR REVADKAR,

THE HINDU DELHI SATURDAY, JUNE 26, 2021

# When Greyhounds struck in a fading red zone

In June, six Maoists including top leaders of the CPI(Maoist) were killed by the Greyhounds in Koyyuru mandal in Visakhapatnam Agency. **Sumit Bhattacharjee** reports on the setback to the movement which is already at its lowest ebb in the region

n June 16, rain-bearing clouds loomed over Koyyuru mandal in Visakhapatnam Agency, about 170 km from Visakhapatnam city. The monsoon had set in. The entire mandal is thickly forested, with hillocks, deep caverns and perennial streams. Soon, there was a steady drizzle.

A team of around 30 Maoists, including some senior leaders, from the banned Communist Party of India (Maoist) were camping on a hillock about 800 m high in the middle of this jungle near a village called Theegalametta. At around 9 a.m., while one group of Maoists, sheltered under plastic tarpaulins, was busy cooking a meal, the others were reportedly gearing up for an important meeting.

There are two versions of what happened a few minutes later. According to a letter from the Maoists, the unsuspecting group suddenly came under heavy fire from the elite anti-Maoist force of Andhra Pradesh, the Greyhounds. Surprised by the fire power and stealth attack, the Maoists took time to respond. The exchange of fire reportedly lasted for about 25 minutes and left six Maoists – three women and three top leaders – dead. According to the official version, the Greyhounds asked the group to surrender but was forced to retaliate when the Maoists opened fire.

#### A serious setback

Visakhapatnam Agency, located in Viskhapatnam district, is around 6,200 sq km and has 11 mandals. Koyyuru is one among them. The district administration and the police have declared all the 11 mandals as "Maoist-affected".

Among the dead were two Divisional Committee Members (DCM) and one Area Committee Member (ACM). The six were identified as Ranadev alias Arjun (DCM), Sande Gangiah alias 'Dr' Ashok (DCM), Santu Nachike (ACM), Lalitha, Madakm Chaite, and Paike. Ranadev and Nachike were from Odisha; Ashok was from Pedapalli in Telangana; Lalitha was from GK Veedhi, another Maoist-affected mandal in Visakhapatnam Agency; and Chaite and Paike were from Chhattisgarh.

Ranadev was among the few committed Maoist leaders left in the region. He had been part of the movement for about 20 years and was known to be an elusive and fierce fighter. He had earlier led the Kalimela Dalam. (Dalams are Maoist groups which operate in particular areas.) Not too long ago, he was moved to Boipariguda in Koraput, Odisha, after the merger of the Kalimela and Koraput Area Committees.

The killing of Sande Gangaiah alias 'Dr' Ashok is a serious setback to the group as he was leading the medical team in the region. Ashok was not a qualified doctor; he had learnt the rudiments of nursing from local Registered Medical Practitioners. It is said that he could even perform minor surgeries, including treating bullet wounds. He hailed from a family of committed Maoists. His older brother, Sande Rajamouli, was the mastermind behind the mine blast in Alipiri in 2003 in which former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu was injured. Rajamouli was killed in 2007 by the police.

The security forces also recovered one AK-47 rifle, two carbines, two modified .303 Lee Enfield rifles, one country-made weapon, at least one single-barrel muzzle-loading gun, some ammunition, explosive materials, extremist literature, VHF sets, medicines and kit bags from the spot.

Sources say that some senior leaders such as Gajarla Ravi alias Uday, Secretary of the CPI (Maoist) Andhra-Odisha Border Special Zonal Committee; Aruna, the next in command; and Kakuri Pandana alias Jagan, who is in-charge of the Galikonda area were present at the campsite, too.

## The attack

A senior police officer as well as tribals in the nearby villages say that the police had been aware of the Maoists' presence as barely 20 days ago, there had been an exchange of fire at another place in Koyyuru. This attack was made possible by specific intelligence inputs, sources say.

During the monsoon, for at least two months, many villages in the interior parts of the district remain cut off from the mandal headquarters. Traversing the area, which has slippery red soil, and streams and rivulets in spate, is fraught with danger. Given the difficulty in negotiating the terrain, both the Maoists and the security forces normally let their guard down during this time. While the Maoists refrain from their tactical counter offensive campaign (when they carry out maximum attacks against security forces), the security forces scale down their combing and area

domination operations.

According to sources in the police, the Greyhounds trekked overnight for at least 15 to 18 km in pitch darkness and swam the last lap to reach the vantage point early in the morning.



Children walk near a memorial built by the Maoists in a village close to the site where six Maoists were shot dead by the Greyhounds in Koyyuru mandal in Visakhapatnam Agency. (Below): Greyhounds conduct a combing operation close to Theegalametta village in Koyyuru mandal. • K.R. DEEPAK



But the most difficult part was climbing the hill without getting noticed. Sources in the police say that initially, the security forces had asked the Maoists to surrender, but the Maoists opened fire and the Greyhounds team retaliated. There was no question of surrender, say the police, as all the senior Maoist leaders were reportedly present at the spot. Their surrender or death would have meant an end to the movement in the Andhra-Odisha Border region. "That is why they fired at us and escaped under cover fire. But six lost their lives," says a senior officer engaged in anti-Maoist operations in the region.

This attack was similar to the Ramaguda attack that took place in the cut-off region of the Andhra-Odisha Border, in October 2016. In that attack, over 30 Maoists, including some top leaders, were killed in a single operation. That operation too was led by the Greyhounds.

## Inhospitable terrain

The Greyhounds was raised in 1989 by IPS officer K.S. Vyas as an elite anti-Maoist force. Seeing its successful operations, many States facing the Maoist problem have raised their own forces.

Training for the Greyhounds is gruelling. Members of the force cannot be over 35 years. Once they cross 35, they are drafted into the civil police until retirement. "Being young gives us an edge in terms of agility, strength and stamina," says a Greyhounds officer.

During combat operations, each party of the Greyhounds has about 30 men who are trained to trek long distances. They can stay in the jungle at a stretch for over five to six days. At times, they live only on dry fruits, as lighting a fire to cook a quick meal can attract enemy fire or help the enemy detect their location. The members communicate with the base using satellite phones or VHF sets and use scramblers to avoid being intercepted by the Maoists. The Maoists have the expertise to intercept radio communication.

The region is not kind to anyone, whether the Maoists or the Greyhounds. The forces and the rebels are prone to malaria fever. In recent times, COVID-19 has made its way into these

remote areas too. Senior leaders such as Gajarla Ravi alias Uday and Central Committee member Akkiraju Haragopal alias Ramakrishna alias RK, who is incharge of the Andhra-Odisha Border, are down with severe diabetes, eyesight issues and arthritis.

"Lack of sleep and good food has weakened us," says a senior Maoist leader, who surrendered recently. Nachike, who was killed on June 16, had been diagnosed with COVID-19 and 'Dr' Ashok had recently recovered from the virus.

The Maoists use old, stolen police weapons including AK 47s, 9 mm carbines, Lee Enfield .303 rifles, SLRs and country-made weapons or double- or single-barrel shotguns. The Greyhounds naturally have superior arsenal including SLRs, MP-5 carbines, AK-47s with under-barrel grenade launchers, 5.56 mm Insas, 9 mm pistols and Tavor rifles.

While the Greyhounds have had many successes against the Maoists, they suffered a major setback in 2008 when 37 of their men were ambushed by the Maoists when they were crossing the Balimela reservoir in a boat.

## The birth of a movement

In undivided Andhra Pradesh, the seed of the armed struggle was sown by the Telangana Rebellion of 1946. The peasant movement was led by communist leaders such as Ravi Narayana Reddy, Puchalapalli Sundarayya and Sulaiman Areeb. They rebelled against the feudal lords of the Telangana region in the princely State of Hyderabad. The armed struggle ended in 1951, when the last of the guerilla squads was subdued by police force.

Though the Srikakulam movement, which began in 1967, was squashed, it inspired leaders such as Kondapalli Seetharamaiah and K.G. Satyamurthi in the early part of 1980s. The movement grew in parts of what is now called Te-

langana, in districts such as Warangal, Khammam, Adilabad and Karimnagar. It was during Kondapalli's leadership that the current crop of Maoist leaders such as former General Secretary of the CPI (Maoist), Muppala Lakshmana Rao alias Ganapathi, and the present General Secretary, Nambala Keshava Rao alias Basavraj, joined the movement.

The movement grew due to oppression by feudal landlords and attempts by zamindars to take over lands from tribals. It attracted young and educated leaders such as Lakshmana Rao, a science teacher, and Keshava Rao and Cherukuri Rajkumar alias Azad, both B. Tech graduates from Regional Engineering College, Warangal (now known as the National Institute of Technology). Azad also completed his M. Tech from Andhra University. He was shot dead by the Andhra Pradesh police in 2010.

When the Greyhounds was formed and the police began to make inroads into Maoist strongholds, the rebels were forced to seek a safe haven. "That was when Kondapalli asked leaders such as Lakshmana Rao and Nambala to find safer areas in the Dandakarnya forest and the forests of the Eastern Ghats, which included the districts of East Godavari and Visakhapatnam," says a former Maoist who rose to the post of State Committee member.

Nambala Keshava Rao, the present General Secretary of the party, along with Bopanna, Ganti Prasad and Ganti Mohan entered Visakhapatnam district via the Chinturu and Rampa areas of East Godavari. For Nambala, getting a hold in the region comprising the districts of Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram and Srikakulam was easy as he is from Srikakulam. This group led the movement under the People's War Group banner. The group continued with its struggle until the CPI (Maoist) was founded by the then General Secretary, Ganapathi, with the merger of the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist),

People's War Group, and the Maoist Communist Centre of India in September 2004

The initial base for the CPI (Maoist) was on the East Godavari and Visakhapatnam border that touched Koyyuru mandal. That is why the Maoists named the division, their first in this region, as East Division. It comprises Addateegala, Chinturu and Rampa in East Godavari, Koyyuru in Visakhapatnam (also called Galikonda area), Parvathipuram in Vizianagaram and some tribal tracts of Srikakulam.

Koyyuru became a fertile ground for the Maoists as the area was backward. "Most of the villages were inhabited by the Kondhu tribals, a particularly vulnerable tribal group, who had migrated earlier from Odisha after the dams built across the Balimela reservoir had displaced them," says Venkata Rao, DSP, Special Branch (Extremist), Visakhapatnam District Police.

"Since most of the villages in the interior parts were inhabited by particularly vulnerable tribal groups, it was easy for the Maoist leaders, who were educated, well-informed and steeped in ideology, to mould them," says a former Additional Superintendent of Police who served in anti-Maoist operations for over three decades. "Moreover, oppression by the police, forest and revenue department officials paved the way for gaining popular and mass support."

"Back then, the major issues in Visakhpatnam Agency were getting a good price for forest produce such as honey, rajma, bamboo pulp, neem and adda leaves. Coffee and pepper came later," says Professor P.D. Satyapal from the Anthropology department of Andhra University. The Maoist even set the price for the forest produce to ensure that the tribals were not exploited by contractors and middlemen.

With Koyyuru in their control, the Maoists expanded their base slowly to Chintapalli and GK Veedhi, known as Korukonda area. Once in control, they established the Galikonda Area Committee and Korukonda Area Committee, which are still functional. The earlier dalams such as Nagulakonda and Thandava were merged with them. From Korukonda area, they moved to Pedabayalu and Munchingput on the Andhra side and Malkangiri, Koraput and Chitrakonda on the Odisha side. The Pedabayalu and Kalimela Area Committees were formed on the Andhra-Odisha Border region that encompassed the cut-off

From the first offence in 1981, in which a landlord was killed in Choudidibbalu in Galikonda area, the Maoists have committed over 500 offences, including arson, killing, and planning and executing landmine blasts. In 1993, they kidnapped MLA P. Balaraju and IAS officer Dasari Srinivasulu, and in 2011, they kidnapped IAS officer Vineel Krishna. Earlier, in 1987, they abducted 11 of-

ficers, including seven IAS officers, from Gurtedu village. All these officers were returned in exchange for the release of jailed Maoists and jailed tribals, compensation to the families of Maoist sympathisers killed in police custody, cancellation of projects in the area, among other things. From the early 1980s till date, there have been at least 100 "encounters" in which at least 60 policemen and over 100 Maoists have been killed.

## An unusual gathering

Given this history and the state's constant chase of the Maoists, why were all the Maoist leaders present at one spot in Theegalametta? One plausible explanation, according to the official version, is that the Maoists were trying to find a safe haven after the security forces on both sides of the Andhra-Odisha border stepped up the offensive over the last few years. On the Andhra side, four armed outposts under the CRPF have come up at Rallagedda in Chintapalli mandal, Rudakota in Pedabayalu mandal, Pedavalasa in GK Veedhi, and Nurmathi in G Madugula. In Odisha, about 25 company operating bases (COBs) of the Border Security Force and about 10 Indian Reserve Battalion (IRBn) bases have come up. Odisha has been successful in creating about six COBs in the cutoff region, a Maoist hotbed, in Badapadar, Jambai, Jantapayi, Vantalguda, Badapada and Gurasethu, and one IRBN base at Jodombo.

The other reason may have had to do with motivating the tribals to join the movement. Recruitment has practically dried up now due to factors such as lack of tribal leadership and development activities taken up by the police, say police sources and former Maoists. Except for Kakuri Pandana alias Jagan, there is no tribal leader of standing in this region, says Officer on Special Duty Sateesh Kumar, who coordinated the operation.

"The police have taken up a number of programmes. They have provided clean drinking water by sinking borewells, connected villages with roads, launched schemes to train the tribals in various skills, and coached them to join the police force and Central Armed Police Force. The tribals now want roads and cellphone towers, which the Maoists have been objecting to. This has distanced the tribals from left-wing extremism," says B. Krishna Rao, Superintendent of Police, Visakhapatnam.

The police say that with the security forces stepping up the offensive, the Maoists are on the back foot and are finding it difficult to keep the movement going. From a strength of around 500 cadres in mid-2000, the group has shrunk to a mere 30 now. The recent killings are a big setback to the Maoist movement, which, today, is at its lowest ebb in the Agency and in the Andhra-Odisha Border region.



## CBSE optional exams in August, says Minister

Aspirants of professional entrance examinations such as JEE and NEET also wanted to know if and when their examinations would be held. The engineering entrance test JEE-Main is held four times a year, but two sessions scheduled for April and May had been suspended because of the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. The undergraduate medical entrance test NEET is scheduled to be held on August 1 as of now.

There is also uncertainty regarding the Central Universities Common Entrance Test, with questions being raised whether it will apply to all central institutions this year, including those like the University of Delhi and the Jawaharlal Nehru University which have previously used Class 12 marks or their own entrance tests for admissions.

Current students of Class 10 and 12 have raised queries regarding the syllabus for 2021-22, seeking clarity on whether the 30% reduction announced last year would continue, given that teaching and learning is still being disrupted by school closures due to the pandem-

## Kerala 'excess deaths' 1.6 times official toll

Districts of concern

The table lists the excess deaths, recorded COVID-19 deaths and the estimated undercount factor for Kerala's districts between April 2020 and May 2021

District	Excess deaths	COVID-19 deaths	Undercount factor
Kannur	2,149	620	3.47
Palakkad	1,762	603	2.92
Malappuram	1,634	669	2.44
Thrissur	1,298	1,028	1.26
Kollam	1,230	498	2.47
Kozhikode	959	971	0.99
Ernakulam	957	876	1.22
Thiruvananthapuram	941	1,745	0.54
Kottayam	741	434	1.71
Kasaragod	724	150	4.83
Alappuzha	706	704	1.00
Idukki	316	62	5.10
Wayanad	228	207	1.10
Pathanamthitta	224	293	0.76

If instead of averages, a year-by-year growth rate of deaths is considered from 2015 to 2021, the 3,03,313 registered deaths in the State were still lower than the estimated 3,12,664 deaths between April 2020 and May 2021. Yet, as registrations for recent months are not fully complete, we utilised the averages method for better approximation.

Among districts, while Thiruvananthapuram registered the most COVID-19 deaths (1,745), the estimated excess deaths for the pandemic period was lower (941). Kannur (2,149), Palakkad (1,762) and Malappuram (1,634) recorded the highest number of excess deaths, with undercount factors 3.5. 2.9 and 2.4 respectively. Idukki (5.1) and Kasaragod (4.8) also recorded high undercounts but had fewer excess deaths (316 and 724 respectively). Kozhikode and Pathanamthitta also register fewer excess deaths than the actual COVID-19 tally.

Rajan Khobragade, Principal Secretary (Health), Kerala, told The Hindu, "Since March-April 2020, we have followed a system where deaths occurring will be reported in the medical bulletin. Those who died after testing positive had been counted and reported. A State-level death audit committee looked at all deaths due to communicable diseases and accordingly the reports were updated. We may be the only State doing this properly by a multi disciplinary team of doctors."

The State government had taken into account concerns about possible omission of deaths due to CO-VID-19, especially in some cases where patients recovered from COVID-19, tested negative and then died due to health complications.

Since June 15, following criticism about the manner in which Kerala was reporting COVID-19 deaths, the State government has introduced an online, real time COVID-19 death reporting system, wherein all deaths would be entered directly

by doctors onto the WHO's

reporting format. The medi-

cal bulletins would be

checked, the deaths com-

piled and the count released

A reconciliation of the death figures in June with 3,766 COVID-19 deaths having been registered till date, could also reduce the undercount factor for the year as more data come in.

Arun N.M., a consultant in Internal Medicine in Palakkad and one who has been closely studying the State's COVID deaths, however, said, "It is too early to calculate excess deaths because even the deaths which occurred in 2020 are still being registered."

He added, "Kerala definitely fares well in comparison to other States because most COVID deaths happen in hospitals and our testing and case detection has been very good."

A Technical Paper released by the Department of Health & Family Welfare in March 2021 pointed to the fact that in 2020, despite the first wave, there was "a 5.5% reduction in absolute number of deaths in 2020 when compared to 2019. When converted to crude death rates it was 7. 5/1,000 population in 2019 and .. only 7.2 per 1,000 population in 2020". It attributed this reduction to "preventive and curative health services" by the department. The lockdowns also contributed to a reduction in deaths due to fewer road traffic accidents. respiratory illnesses and food/water borne illnesses as people stayed indoors.

(With inputs from C. Maya in Thiruvananthapuram and data support from

# Sedition case against

K.C. GOPAKUMAR

Observing that prima facie the offences, including the sedition charge, alleged against Lakshadweep filmmaker Aisha Sultana are not attracted, the Kerala HC on Friday made absolute the interim anticipatory bail granted to her in a case filed by the remark about the Central government. The prosecution case is that on June 7, during a TV discussion, she allegedly said the Centre had used 'bioweapon' against the natives of the islands. Justice Ashok Menon observed the petitioner "did not have a malicious motive...".

# IAC will be commissioned next year: Rajnath

First India-made carrier is being built at the Cochin Shipyard

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The first indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC) being built at the Cochin Shipyard will join the naval fleet next year, coinciding with the 75th year of India's Independence, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said here on Friday after reviewing the progress of its construction.

He said in a statement, after visiting the aircraft carrier at the Cochin Port Trust, that the combat capability, reach and versatility of the IAC would add formidable capabilities in India's defence and help secure its interests in the maritime do-

On his Karwar visit on Thursday to review Project Seabird, the largest upcom-



Taking stock: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh near the Indigenous Aircraft carrier berthed at the Cochin Port Trust on Friday. • THULASI KAKKAT

ing naval base, he said it would provide the facilities and infrastructure to support the Navy's operations in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and beyond.

"Our impetus on modernisation, harnessing India's indigenous industry and knowhow, is a key priority. That  $42\,$ of the 44 warships on order are being built at Indian shipyards is a testimony to this.

The IAC boasts nearly 75% indigenous content, from design, to steel used in construction, to key weapons and sensors," he said.

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) recently approved requests for proposals (RFP) of Project 75-I [for the construction of another line of diesel-electric submarines] under the strategic partnership model, which he

said would give a fillip to indigenous development of niche manufacturing technologies.

The Navy, he added, remained poised and combatready to tackle any challenge. Its proactive forward deployment during the Galwan standoff signalled India's intent that though it sought peace, it was ready for any eventuality.

## Carrier will be the Navy's most potent platform

Delivery to force slated for early 2022

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The first indigenous carrier (IAC) is expected to have its maiden entry into the sea for a series of trials before September this year, and delivery to the Navy is slated for early 2022.

Basin trials of the vessel being built by Cochin Shipyard were completed in November 2020, but travel restrictions put the brakes on its preparations for sea

The vessel, to be named Vikrant after the decommissioned maiden carrier of the Navy, will have an air component of 30 aircraft, comprising MiG-29K fighter jets, Kamov-31 airborne early warning helicopters and the soon-to-be-inducted MH-60R multi-role helicopter, besides the indigenous Advanced Light Helicopters.

With an overall length of 263 metre and a breadth of 63 metre, it is the largest vessel made in India and carries a price tag of about ₹20,000 crore. The towering vessel has a total of 15 decks and a displacement of 40,000 tonnes.

It is expected to have a top speed of 30 knots (approximately 55 kmph) and is propelled by four gas turbines.

The shipborne weapons include Barak LR SAM and AK-630, while it has MFSTAR and RAN-40L 3D radars as sensors. The vessel has a Shakti EW Suite.

Kangana moves Bombay

HC in copyright case

Actor Kangana Ranaut and

Ranaut moved the Bombay

High Court challenging an

order directing an FIR against

cheating in connection with a

Justices S.S. Shinde and G.A.

Sanap was hearing a petition

filed by the duo to quash the

them by the Mumbai Police

for copyright violation and

film. A Division Bench of

order passed by the

magistrate directing the

her brother Akshat Deep

IN BRIEF

## SC allows Mamata, Minister to file fresh affidavits in Narada case

Top court asks HC to consider their applications afresh

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Friday annulled a Calcutta High Court order of June 9 refusing to consider the affidavits filed by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Law Minister Moloy Ghatak and the State government countering allegations about their role on the day of the arrest of four TMC leaders by the CBI in the Narada sting tape case. A Vacation Bench of Jus-

tices Vineet Saran and Dinesh Maheshwari allowed Ms. Banerjee, Mr. Ghatak and the government to apply to the High Court again for permission to file their affidavits. It requested the High Court to consider their applications afresh on June 29, the next date of hearing. It asked the High Court to consider their applications first before going further into the merits of the case.

The Supreme Court did not get into the merits of the case, but went to the extent of opining that the petitioners (Ms. Banerjee, Mr. Ghatak and government) ought



Mamata Banerjee

to have first applied to the High Court, urging it to take their counter-affidavits on record, "especially when the arguments were going on [in the Narada case] and had progressed substantially".

The CBI had objected to the filing of counter affidavits by the petitioners and argued that the High Court's June 9 order was fully justified. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta had argued that the petitioners had "fully participated" in the hearings and they had "waived their right" to file their replies.

Senior advocates Rakesh Dwivedi and Vikas Singh, for the petitioners, said the High Court, instead of refusing the affidavits, should

have taken them on record in the normal course of the hearings. Mr. Singh said the CBI did not have to file an application before submitting its affidavits.

Mr. Dwivedi said the affidavits were "essential" to the case and provided the truth about the events of May 17, day of arrest of four TMC leaders.

The separate plea by Ms. Banerjee in the Supreme Court contended that the CBI was trying to malign the State Ministers without any proof to substantiate its allegations against them. She said it was essential to allow her to file an affidavit to counter the agency's claims that she "terrorised" them by protesting outside their

Mr. Dwivedi countered the CBI's claims that Mr. Ghatak was present in the courtroom with a mob when the four TMC leaders were produced after their arrest. He said the Minister was in an official meeting at the time. Even CBI officials were not present at the spot as the hearing was held virtually.

## NHRC teams visit areas hit by post-poll violence

The move follows Calcutta HC's order

SHIV SAHAY SINGH

Officials of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) have started visiting areas affected by post poll violence in north and south

Two separate teams arrived in the State on Thursday. On Friday one team visited Cooch Behar in north Bengal, while the other travelled to Harao and Sandeshkhali in North 24 Parganas. The members of the team spoke to villagers in these two affected areas.

A five-judge bench of Calcutta High Court headed by Acting Chief Justice Rajesh Bindal had on June 18 urged the chairperson of NHRC to set up a committee to look into allegations of post-poll violence while hearing a writ petition on the issue.

In its order, the Court has asked the Committee to suggest "steps to be taken to ensure confidence of the people that they can peacefully live in their houses and also carry on their occupation or business to earn their livelihood" and point out " persons prima facie responsible for crime and the officers

who maintained calculated silence on the issue". The State government's request to the court to recall the order was turned down on June 21.

On the same day the NHRC set up a committee led by Rajiv Jain, member of Commission, vice-chairman National Commission for Minorities vice-chairman Atif Rasheed and NHRC's (director) investigation Santosh Mehra and DIG (investigation) Manzil Saini. Raju Mukherjee, member

secretary West Bengal State Legal Services Authority and registrar of West Bengal Human Rights Commission Pradip Kumar Panja are also part of the Committee. The committee is expected to visit districts of South 24 Parganas and Birbhum which have reported incidents of post poll violence.

Earlier, Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar had visited areas in Cooch Behar and Nandigram. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has maintained that dents" of violence occurred before her government was sworn in and the administration was under ECI

The Joint Secretary said

anyone who was into a ca-

sual enterprise of placing

police to register an FIR. Adarsh case: ED attaches assets worth ₹365.94 cr.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached assets worth ₹365.94 crore of the Adarsh Group entities, the Riddhi Siddhi Group of companies and others in a money laundering case. The assets are in the form of agricultural, residential and commercial land parcels in Delhi, Haryana and Rajasthan, bank balances.

#### Vikassheel Insaan Party to contest U.P. poll

Bihar's Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP), a constituent of the National Democratic Alliance, will contest the Uttar Pradesh Assembly election next year. Its leader Mukesh Sahani is Minister for Animal Husbandry and Fish Resources in the Bihar government. It has four MLAs. The VIP has not yet decided whether it will contest as part of the NDA or in alliance with other parties.

#### Wife kills imam for planning another marriage

MUZAFFARNAGAR An imam in a village here was castrated and beaten to death by his wife for planning another marriage, police said on Friday. The incident took place in Shikarpur village on Thursday. The woman told the police that her husband was planning another marriage and an argument over the issue turned violent leading to his death.

## Rahul meets former Punjab PCC chief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Congress leadership continued to seek feedback from Punjab leaders to end the bitter factionalism, with former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi meeting Ra-Sabha member Shamsher Singh Dullo on Friday.

Mr. Dullo, a former PCC president, has been a longtime critic of Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh. Speaking to reporters later, Mr. Dullo seemed critical of former Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu as well without naming him.

SUHASINI HAIDAR

Pakistan's Energy Minister

Hammad Azhar on Friday

accused India of attempting

to "politicise the process" at

the Financial Action Task

Force (FATF), after the Paris-

based UN watchdog decided

to retain Pakistan on its grey-

list of countries under "in-

or not, everyone at FATF

knows that India's goal is to

make the technical forum a

political one [by targeting]

Pakistan. This is something

we have raised with FATF of-

ficials in Paris as well," he

said.

"Whether [India] admits it

creased monitoring".

## Publishers give details under ethics code

Many forms did not have details about self-regulating bodies, says Vikram Sahay

(Intermediary

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT Information and Broadcast-

India 'politicising' FATF process: Pakistan

ing Ministry Joint Secretary Vikram Sahay said on Friday that over 1,500 publishers had so far submitted information in the formats prescribed under the Informa-Technology Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics

Code) Rules, 2021. The formats were re leased on May 26.

"Several bodies/associations have sent communication regarding constitution of self-regulating body," he said at a virtual interactive meeting organised by the

The MEA did not respond

to Mr. Azhar's accusation,

but has in the past, dismis-

In the weeks leading up to

the FATF plenary, Pakistan

had been fairly confident of

being let off the greylist dur-

ing the June 21-25 plenary

During the FATF proceed-

ings, Pakistan is believed to

have provided documenta-

tion that it has prosecuted

around 30 UNSC designated

terrorists and their asso-

ciates, charging them in 70

terror financing cases, of

which convictions were

sed all such charges.

**Confident of relief** 

session.

Press Information Bureau (South Zone), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, in association with the Film Federation of India.

The session on Digital Media Ethics Code-2021 was attended by representatives of various digital media and film associations. Mr. Sahay said although

many forms did not have details about self-regulating bodies, the publishers should nevertheless furnish the rest of the basic details. The bodies would come up in due course. The publishers could come together at the State or regional level to form such bodies headed by persons of

granted in about 50 cases.

Unlike the next level

"blacklist", greylisting car-

ries no legal sanctions, but it

attracts economic strictures

and restricts a country's ac-

cess to international loans.

Pakistan's Foreign Minister

Shah Mehmood Qureshi had

estimated a loss of \$10 billion

annually to the economy for

every year Pakistan has been

on the greylist. He had said

earlier this week that there

was "no justification" for re-

taining Pakistan on the list,

now that it had been ad-

judged compliant on 26 of 27

Friday whether Pakistan was

However, when asked on

eminence, if not retired Supreme Court/High Court judges, he said

had already expressed interest in forming small bodies. He clarified that digital media platforms that were part of traditional media outlets were not required to join

a separate self-regulating body. "The concern is only one that once you are a news publisher, you are expected to adhere to the Code of Ethics. Anyone can get into this profession... there is no pre-re-

gistration, no prior permis-

treated fairly, given it had on-

ly one outstanding task,

FATF President Marcus

Pleyer was firm about the de-

cision. "Our rules and proce-

dures are very clear, all defi-

ciencies must be addressed."

he said, adding that the FATF

Mr. Azhar, who has been

overseeing the FATF pro-

cess, said the new combined

action list of seven points

was "relatively less challeng-

ing" than the previous 27-

point list as it focusses large-

ly on money laundering and

that he was hopeful that Pa-

kistan would be found com-

pliant "within a year".

countries

"treats

equally".

sion required," he said.

Several entities in Kerala, some news on intermediary Patna and Jammu & Kashmir platforms, or putting out non-news contents, was not a publisher. Such a person was required only to adhere to the due diligence part under the intermediary platform framework. The Code of Ethics for on-

line news publishers essentially covers the norms of journalistic conduct under the Press Council Act, Programme Code under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Rules), and non-transmission of prohibited contents.

## U.P. ranked best under **Smart Cities Mission**

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Uttar Pradesh was on Friday ranked the best State, and Indore and Surat were jointly named the best cities by the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry for their work under the Smart Cities Mis-

At a virtual event to mark the sixth anniversary of the launch of the Smart Cities Mission, the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation and the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U), the Ministry announced that Uttar

Pradesh had been ranked one, Madhya Pradesh was second and Tamil Nadu third in the India Smart Cities Awards 2020. The Ministry said in a

statement that 22% in terms

of the total value of the projects proposed and 52% in terms of the total number of projects proposed by the 100 Smart Cities had been completed so far. "It is also noteworthy that

the average monthly expenditure in the Smart Cities Mission has almost doubled in the last year," the Minis-

try said. M ND-NDE

Aisha won't stand: HC Kavaratti police for making a

# ED raids 5 places linked to Deshmukh

## Search linked to graft case against former Minister

DEVESH K. PANDEY NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday conducted searches on five premises linked to former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh in Mumbai and Nagpur in connection with a money laundering case.

The premises of Mr. Deshmukh's chartered accountant was also searched. His private secretary was later taken to the ED's Mumbai office for questioning.

In April, the CBI carried out searches in Mumbai and Nagpur after registering a corruption case against Mr. Deshmukh and others.

The case – alleging attempt to obtain undue advantage for improper and dishonest performance of public duty - was instituted following a preliminary inquiry initiated on the directions of the Bombay High



Under watch: Security personnel standing guard at the residence of former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh in Nagpur on Friday. • PTI

Court on April 5.

An inquiry revealed that now dismissed Assistant Police Inspector Sachin Vaze had been reinstated into the police force after being out of service for over 15 years. He was entrusted with most of the important cases of the Mumbai City Police and the then Home Minister was in

the know of these facts, as alleged by the CBI.

Param Bir Singh's charge A petition of former Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh in the High Court also alleged that the then Home Minister and others exercised undue influence over the transfer and posting of police officers.

Earlier, it was alleged that some police officers had been told to collect ₹100 crore every month from bars and restaurants in Mumbai.

Mr. Deshmukh, who has refuted the charges, had resigned from the post following the High Court order for a CBI inquiry.

## Pawar flags 'misuse' of central agency

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE

Hitting out at the Enforcement Directorate raids on senior Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Anil Deshmukh's Mumbai and Nagpur residences, party chief Sharad Pawar on Friday said the sole objective of the investigations was to harass Mr. Deshmukh.

"It is out of despair and

frustration that the ED was

set upon Mr. Deshmukh... This misuse of central agencies is a new pattern of the BJP-ruled Centre. Even prior to this, central agencies had their eye on businesses owned by Mr. Deshmukh's son. At that time, too, they failed to unearth anything. Anil Deshmukh is not the first to face such action. So, we are not unduly worried by all this,"

## India, China plan 12th round of talks on Ladakh stand-off

Commander-level dialogue aims at 'complete disengagement'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Agreeing on the need to find an early resolution to the remaining issues along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, India and China on Friday agreed to hold the 12th round of military commander talks at an early date to achieve "complete disengagement" from "all the friction points" along the LAC in the Western Sector.

This was agreed at the 22nd meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) on India-China Border Affairs held virtually.

"In this regard, the two sides agreed to maintain dialogue and communication through the diplomatic and military mechanisms to reach a mutually acceptable solution for complete disengagement from all friction



The banks of the Pangong Tso in Ladakh, which saw tensions last year.

points so as to ensure full restoration of peace and tranquillity to enable progress in the bilateral relations," a statement from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

They also agreed that in the interim, the two sides will continue to ensure stability on the ground and "prevent any untoward incident", the MEA said in a reference to the violent clash at Galwan valley last June.

The Indian delegation was led by Additional Secretary, East Asia, from the MEA, while the Chinese delegation was led by the Director General of the Boun-Oceanic and Department of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

A statement by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) said that the two sides agreed to "consolidate the achievements" of the disengagement of border troops from both sides and "properly resolve the remaining issues" along the western section of the Sino-Indian border.

"The two sides will continue to work to promote further de-escalation of the border situation, avoid any recurrence of the situation on the ground and jointly maintain peace and tranquillity in the border area," the MFA statement said.

## Afghan exit by U.S. may bring infiltrators: Army

'Ready to foil any infiltration bid'

PEERZADA ASHIQ

The Army on Friday said the U.S. pull-out from Afghanistan this year may result in some militants moving into Kashmir.

"Whatever happened 30 years ago has caused a huge distress to the people of Kashmir. Yes, there is a possibility that the U.S. forces' pull-out from Afghanistan may push some militants into Kashmir, but the situation is not what it was 30 years ago," General officer Commanding (GoC), 15 Corps, Lieutenant General D.P. Pandey, said on the sidelines of a passing out parade of a JAKLI regimental in

Lt. Gen. Pandey said the Army was ready and fully geared to foil all infiltrations and face every challenge, whether on the Line of Control (LoC) or the hinterland. There had been zero infiltration this year. "Launch oads, however, are active,"

he added. "A ceasefire or not, the

## Militant killed in Shopian operation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

One militant was killed and another surrendered in an anti-militancy operation in south Kashmir's Shopian on Friday. Security forces also foiled an infiltration in north Kashmir's Tangdhar the same day.

A police spokesman said the encounter occurred in Hanjipora village of Kachdoora hamlet in Shopian.

The operation, carried out jointly by the police, the Army's 34 Rashtriya Rifles and the CRPF against some hiding militants, apparently followed a tip-off.

The police did not identify the slain militant. "A terrorist of the Lash-

kar-e-Taiba surrendered along with an AK-56 rifle," the police said.

The police said an infiltration bid was stopped in Kupwara. "The Kupwara police, along with the Army's 7RR and Border Security Forces' 87 Battalion, toiled an infiltration bid at Tangdhar area," the police

## President and First Lady embark on special train ride

Kovind revives tradition after interval of 15 years

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

President Ram Nath Kovind, accompanied by First Lady Savita Devi Kovind, boarded a special train from the Safdarjung railway station on Friday to travel to his native place Kanpur.

Railway Minister Piyush Goyal and Chairman of the Railway Board Suneet Sharma were present at the station to see him off.

"President Kovind boards a special Presidential train from Safdarjung railway station to Kanpur. The train will make two stop-overs, at Jhinjhak and Rura of Kanpur Dehat, and will reach Kanpur Central in the evening," the official handle of the Rashtrapati tweeted.

The two stops have been organised to facilitate Mr. Kovind's interaction with his old acquaintances from his schooldays, a statement



Track record: President Ram Nath Kovind boarding the special train at Safdarjung railway station in New Delhi. • PTI

from Rashtrapati Bhavan

"On June 28, the President will board the train at Kanpur Central railway station to reach Lucknow for his two-day visit to the State capital. On June 29, he will a return to New Delhi on a special flight," a statement said.

After a gap of 15 years, Mr. Academy.

Kovind has revived the tradition of the Head of State travelling in a presidential saloon. The last time an incumbent President used a presidential saloon was in 2006 when A.P.J Abdul Kalam travelled from Delhi to Dehradun to attend a passing out parade of cadets at

2. Total No. of Works

## DRDO tests enhanced range Pinaka rocket

Targets can be at distances up to 45 km

The Defence Research and Barrel Rocket Launcher (MBRL) at integrated test range, Chandipur in Odisha.

"Four enhanced range version of 122mm rockets were test fired with full instrumentation and they met the complete mission objectives. These rockets have been developed for Army applications and can destroy targets up to 40 km," a DRDO statement said.



tem can destroy targets at

## IN BRIEF

NEW DELHI



HC declines to order stay on film based on Sushant

The Delhi High Court on Friday declined to stay the release of movie Nyay: The Justice, purportedly based on the late Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput, in cinema halls and on OTT platforms, saving there is no "unholy interest" in the story of the man's life which was "exceptional". РТІ

#### NIA files chargesheet against seven 'terrorists'

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a chargesheet against seven alleged Tehreek-ul-Mujahideen (TuM) terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir. The accused have been identified as Mohammed Mustafa Khan, Yaseen, Farooq, Ibrar, Javid Khan, Sher Ali and Rafio Nai. The case was initially registered in Poonch after the arrest of Mohammed Mustafa Khan and alleged seizure of six hand grenades.

#### 6 of family drown as car plunges into pond in U.P.

Six members of a family drowned after their car overturned and fell into a pond on Balrampur-Tulsipur road on Friday, police said. The car overturned while trying to save a motorcyclist, who was also injured in the mishap and referred to a hospital in Gonda town, police said. PTI



DINAKAR PERI

The three main recognised federations of defence civilian employees of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) have threatened to go on an indefinite strike against the Union Cabinet decision to split the organisation into seven corporate entities.

They have jointly written

a letter to Defence Minister letter dated June 23.

approved the corporatisation plan to turn the OFB, which has 41 factories, into seven fully governmentowned corporate entities for better management and improvement of efficiency.



Rajnath Singh and Secretary Defence Production Raj Kumar protesting against the "arbitrary, one-sided and biased decision" in violation of all the previous written agreements and assurances, and demanded it be withdrawn. "It is astonishing that when negotiations are pending, conciliation process is inconclusive, in the absence of the federations in the conciliation meeting held on June 15, 2021, the government has taken a hurried decision to corporatise the OFB into seven entities," the federations said in the

On June 16, the Cabinet

erations.



Lt. Gen. D.P. Pandey

Army's eyes are set on our

enemy. We are ready to face

any misadventure. We are

ready to respond at every le-

On the situation at the Line

of Actual Control (LAC) in

Ladakh, he stated, "Given

the Chinese situation on the

LAC, a balance of forces is

On Thursday, the GoC

said all the parameters of

violence in Kashmir have

come down by 50% and the

situation was very good with

stability across the Valley.

vel effectively," he noted.

'Balance of forces'

being maintained."

The letter stated that the Secretary DP had agreed to arrange a meeting with the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) formed to oversee the corporatisation to discuss about the alternate proposals given by the fed-



The decision is stage-managed, hasty and taken in a hurried manner LETTER FROM OFR FEDERATIONS

"It is a clear case of betrayal by the government, because Secretary, DP himself has asked the federations to give a viable alternate and robust proposal to MoD which would be submitted to the EGOM for a discussion with the federations, so that OFB could achieve the higher expectations of its customers, being in the government set up itself," it said.

The federations said that the entire process to corporatise the OFB is "stagemanaged, hasty and taken in a hurried manner, without any application of mind about the impact of this decision on the defence preparedness of our country and also about the future and service conditions of 76,000 employees".

The letter noted that employees were recruited as Central government employees, and as per Article 309 of the Constitution, there was no mention in their appointment letters that their status would be changed during the service period and would have to work in Corporation or Public Sector Undertakings

The federations, as well as three other associations, have called for a joint meeting on June 27.

## **ICMR - NATIONAL INSTITUTE** OF EPIDEMIOLOGY

R-127, Second Main Road, TNHB, Ayapakkam, Chennai - 600077.

## **ONLINE INTERVIEW**

Candidates are invited for Online zoom app/Walk-in Interview for the posts of: PROJECT SCIENTIST-C (Medical), PROJECT JUNIOR NURSE on contract basis under various projects at ICMR - NIE.

For application proforma and other details regarding qualification and experience, etc., please refer to www.nie.gov.in Director

## **KERALA WATER AUTHORITY**

e-Tender Notice
Tender No: 01/2021-22/KWAPHC/D2/TVM(RT1). State plan 2016-17- water treatment plant at Neyyar Dam and allied works - Construction, trial running, commissioning and maintenance of 120 mld Water treatment plant with Plate settler technology (lamella), construction, commissioning and maintenance of floating intake Supplying and laying 1422mm MS Raw Water Pumping Main, Supplying, erection, testing and commissioning of submerged centrifugal pump set, Supplying and erection of Transformers, construction of Substation Building, Installation of SCADA system for functioning of entire WTP components and allied works with full automation as per the design attached including trial running and commissioning of WTP and all allied works. EMD: Rs. 5,00,000/- Tender fee: Rs. 15,000/- Last Date automation as yet also sussessing with the suspension of the suspe Website: www.kwa.kerala.gov.in

www.etenders.kerala.gov.in KWA-JB-GL-6-225-2021-22 Thiruvananthapuram



APSCHE-CETs-WAC-2021-22 e-Procurement Notice Tenders are here by invited from reputed companies/agencies/firms "For conduct Web based Admission Counselling by APSCHE" through e-procurement portal https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in with tender Id No. 418993. Tender schedule is from 25.06.2021 & last date of tender submission is 17.07.2021 by 04.00 P.M The schedule & other details of the tender can be downloaded from e-procurement portal

https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in or https://apsche.ap.gov.in Sd/- SECRETARY



BHARAT COKING COAL LIMITED 'A Mini Ratna Company'

(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

## NOTICE

All the tenders\* issued by Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of BCCL www.bcclweb.in, Coal India Limited (CIL) e-procurement portal https://coalindiatenders.nic.in and Central Public Procurement Portal https://eprocure.gov.in. In addition, procurement is also done through GeM Portal https://gem.gov.in.

'This is applicable to all Open (Domestic / Global) Tenders issued through e-procurement portal of CIL.

# SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Development Organisation (DRDO) on Friday successfully test fired the enhanced range versions of the indigenously developed 122 mm calibre rocket as well as the extended range version of indigenously developed Pinaka rocket from a Multi-

This enhanced rocket system would replace the existing 122mm Grad rockets.

In a second statement, the DRDO said that 25 enhanced Pinaka rockets were launched in quick succesrent ranges on June 24 and ed, Nagpur.

A multi-barrel launcher firing a Pinaka rocket at Chandipur beach in Odisha. 25. "The enhanced range version of Pinaka rocket sys-

distances up to 45 kms," it stated. Both the Pinaka and the 122 mm rockets were developed by Pune-based Arma-

ment Research and Development Establishment and High Energy Materials Research Laboratory with manufacturing support from sion against targets at diffe- Economic Explosives Limit-

#### e-mail id:se\_sicbam@yahoo.com Additional Chief Engineer, Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur e - Procurement Notice No. ACE, RBB- 03 / 2021-22 Flood Protection Works 1. Type of Work

: 05 (Five) Nos.

3. Amount put to Tender: Rs.260.02 lakh to 362.49 Lakh 4. Period of Completion: 11 to 14 (Eleven to Fourteen) Calendar months Availability & Identification Bid On-line No.

Submission of 260.02 ACE,RBB,(BNID)-03/2021-22 From Additional Chief ACE, RBB, (BNID)-04/2021-22 357.62 30.06.2021 Engineer, 10.00 AM Rushikulya ACE, RBB, (BNID)-05/2021-22 362.49 Bahuda Basin ACE RBB (CHID)-06/2021-22 329.06 14.07.2021, Berhampur ACE,RBB,(CHID)-07/2021-22 Date of opening of the Technical Bid:- 14.07.2021 at 11.30 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the Govt. Website "**www.tendersodisha.gov.in**"

Additional Chief Engineer, Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur

## THE HUTTI GOLD MINES COMPANY LIMITED

## (A Government of Karnataka Undertaking) 3RD Floor, KHB Shopping Complex, National Games Village, Koramangala

BANGALORE-560 047 Phone: 2570 5723/24/26 Fax: 2570 7380 e-Mail: regdoffice-hgml@ka.gov.in website: www.huttigold.co.in CIN No.U85110KA1947SGC001321 NOTICE INVITING GLOBAL TENDER FOR SALE OF BULLION

(Gold & Silver - Dore Bars) Short-term Notification No. 11/21-22, Dt: 26-06-2021 HGML/2020-21/SALE OF BULLION/04 (Through Govt. of Karnataka E-Procurement portal only) (Two Cover System) The Hutti Gold Mines is engaged in the business of mining and extraction of Bullion / Dore

Bars (Gold & Silver) at Hutti, Raichur Dist. Karnataka. HGML is desirous to select individuals / firms / companies/ others to sell its product i.e. Bullion for a period of one year based on lowest competitive discount rate to the gold price as per the terms and conditions of the

The interested bidders may participate through e-portal. The tender is a two cover system comprising of Part-I as Technical Bid (Bid 'A'& Bid 'B') and Part-II as Financial (% Discount Rate) Bid. The Part-II Bid Financial (% Discount Rate) Bid has to be uploaded in the Dash Board in the e-portal. The tender forms have to be submitted through e-portal of Govt. of Karnataka i.e. www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.

The calendar of events of this tender are as under:

(1) Uploading of tender document www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in 26.06.2021 (12:00 hrs) (2) Pre-bid virtual meeting (Zoom) 05.07.2021, (12:00 hrs) (3) Last date & time for receipt of tenders 12.07.2021, (17:00 hrs) 15.07.2021, (12:00 hrs) (4) Date & time for opening of Technical bid (5) Date & time for opening of Financial bid 17.07.2021, (11:00 hrs) Sd/- I/c Dy.General Manager (Materials)

"LEADING GOLD PRODUCER IN INDIA"

# India records nearly 50 Delta Plus variant cases

### Maximum cases in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

India has so far reported almost 50 cases of the Delta Plus variant of SARS-CoV-2, with Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu leading with the maximum number of cases, the Union Health Ministry said at a press conference on Friday.

Sujeet Kumar Singh, Director, National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), said in India, COVID-19 'variants of concerns' were found to be distributed in 174 districts in 35 States. The highest numbers were reported from districts in Maharashtra, Delhi, Punjab, Telangana, West Bengal and Gujarat.

"Variants of Concerns with public health importance detected in community samples in India include Alpha [3,969], Beta [149], Gamma [1] and B.1.617, Delta

IN BRIEF

SII manufacturing first

batch of Novavax vaccine

The first batch of Covovax, a

COVID-19 vaccine developed

manufactured at the Serum

Poonawalla said on Friday. PTI

Youth organisation files

FIR against Arunachal CM

Arunachal Pradesh lodged an

Pema Khandu over the Kimin

Pradesh Abo Tani Students'

Khandu connived with the

BRO authority "to cede the

Arunachal Pradesh to Assam".

Assam home guard to

be appointed constable

Borsing Bey, an Assam home

methamphetamine worth ₹12 crore, would be appointed as

Biswa Sarma Cabinet took the

a constable. The Himanta

decision on Thursday.

guard who refused to take bribe from drug dealers and helped the police recover

high-grade crystal

Union said in the FIR that Mr.

by Novavax Inc, is being

Institute of India's Pune

A youth organisation in

FIR against Chief Minister

row. The All Arunachal

Kimin-Potin portion of

facility, SII CEO Adar

**Mounting concern** 

As many as 48 COVID-19 cases attributed to the Delta Plus variant (from 45,000 samples in 11 States/Union Territories) have been detected in India till Friday. Maharashtra has reported 20, the highest in the country



and Kappa were detected in 16,238 samples," said Dr.

#### **High proportion**

The proportion of cases with 'variants of concerns' had risen from 10.31% in May 2021 to 51% on June 20, 2021.

Renu Swarup, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, said in the last couple of months, the first variant of concern was the one announced by the U.K., where it was identified.

"Subsequently, we now have four of these, which the World Health Organization has called Alpha, Beta, Gamma & Delta. "Delta is the one that was identified in India," she noted.

Director-General of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Balram Bhargava, warned that India was still not out of the second

The reason why SARS-CoV-2 mutated includes random error during replication, immune pressure after treatments Plasma, Vaccination etc), and uninterrupted transmission due to lack of COVID-19appropriate behaviour, which allowed the virus to transmit more and acquire fitness, Dr. Bhargava pointed

## Maharashtra reports first fatality from Delta Plus

STAFF REPORTER

An 80-year-old patient from Ratnagiri district in the Konkan region became Maharashtra's first fatality due to the Delta plus variant of the novel coronavirus, State Health Minister Rajesh Tope confirmed on Friday.

District officials said the deceased, who was from the Sangameshwar taluk in Ratnagiri district, was also suffering from other age-related comorbidities.

Mr. Tope said of the 21 'Delta Plus' patients identified thus far in seven districts across Maharashtra, only one had succumbed to the infection; the others were stable and some had discharged from hospital.

However, urging people

to observe COVID-19-appropriate behaviour, the Health Minister ruled out suggestions for an immediate stringent lockdown.

"The Delta variant is not new ... with one death, the remaining 20 cases are being closely monitored by authorities. While there are not a large number of patients at present, we are collecting more samples in each of the 36 districts and the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) is assisting the State government in this," said Mr. Tope.

The highest number of Delta Plus variant cases have been found in Ratnagiri, followed by seven in Jalgaon, two in Mumbai, and one case each in Palghar, Thane and Sindhudurg dis-

## 'Delhi govt. exaggerated oxygen needs by 4 times'

## Audit team says the govt. used a 'wrong formula'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A report submitted by a Supreme Court-appointed oxygen audit team led by AIIMS Director Dr. Randeep Guleria said the Delhi government "exaggerated" its oxygen needs by four times during the peak days of the second wave of the pandemic.

But the report also quoted the Delhi government's version that the supply of oxygen from neighbouring States was "erratic and unreliable" at the time. The report is annexed with an affidavit filed by the Union Health Ministry in the Supreme Court.

The Sub-group on Oxygen Audit Delhi, led by Dr. Guleria, recorded in its interim report that there was discrepancy" claims of oxygen consumption in Delhi. "There was gross discrepancy [about four times] in that the actual oxygen consumption claimed [1140 MT] was about four times higher than the calculated consumption based on the formula for bed capacity [289 MT]," the report said.

However, the sub-group referred to the Delhi government's version that the schedule for the supply of oxygen was awry during May. Delhi had required adequate liquid medical oxygen stock to treat COVID-19 patients. It had to replenish its oxygen supply and avoid an "SOS situation which the State had witnessed after April 24 on a consistent basis".

At one point, the report recorded, the Centre was "anguished" over the discrepancy in liquid medical oxygen data uploaded. The report said it was not clear "on what basis an allocation of 700 MT was sought by the Government of Delhi in the Supreme Court when the



oxygen cylinders in New Delhi on May 8.

## NTF calls for 100 MT storage in metro cities

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

All 18 metro cities have to be made oxygen-independent, with at least 100 MT storage in each of them, the Supreme Court-appointed National Task Force (NTF) recommended. There

should be a strategy to manufacture oxygen locally or in the neighbourhood of big cities to fulfil at least 50% of their Liquid Medical Oxygen demand as road transportation is vulnerable.

collected data had so many gross errors and it took an oxygen audit to point out the same".

On May 5, the court ordered the Centre to prepare a "comprehensive plan" for the supply of 700 MT of oxygen to Delhi on a daily basis.

But the sub-group report noted that the "Government of Delhi used a wrong formula and made exaggerated claims on April 30" in the court. "Some hospitals could not differentiate between KL and MT and the same was not examined while projecting 700 MT," the report said. It was "obvious there was an excess supply of oxygen to Delhi ... Tankers in Delhi could not offload oxygen and were lying idle as oxygen tanks in + various hospitals were completely filled", it said

## SIT to probe fake camps for vaccination in Mumbai

Police have arrested 10 individuals

After reports of fake CO-VID-19 vaccination camps being held in the city, the Mumbai Police on Friday said it has formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the racket. A total of six instances in the city have been identified where fake vaccination drives were conducted and which saw the attendance of more than 1,500 people.

The racket came to light on June 17, when after a camp at a residential complex in Kandivli, many residents complained of not receiving vaccination certificates. "A Special Investigation Team under Deputy Commissioner of Police Vishal Thakur has been constituted," said a police

## In Kolkata. antibiotic given as jab

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Kolkata officials alleged that at several camps, instead of COVID-19 vaccines, people were administered Amikacin, an antibiotic. Medical teams have been sent to assess such people.

official. The police have arrested 10 individuals, including Shivraj Paratia and Nita Shivraj Pataria of Shivam Hospital, as the alleged fake vaccines were provided through this hospital to the society in Kandivli.

## Study links air pollution to COVID-19 cases and deaths

Mumbai, Pune are hotspots among 16 cities

ALOK DESHPANDE MUMBAI

A first-of-its-kind pan India study says Mumbai and Pune are among hotspots where high air pollution from the transport and industrial sectors is related to a higher number of CO VID-19 cases and deaths.

The study is titled 'Establishing a link between fine particulate matter (PM2.5) zones and COVID-19 over India based on anthropogenic emission sources and air quality data'.

"Maharashtra recorded the second-highest emission load in India - 828.3 gigagram per year (Gg/Yr) of



Cause of concern: Rising pollution load is a catalyst in aggravating COVID-19 cases, the study showed. • FILE РНОТО

PM2.5 – based on the National Emission Inventory developed by us. Uttar Pradesh had the highest," said Dr. Saroj Kumar Sahu, lead author of the study.

Among the 16 cities captured in the study, Mumbai and Pune recorded the third- and fourth-highest number of "bad air quality days", respectively. Delhi and Ahmedabad stood first and second, respectively. "Through our analysis, it

has become clear that the rising pollution load is a catalyst in aggravating CO-VID-19 cases," Dr. Sahu said. He added that polluted hotspots are also triggering long-term effects, and more studies are needed to understand this.

# COVID-19 scare causes egret chicks' deaths

Authorities destroy nests following complaint that bird poop could carry virus

RAHUL KARMAKAR

A complaint over a "theory"

that bird droppings spread

No jab? Get periodically COVID-19 led to the death of tested in Meghalaya scores of egret chicks in Udalguri district of Assam. A Shopkeepers, vendors and notice was issued to five perpassenger vehicle operators sons of Ward Number 1askin Meghalaya can opt out of ing them to cut down their COVID-19 vaccination to bamboo groves, where the resume business. But they egrets nested. It says: "Your will need to undergo tests neighbours have comevery 10 days for the safety plained that the egrets nestof others. The East Khasi Hills ing on your bamboo groves district administration issued are destroying the environan order directing the staff ment with their urine and members of shops, business droppings. This can spread establishments and drivers to corona infection too. You are get tested periodically if they choose not to get vaccinated. thereby asked to cut down



Chicks lying after their nests were destroyed. •

the bamboo groves for a cleaner, healthier surround-

On Friday, a team was sent to chop the groves at a

person's land. But the nests came crashing down, killing about 300 chicks, said locals. Locals said the chicks died before wildlife activists could bring the gravity of the municipal board's action to the notice of the district authorities.

#### A severe crime "Destroying of habitat and

nests of birds are treated as severe crime under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. If bird droppings threaten public health, then the Tangla Municipality Board should regularly clean the ground instead of threatening the

landowners, who did not invite the birds. The birds are not pets either," Dilwar Hussain, member of central Assam's Laokhowa Burhachapori Wildlife Conservation Society in central Assam's Nagaon district, wrote in an email to the Udalguri authorities.

"Let the municipal board make alternative arrangements and serve notice to the birds to vacate the municipality area," he said.

Udalguri Deputy Commissioner P. Uday Praveen said he had asked the municipal authorities to stop hewing down any more trees.

## 274 people in Odisha study found COVID-19-positive after two jabs

The State also reported its first case of Delta Plus variant

STAFF REPORTER

The Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC), Bhubaneswar, an Indian Council of Medical Research institute, has examined 274 persons infected with COVID-19 two weeks after receiving two doses of the vaccines.

From March 1 to June 10, nasopharyngeal swab and serum samples of vaccinated individuals were collected from various healthcare facilities in Odisha and sent to RMRC.

Individuals who tested positive in RT-PCR test 14 days after taking both doses of either Covaxin or Covishield were considered breakthrough cases.

361 samples

A total of 361 samples of vaccinated individuals were referred to RMRC. All the 361 samples were found positive in RT-PCR test, but 87 were excluded as they were either not fully vaccinated or had not completed 14 days after the second dose.

"Out of the 274 samples with confirmed breakthrough infection, 35 (12.8%) had received Covaxin and 239 (87.2%) received Covishield," said RMRC in its

Meanwhile, the State reported its first case of the Delta Plus variant from the Deogarh district on Friday.

"Contact tracing of the infected person will be carried out diligently," said C.B.K. Mohanty, Director of Medical Education and Training,

## TH GROSSWORD+ 13284 We are digital now. Come solve online.

21 Show tip of nose and powder over (5)



23 At home Hypatia's keeping loose change for carrot (9) 25 Dad taking delayed turn in table (7)

27 Wind enters home and erodes (7) 30 Guilty Holi players maybe discovered this way? (6,3-6)

1 Encourage neighbour to take English for university (4)

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

2 Volatile Italian party Neta? (4)

3 Looked over drinks in fine spread (8) 4 Manic killer, hacks when cycling outside yard (6)

5 High class trams (5,3)

6 Roughly jolt someone, initially start to elbow (6) 7 A boring novel picked up in break (4)

8 Beginners in all primary schools enjoy recess (4)

12 Obsession of bird turning North to sleep soundly (5) 13 Somewhat round bell on Kailasa hill (5)

15 An excuse often picked early in bail (5) 16 Blockade in school that's from behind, say (5)

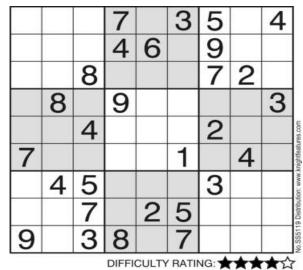
18 Iraqi, driving under influence starts to spill drink (8) 20 Tourist vehicle crashes near track that's incomplete (4-1-3)

22 What babies do – bit by bit? (6) 24 Funny play of shy author at drive-in (6)

25 Ready to accommodate Cuba's deal (4) 26 Disney movie doesn't end up in compound (4) 28 Perform act for an old bird (4)

29 Broadcast regretted being impolite (4)

## **SUDOKU**



#### Solution to puzzle 13283 Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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## **FAITH**

## Ineffable ways of Devi

The stories in the Devi Bhagavata Purana illustrate how many have propitiated the excellent Goddess Devi and have been recipients of Her boundless grace. She is the Supreme, Parama Shakti who is the cause of creation and of all beings including the Trimurtis. In her Supreme State she is the Nirguna Shakti. She is not the object of jnana, but is the very essence of jnana and hence beyond the reach of even great

But She is also manifest as Saguna Shakti, when it is possible for many of us to worship and serve her with full meditation and involvement. That is why many devout souls have become enlightened through Her grace, explains Vyasa to Janamejaya when he relates the story of one Sudarsana, pointed out Sri K. Srinivasan in a discourse. In the case of Sudarsana, though he is the heir apparent of the kingdom of Kosala, circumstances had forced him to suffer exile even when he was a child. But he had the good fortune to obtain the powerful Kama Bija Mantra of Devi. Though he was not aware of its power and the method of meditation, he began to chant it with devotion. In course of time, when he lived with the rishis in their hermitage, he was initiated into the proper way of Devi upasana that led him towards the highest form of bhakti, Parama bhakti, believed to confer Darsana of the Goddess to the aspirant. So, when a situation arose in his life and he had to face his enemies, Devi personally intervened and fought on his behalf, killed them and bes-

towed the kingdom to him. Devi also is Maya Shakti that deludes people and immerses them in the ocean of samsara infected with crocodiles of lust, anger, greed, etc. But She alone is the boat to lead them out of this mess if only they worship her with devotion.

19 A "Hole-in-the-wall" diner? (7)

10 Fix tariff charges basically for trade (7)

12 Upset policemen per Reverend in bakeries (9)

14 Some regularly fell back for tests (5) 17 Rig Veda embracing old Indian source of doctrines shunned (7)

## **9** Somehow Europe must not be flatter (6,7,2)

## ACROSS

11 Escort again joins one going back East (7)

## Advertising 2020-21

The last year saw dynamic experiments in this industry, even while tackling the pandemic and its fallouts. Think 'The World's Most Reported Trailer' by Dentsu Webchutney, pegged on Taapsee Pannu's film Thappad, that sparked a conversation about reporting domestic abuse. It picked up a silver Lion at Cannes Lions this week. In this issue, The Hindu Weekend explores advertising's pandemic pivot, in the digital space and with social consciousness in ads.



## **Talking point**

Spielberg and Netflix: Two year ago, when Netflix distributed Martin Scorsese's The Irishman, Steven Spielberg spoke in favour of the theatrical experience. How time, and a pandemic, changes perspectives! Spielberg's production company, Amblin, has just signed a deal with the streaming behemoth to produce several features a year. It's another step towards a shift in consumption.

### SPIT TAKE

# Why Zumba when there's

Copyright-free ideas rooted in Vedic times to get you that next bestseller

KRISHNA SHASTRI DEVULAPALLI

Rejoice, young literary mitron. It is a golden time for aspiring writers who dream of contributing to India's intellectual discourse. Suddenly, wonderful opportunities are raining from the sky like renegade petals from a pushpaka vimanam doing loops.

Are you yearning to project our culture and literature globally? Then look no further, all you Saraswati seekers. Young scribes, use these copyright-free ideas as starting points and write many, many books that bring back our lost glory.

**Apsarobics for Heavenly Bodies** Everyone wants to be fit. Unfortunately, the lucrative fitness market has been cornered by the diabolical West. It is time to wrest it back with an unbeatable book on fitness that goes back to Vedic times. Why should one cross-train or do Pilates in unflattering tights when one can lose weight dancing like Rambha and her sister Apsaras in sequinned bustiers to a Raj-Koti tune? Imagine how strenuous it must have been for these ageless women to distract stubborn sages deep in penance. Share the six-pack secrets of our divine damsels in an unbeatable fitness book reeking of our culture.

#### **Sweet Dreams with** Kumbhakarna

They say health is wealth. And we know sleep is health. Today, almost everyone is sleep-deprived. And again the West has misled us into believing that sound sleep can be achieved only through evil allopathic medication. Let the world know about the very first sleeper cell in history, Kumbhakarna. Unveil the secrets of how this original Samrat of Somnology could sleep through palace remodelling work, bickering concubines, forest fires, and war with not a care in the world. Teach the world to snore without pills like our Vedic an-

#### Maricha & Subahu's Essential **Guide to Disruption**

What do all the biggest businesses today – like, say, Netflix, Uber, Airbnb – have in common? They are *all* disruptors. The West, that villain **Organic Farming the** Shakuntala Way Today, every morsel of food we put

SHOWCASE

into our mouths is contaminated with toxic pesticides and foul antibiotics that have been introduced into them only because of faulty western thinking.

What better way to detox than to follow Shakuntala's Vedic Agri Tech. After all, any of our ancient books will tell you that during her ap-

prenticeship at Sage Kanva's ashram, she was in charge of the veggie patch. Young writers, let us show the West that nothing beats wholly organic deer dung and peacock urine when it comes to growing wholesome vegetables, not to mention mood-enhancing mushrooms.

#### Bakasura's Barbecue Recipes

Other than Padma Lakshmi, who has been showing the West the power of curd rice (in her lovely food videos, attired in fetching gear), our culinary versatility has been sadly underrepresented.

Bakasura, if you ask me, has got a bad rap. He wasn't a gluttonous man-eater as purported. In today's world, he'd be called a foodie. He's like the guy who pushes you out of the way at the buffet queue to get his sixth helping of Nargisi kofta. Time we did a recipe book in his honour. If he was eating humans for all three meals, I'm sure he must have used some pretty interesting condiments, and techniques to spice things up.

Krishna Shastri Devulapalli is a satirist. He has written four books and edited an anthology.

# Pick of week

Virtual tours, workshops, and other events you just can't miss



## **Cookies and cookalongs**

Add to all the focaccia, sourdough, and pan pasta experience you racked up last year with ITC Master Chef's live cookalong, Recipes Made Easy. Hosted by chefs Kirti Bhoutika and Akanksha Khatri (winner and finalist of Masterchef India seasons 5 and 6 respectively). 5 pm, in.bookmyshow.com. But if you'd like to skip kitchen time, Ricky's Cookies presents 'Mango Binge', with golden Imampasand in Sunny Days cookies (₹90), a rice pudding (₹210), and a baked custard (₹200). Details rickyscookies.com



## Get your laugh on

Prepare for a comedy Sunday. Here's the roster: actor-comic Vipul Goyal will ponder dreams, arranged marriage, and more in Humorously Yours (5 pm, ₹599); Parvinder Singh will take to Zoom with Punchliners. Expect his family and pandemic observations to star in his rib-ticklers (6 pm, ₹349). And finally, multi-lingual comic Vivek Muralidharan — who switches between English, Tamil, Hindi and Telugu — will bring his brand of socio-political humour in Bits & Pieces (8 pm, ₹199). All tickets on in.bookmyshow.com



## Off the loom

There's a new handloom branc in the market. Founded by Mumbai-based Prachi Saraf - a designer who fine-tuned her skills at her family's business house — Vyusti is just days old and is a for-profit social enterprise that works directly with weavers in Karnataka and Maharashtra. With dhotis. duppattas, saris, shawls and stoles, the inventory is limited at the moment, but the Chitradurga, Karvat Kati, Paithani, Himroo, and Bagalkot weaves are tempting. From ₹2,700 (for a silk dupatta) onwards, on vyusti.co.in



cestors did.

## **Cartoon hour**

There's no escaping screens, but you can introduce kids to a paper-and-pencil hour. HobbyStation is organising a <mark>doodling workshop</mark> for children. The Zoom workshop will teach fun sketches and help improve concentration, memory, and problem-solving skills. ₹250, 3 pm and 6.30 pm. Alternatively, there's the Cartoon Classroom with Ajit Narayan, who's worked with publishing houses such as Pratham Books. Learn to draw comic strips, animal cartoons, and more. 6 pm, ₹699. Register on in.bookmyshow.com



## **Bajpayee teaches acting**

He's fresh off The Family Man Season 2 and raking up kudos for his role in Netflix's Ray (a series inspired by the works of filmmaker Satyajit Ray). But Manoj Bajpayee is still making time for his fans, to share some acting tips and anecdotes. His 2.5-hour masterclass, powered by learning and entertainment platform Unluclass, will cover everything from cracking auditions, breaking down the script, and improvising, to training your voice and even dealing with criticism. Sign up for ₹999, on unlu.io



## In remembrance

■ SREEJITH R KUMAR

again, has been pretending for far

too long that the concept of disrup-

tion is somehow something they in-

vented. We are the original disrup-

tors. And the true brand

ambassadors are Messrs Maricha

and Subahu. A book on them is long

overdue. Let the world learn from

them. While the West has upstarts,

we will have a fresh wave of

start-ups.

Korean Cultural Centre India is hosting an online Photo Exhibition to mark the 71st anniversary of the Korean War. Titled '60 Para Field Ambulance', it is a homage that commemorates India's support in deploying the largest medica troop that treated those injured in the war. The sacrifice and dedication of Indian and Korean troops are showcased through 32 archived photographs. The exhibition opens with a message of remembrance to the troops. Can be viewed till August 25 on www.kcci-exhibitions.com/ special-exhibition.



## Raise a toast

Dram alert. John Distilleries (of the internationally-acclaimed Paul John Indian Single Malts) has launched a new blended whiskey, Roulette. A balance of peated and unpeated malts. with a 42.8% ABV, it has been matured in ex-bourbon casks. Available in Goa at the moment. ₹850 for 750 ml. At idl.in. Meanwhile, Diageo India will launch Epitome Reserve, the country's first small-batch, craft 100% rice whisky, by the end of July. With 2,000 bottles. the woody spirit has notes of dried fruits, toffee caramel and vanilla. diageoindia.com

After Nike launched sneakers from Piñatex. Mumbai's Studio Beej celebrates the bio-textile with a clutch they've named Ananas



(Clockwise from below) Arundhati Kumar, a Khesh bag, and the Ananas clutch



they used it in a cross body bag (Laya), a hobo bag (Ananta), and Ditya. With these offerings, the brand joins the list of international names like Chanel, H&M, Hugo Boss, and Nike - who recently launched the seven-sneaker Happy Pineapple Collection - that work with the plant-based alternative to leather.

The startup launched in 2020 is the brainchild of Arundhati Kumar, who believes that being sustainable must go beyond being just ecofriendly. "There are other companies in India who are working with eco materials such as Arture [cork, Desserto or cactus leather], Aulive [Piñatex, cork], but we are the only company that dabbles in multiple sustainable materials. We were the first to bring cactus leather into the country," says Kumar, whose line of wallets, clutches, bags, belts, laptop sleeves made of biobased-materials marry the aesthetic of Indian craft with the ethical practices of conscious living. "We currently work with four main materials cork from Portugal, Piñatex from Spanish company Ananas Anam [which sources from the Philippines], Desserto from Mexico, and Khesh from West Bengal."

Cork is the bark of the tree which is harvested responsibly every nine years, explains Kumar, adding that it is light because one-third of its cellular structure is air. "So a big bag, unlike one made of leather, will never weigh you down. It's completely recyclable and comes with cotton backing. It's also naturally antibacterial and antimicrobial." While earlier bags were designed by her, the new launch has been crafted by their creative director, Abhijit Datta.

#### Recycled zippers and handloom linings

Kumar goes on to explain how Desserto is vegan leather derived from the Nopal Cactus of Mexico, and Khesh is made from old cotton saris torn into thin strips and re-woven to make a colourful fabric. "When we curate a product, while we do look at the hero material, we also try to mi-

nimise the impact of

the accessories we

use." Bag linings are

sourced from Ben-

galuru-based Khaloom, which creates handloom material from recycled yarn, and occasionally upcycled material from discarded umbrellas is also used. Zippers come from Japanese company YKK which makes them from recycled PET plastic, and logos are embroidered. "We live in a time when customers want transparency. We put out supplier and certification details on our website so they can decide whether the product fits into their conscious buying mode," says Kumar, adding that their delivery packaging is made of jute and recyclable cardboard.

## Now exploring

While these materials are the core of Studio Beej, she speaks of two other cutting-edge materials she's currently exploring: Malai from Kerala, made from coconut waste, and Mirum from the US that combines natural fibres like corn and rice husk with rubber waste. While Kumar is keen on using homegrown materials, she says not much R&D is happening in India. So, will the worlds of luxury and sustainability meet easily? "Sustainable is going to be the new luxury. Luxury is going the conscious way. From Hermes to Fossil, and Nike, every brand is working on such materials," she concludes.

Products are priced between ₹850 and ₹14,500. studiobeej.com



ANURAG TAGAT

UB40, the hitmakers who created emotive reggae versions of songs like 'Red Red Wine' and 'Can't Help Falling Love', leverage their global popularity in their latest album, a collaboration-heavy offering called Bigga Baggariddim. Released on June 25, it features Jamaican reggae veterans like Winston Francis and Inner Circle, plus the newer wave of Caribbean artists like Leno Banton, Protoje, Koffee and Chronixx and Blvk H3ro.

Where the scope of Bigga Baggariddim actually gets global is with their inclusion of New Zealand-based roots reggae band House of Shem and Indian vocalistproducer General Zooz aka Zorawar Shukla, part of the party-starting crew Reggae Rajahs. The latter leads the song 'Roots Rock Reggae', which released on June 18.

Bigga Baggariddim sees UB40 hand the reins to their collaborators, letting them take over all vocal duties throughout 15 tracks. "It reflects that our career has been truly international. It's a source of pure joy and we wanted to reflect that in this record," says drummer Jimmy Brown.

Listen on Apple Music, Spotify, Pandora, and YouTube Music.

## Finding closure

SUBHA J RAO

Trisha Das' debut novel, Ms Draupadi Kuru: After the Pandavas, was about Draupadi, Amba, Gandhari and Kunti deciding to leave heaven to live on their own in present-day Delhi. While it is now being developed for the screen (details to be

announced), her second novel, a sequel, The Misters Kuru: A Return to Mahabharat (published by HarperCollins), takes the story to its logical conclusion, answering many questions and



tying up many loose ends. In this book, some of the Pandavas decide to stay on Earth and Kunti apologises to Draupadi for putting her in a position where she had five husbands

> Read the full stories on weekend.thehindu.com

> > M ND-NDE





BHUMIKA K

As the world celebrates Inter-

national Pineapple Day tomor-

row, Mumbai-based Studio

Beej is all set to launch Ana-

nas, a clutch made of Piñatex.

A fresh take on their evening

clutch, Ditya, the new hand-

made variant is aimed at pop-

ularising the bio-textile made

from the leaves of the pineap-

ple plant. Globally, it is used

by brands such as H&M, Paul

This is not the Studio's

experiment

Smith, and Hugo Boss.

Piñatex.

vear,

first

with

Last



ANKUR PATHAK

In Vasan Bala's Spotlight, part of Ray, the Netflix anthology adapted from Satyajit Ray's short stories, a popular actor, Vikram Arora, played by Harshvarrdhan Kapoor, is crippled with artistic insecurity despite his career being on an upswing. His professional anxieties get progressively worse when the hotel that he's staying at is pretty much hijacked by a religious leader, Didi (Radhika Madan), who commands outsized influence on politicians, business leaders, film producers, and the general populace. In the course of the film, Kapoor's character must come to terms with the limitations of movie stardom and the realisation that between cinema and religion, two factions that enjoy a colossal hold over the Indian psyche, religion will always trump the former.

While the film has an undercurrent of dark commentary, the treatment itself is lighthearted and Bala, who earlier directed the festival darling Mard Ko Dard Nahi Hota, peppers the narrative with a variety of inside jokes. For instance, Kapoor's manager, played by an astute Chandan Roy Sanyal, takes a dig at Inlaks, a housing society in Mumbai's Versova known for aspiring actors who are yet to break through, as well as Scrumptious, an eatery nearby largely frequented by the same crowd. In the film's context, Sanyal's dig is at the star who's refusing a lucrative part that will bring in the money, the suggestion being that if he doesn't take the gig, he may have to go back to the life of a 'struggler.'

"It was a line improvised by Chandan," Bala, whose last film too was seeped in cinephilia, says over a Zoom call. "All the cinephilia is almost like a personal trip for me. If nobody finds out [the references] it's fine, the story will still hold on its own." Which it does, except it's a much more joyful experience once the jokes are understood. Kapoor, who plays an actor grappling with stardom, says that he was thrilled to have that experience, as it's something that has, so far, elud-

"He [Vikram Arora] has captured the imagination of the paying public in a way that I haven't done. I enjoyed living in that world. Actors are an insecure lot. The job entails failure, rejection and insecurity. The call from Vasan came during the first wave when everybody was anxious about the future, grappling in uncertainty. So I ended up channeling that nervous

Vasan Bala and the cast of 'Spotlight' from Netflix's Ray, led by Harshvarrdhan Kapoor, Akansha Ranjan and Chandan Roy Sanyal, decode the layered drama about the magic and madness of movies



energy into the part."

#### A little bit of Entourage

Kapoor points out two characters, Johnny Drama and Vincent Chase, from the show, Entourage – about the life of a Hollywood star and his coterie - which percolated into Spotlight. While the film draws parallels between a cult leader and a movie star, another aspect that runs through the narrative is the cost of fame and how debilitating it can be psychologically for those who live and die under the constant glare of the public eye. As an artist, does Kapoor crave that popularity?

"Honestly, that power would just liberate me to do films like Spotlight, Bhavesh Joshi and AK vs. AK. I told Vasan this: I don't only want to be an option for you when you're making a film with a ₹5 crore budget. I also want to be an option when you're making a ₹50 crore-plus film. If I'm lucky enough to achieve that kind of power, I'd want filmmakers to tell different kinds of stories at a bigger scale. That really can be the best by-product of

While that's a noble aspiration to chase, the flip side could be that stardom could imprison the star, making them a victim of their own image. One of the reasons why we see a lot of top stars repeat what they've done in the past is because they chase stories that serve their stardom and not the other way round.

"That's a good point. Given the lineage that I come from, I have felt that weight. But I haven't let that affect my

choices, whether it was doing a film festival musical as my first film or a vigilante drama disguised as an action film as my second."

Sanyal says he did draw some nuances from Ari Gold, the agent character from Entourage, but his primary source was Asrani's character from Hrishikesh Mukherjee's 1973 film, Abhimaan, and Rabi Ghosh, the Bengali actor who did several films with Satyajit Ray.

#### Great art vs fame

A still from

ARRANGEMENT

'Spotlight' - SPECIAL

Akansha Ranjan Kapoor, who plays Anuya, Kapoor's partner, and acts as his moral compass and a voice of reason, says that Bala isn't a director who rehearses too much. The idea is to be on set and react to the moment. Even their interpersonal dynamic reflected in the film is the way it really is.

"Harsh knows so much about cinema and I'm pretty blank. I think that method found its way into the film," she says. To this, Bala adds, "With Vikram and Anuya, what I really like is that one is trying to be an artiste but is popular and hence the problems in his life.



Anuya doesn't have such issues. She's pragmatic, wants to earn her money, and live her life. She's not even having those artistic battles. She sleeps better and he doesn't."

Which brings us to a long unanswered argument that the film dabbles in. Does great art inherently come at the cost of sacrificing popularity and mental peace? "It's a classic choice," Bala says. "Till things are working for you, it's great. There's Barfi, there's Rockstar... all happening at once. And then comes Bombay Velvet and people like me come in," he laughs, referring to Ranbir Kapoor's career that took a brief nosedive with the Anurag Kashyap directorial. Vasan was one of the writers

of the 2015 film. "When you're used to popularity and fame, the shift is difficult. It takes a lifetime to balance it out. Either you chase star-

dom or stardom chases you." Ankur Pathak is a writer based out of Mumbai, who was formerly the entertainment editor of HuffPost India.



Watch Ankur Pathak in conversation with Vasan Bala and the cast

weekend.thehindu.com

On his day of retirement, Savitra B Rajaram, Programme Executive at All India Radio Madurai, was honoured for his service with a

national replay of his award winning

docu-feature



Control tower Rajaram records inside Madurai ATC III this photo from 2015. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

# An **unusual gesture** from All India Radio

SOMA BASU

On June 12, the Central English Features Unit (CEFU) of All India Radio (AIR) played a national award winning radio documentary on Air Traffic Controllers (ATC) across its stations in the country. Repeat broadcast of programmes is not unusual, but this one was done as a rare gesture.

It was the day Savitra B Rajaram, the producer of the docu-feature that received the prestigious Akashvani Annual Award in 2015, was retiring. In commemoration of his 33 years of service with AIR, CEFU, Delhi, decided to give a befitting send-off to its colleague, who is a popular voice across Tamil Nadu and known for his innumerable radio documentaries in Tamil.

Naanga Kelambura Neram Vanthachchu (It's time for us to take off), the 20-minute feature programme chronicles how ATCs handle their task with ingenuity, calm and aplomb everyday. It was the only national award Tamil Na-

du won in broadcasting in 2015. "It is the only radio documentary made on the unsung heroes in India; and is a fabulous idea as an audio story," says CEFU In-

charge Basudha Banerji, who adapted the programme in English in 2017 and broadcast it on national network first in 2018. "Before this, the original Tamil version was broadcast from Madurai station twice for local transmission and I felt it needed to reach a much wider audience," she adds.

"It is an important and interesting subject to highlight but a difficult programme to make for the radio. Yet, it was creatively packed with information about the extraordinary skills of the professionals who keep a constant vigil on sky routes for smooth steering of multiple aircraft. The feedback we received was tremendous," says Basudha.

She recalls the technological challenge in replacing the Tamil narration with her English script and fit it to the original sound track. The efforts put in by Madurai and Delhi teams deserve deeper public recognition and when she received the circular about Rajaram's retirement this month, she immediately pulled out the recording from the archives and put it out on the national hook-up

once again. The recent re-broadcast turned into an emotional moment for Rajaram in Madurai. On his last day at work, as he went around the duty room -- where he started his career as transmission executive in 1989 -- his colleagues gave him a standing ovation as his name as the producer of Eye on the Sky came on air. "God controls the earth from the sky. Air traffic controllers control the sky from earth" - the programme began and Rajaram found the recall and the gesture overwhelming and heartwarming.

He says while visiting Qutub Minar in Delhi in 2014, he saw aeroplanes every two minutes in the sky and it evoked curiosity in him. The idea to do an exclusive programme on ATC was thus born.

Twenty hours of recording over two days to understand the logistics and the science behind flying was compressed into a crisply edited capsule of 20 minutes, that virtually transports the listeners to an airport and inside the heart of an airport -- control tower -where everything and everyone is on a deadline thrill.

The live sound tracks of takeoff, landing and taxing, snippets of real time conversations between the pilot and the ATCs help to capture the nuances of smooth navigation of air traffic; spot interviews with the staff highlight the intricacies and challenges of their high-pressured job and some original music was created to dramatise the effect. "It was fascinating to watch the preparations that go on for every plane flying in and out. However, editing the programme was a greater challenge, we spent 24 hours compiling effects of a multi-sensory feeling in aural format from seven parallel sound tracks. It was a new experience for all of us," says Rajaram, who is no stranger to producing innovative radio features and has won several local and regional awards in the past.

Having worked as the Programme Executive in Tiruchi, Kodaikanal, Nagercoil and Madurai during his career span, Rajaram is known for his live commentaries of hockey and cricket matches through mobile phone and remembered for making Tamil a brand in radio programming with a live oratorical competition (Seppuga Senthamizh), the 16 squares radio crossword in Tamil, science serials on disaster management and reviving 131 extinct lullabies sung by village folks, among sever-

**Book to screen** 

From a satire to a

psychological thriller, four

short stories from celebrated

auteur and writer Satyajit Ray

are adapted for the screen in

this series, Spotlight being

# Biriyani is a winner

The Hyderabad House will soon offer many more signature dishes



RAHUL VERMA

A friend who gave us a memorable food tour of Bhopal some years ago called up recently to recommend an authentic Hyderabadi biryani place that had won his heart. Hyderabadi biryani are two words that are dear to me, too. This meat-andrice dish has been an old favourite of mine ever since I had my first spoonful of it several decades ago.

The dish, I was told, would come from an outfit called The Hyderabad House, run by a mother-and-daughter duo originally from Hyderabad and settled in Delhi. They, and other family members, are seeking to expand the business, which is now in a nascent stage. They make a few special Hyderabadi signature dishes and hope to add to the menu in the near

The Chicken Biryani came in a sealed *handi*, and the aroma of meat and rice wafted up in the air the moment I removed the sticky dough that it had been sealed with. It was, indeed, delicious.

The rice, boiled with shah zeera and cinnamon, had been cooked with the meat in ghee, and then flavoured with garam masala and saffron. And, of



Biriyani in news Chicken Biriyani (top) and Double ka meetha ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

course, it had been topped with fried onions.

The rice was lightly fried and not overly spiced, and that is what appealed to me. Increasingly, I find myself enjoying the lighter versions of biryanis rather than the spice-heavy, often pickle-flavoured ones. And, of course, adding a boiled egg to a plate of Hyderabadi biryani enhances the eating pleasure.

## More on offer

The mother and daughter --Shabnam Begum and Rumisa Farooqi Baig -- also cook a mean bhagaira baigan ka salan. I was struck by the softness of the eggplant and the spiciness of the thick gravy. The dish had been flavoured with peanuts, sesame seeds and coconut. It was deliciously tart, and I had it with some plain rice and thought it would have gone well with a roti, too.

I did not have their Hyderabadi dal but I am told it is tempered with curry leaves, fenugreek seeds, onion seeds and seeds.

The desserts consist of Double ka meetha and sevaiyan. I was happy to see that neither of the dishes was swimming in oil. With a spoonful in, I felt it was the best way to end a meal! The double ka meetha was spongy and the sweet quotient was just right: nor too much, nor too little. The sevaiyan, known as muzaffar, was light and tasty.

The outfit right now delivers across Delhi NCR. "Our food is fresh and authentic. You get the taste of dum-cooked biryani which one will find only in the houses of Hyderabad," the chefs said in a message.

The rates are also quite cometitive. For ₹850, you get all these dishes that can serve up to three people. Orders have to be placed a day in advance (Ph 9971334216; www.flowcode.com/

page/thehyderabadhouse). My food hamper came with a picture postcard and a message from Chef Rumisa. "Food should reach your heart before it reaches your stomach," it said. And it did.

M ND-NDE

The writer is a veteran food critic

al others.

## Ghani to meet Biden as U.S. exit looms

Afghan President hopes for U.S. support amid Taliban battlefield gains; White House for political settlement

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Afghan leader Ashraf Ghani faces the cold reality of the end of U.S. military presence in Afghanistan on Friday when he meets with President Joe Biden in the White House.

Under increasing threat from an emboldened Taliban insurgency, Mr. Ghani will be hoping for a significant commitment of U.S. aid to his government, which will be without the on-the-ground support of U.S. forces for the first time in nearly two decades.

But any hopes for a delay in America's exit from its longest war are likely to be snuffed.

Speaking in Paris on Friday, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the U.S. could no longer adhere to the same approach to Afghanistan of the past 20 years, despite the fresh Taliban gains on the ground.

"The status quo was not an option," he said.



Deep uncertainty: Afghan President Ashraf Ghani with Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi in Washington. • AP

Mr. Biden has ordered the departure of all U.S. forces from Afghanistan by September 11, 2021, the 20th anniversary of the attacks that triggered the invasion.

The final pullout, begun last year by then-president Donald Trump and confirmed by Mr. Biden in April, has moved fast.

Some speculate the exit of some 2.500 U.S. troops and 16,000 civilian contractors could be mostly completed in July.

"This visit is first about

our ongoing commitment and support to the Afghan people and to the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces," White House spokeswoman Karine Jean-Pierre said Thursday.

"The President will emphasise the need for unity, cohesion, and for the Afghan government to focus on key Afghanistan

But the White House will also pressure the Afghan leader to strike a deal with the Taliban. "We believe that

## About 650 U.S. troops will remain in Afghanistan

ASSOCIATED PRESS Roughly 650 U.S. troops are

expected to remain in Afghanistan to provide security for diplomats after the main American military force completes its

a negotiated political settle-

ment is the best way to end

the conflict," Ms. Jean-Pierre

how uncomfortable the sit-

uation is for both sides, no

conference

Mr. Ghani and Mr. Abdullah

Abdullah, who is in charge of

stalled negotiations with the

Taliban on a power-sharing

deal, arrived in Washington

underscoring

told journalists.

Taliban gains

on Thursday.

Possibly

press

planned.

withdrawal, which is set to be largely done in the next two weeks, U.S. officials told the Associated Press.

Several hundred additional U.S. forces will remain at Kabul airport, potentially until September.

The looming U.S. exit has left the country in a deep state of uncertainty, with many worried about the return to power of extremists who applied a brutal version of Islam to the population

The Wall Street Journal reported that a new U.S. intelligence report assesses that the Taliban could possibly capture Kabul within six months - though other experts downplay that scenario, at least in the short-term.

when they ruled from

1996-2001.

## Tibet gets first bullet train, links Lhasa to India border

Over 90% of the track is 3,000 m above sea level

ANANTH KRISHNAN

China on Friday started operating the first bullet train line in Tibet, linking Lhasa to Nyingchi near the border with Arunachal Pradesh.

The China State Railway Group said the 435-km line, on which construction began in 2014, has a designed speed of 160 km per hour and would connect the capital city of the Tibet Autonomous Region to the border city of Nyingchi with a travel time of three and a half hours.

Over 90% of the track is 3,000 metres above sea-level, state media quoted the railway group as saying, and the line is the first electrified high speed rail (HSR) line, as China refers to bullet trains, in Tibet. China has the world's longest network.

The Lhasa-Nyingchi rail is one among several major infrastructure projects recently completed in Tibet's southern and southeastern counties near the Arunachal border. Last month, China completed construction of a strategically significant highway through the Grand Canyon of the Yarlung Zangbo river, as the Brahmaputra is called in Tibet. This is the "second significant passageway" to Medog county that borders Arunachal, the official Xinhua news agency reported, directly connecting the Pad township in Nyingchi to Baibung in Medog

The Lhasa-Nyingchi rail is one section of the Sichuan-Tibet railway line connecting the two provincial capitals, another strategic prodeemed important enough for President Xi Jinping to officially launch it and described by the Chinese leader as "a major step in safeguarding national unity and a significant move in promoting economic and social development of the western region". This will be the second railway line connecting Tibet to the hinterland, following the already open Qinghai-Tibet rail. The first section of the new line, from Chengdu, the provincial capital of Sichuan, to Yaan, was finished in December 2018, while work on the 1,011 km Yaan-Nyingchi line will compete the entire railway line by 2030.

Zhu Weiqun, a senior Party official formerly in charge of Tibet policy, was quoted as saying by state media the railway will help "transport advanced equipment and technologies from the rest of China to Tibet and bring local products out". "If a scenario of a crisis happens at the border," he said, "the railway can act as a 'fast track' for the delivery of strategic materials".

## Infrastructure deal reached but key Republicans are not on board

\$579 billion to be invested in sector, including \$312 billion in transport

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN WASHINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden's infrastructure plan appeared to be closer to fruition as a bipartisan group of Senators, on Thursday, reached an agreement that would cost \$1.2 trillion over eight years, including more than half a trillion dollars in transport and infrastructure spending. Mr. Biden has asked the U.S. Congress for about \$4 trillion in infrastructure and social spending in the American Jobs Plan and American Families Plan.

Thursday's agreement, which covers only a fraction of the \$4 trillion, is tied to according to Mr. Biden and several Democrats – budget resolutions being passed to cover the social spending priorities. This could put the Bill in jeopardy as key Republicans have expressed opposition to the linking.

"We have a deal," Mr. Biden said, as he stood with a bipartisan group of 10 Senators behind him.

The Bill will invest a total of \$579 billion in infrastructure – including some \$312 billion in transport. This will include roads, bridges, public transit, railways, ports, waterways and airports. It



Joe Biden

will also include \$15 billion for electric buses and transit and electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure to meet Mr. Biden's goal of 5,00,000 EV chargers across the country. The remaining approximately \$266 billion will be spent on water infrastructure, broadband, resilience and environmental remediation.

The financing of this inbone of contention - with

Mr. Biden wanting to stick to a campaign promise of not raising taxes for anyone making less than \$4,00,000 per year. Republicans plan to index a tax on petrol to inflation, something several Democrats opposed.

#### Tax on petrol

Increasing the tax on petrol would result in a higher tax for those earning less than \$4,00,000 per year and was therefore not an option, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said on Monday. Democrats have been split

broadly along moderate and progressive lines around the infrastructure Bill. In the evenly split Senate, Democrats intend to use a process called budget reconciliation to fund these priorities . Resolutions passed via the reconciliation route require only 51 of 100 Senators to pass and can therefore make it through the Senate without Republican support.

Mr. Biden said that while the Democratic party was "divided", it was "rational" and that the party would not vote against a "good" Bill. However, he said that the budget (reconciliation) resolutions would also have to be passed for him to sign the infrastructure Bill into law.

"So, what I expect - I expect that in the coming months this summer, before the fiscal year is over [September 30], that we will have voted on this Bill, the infrastructure Bill, as well as voted on the budget resolution," Mr. Biden said."But if only one comes to me - if this is the only thing that comes to me, I'm not signing it. It's in tandem," he said.

Republican Senator Lindsay Graham said Mr. Biden's threat of vetoing the Bill unless the budget measures were passed would be a "deal breaker " for him.

"Less than two hours after publicly commending our colleagues and actually endorsing the bipartisan agreement, the President took the extraordinary step of threatening to veto it," Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell said in the Senate."It was a tale of two press conferences," he said. "It almost makes your head spin," he said.

## Four dead in U.S. building collapse, 159 still missing

Rescue workers are looking for survivors

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE SURFSIDE

Four people are now known to have died in the collapse of an oceanfront building near Miami Beach, officials said on Friday, while the number of those unaccounted for has risen to 159 fuelling fears of a much higher death toll.

An unknown number of residents are feared to have been asleep in the 12-storey condominium in the town of Surfside, when one of its wings was reduced early on Thursday to a pile of debris.

"We do have 120 people

our unaccounted for number has gone up to 159," Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava told a news conference. "In addition, we can tragically report the death count is now four," she said.

very, very good news. But

Rescue teams with sniffer dogs again worked through the night despite heavy rain clinging to the diminishing chance of finding additional survivors.

President Joe Biden declared an emergency early on Friday in response to the disaster, ordering federal assistance for the relief effort.

## Sri Lanka's 'Metoo' moment sparks reflection on newsrooms

Charges include sexual harassment and rape threats

MEERA SRINIVASAN COLOMBO

A flurry of sexual harassment allegations from Sri Lankan journalists this week has brought the country's media industry in sharp focus, with many, especially women, calling for urgent reform of newsrooms.

Identifying with the global #Metoo campaign, women journalists took to Twitter and recalled incidents in their newsrooms, where they said male colleagues sexually harassed them, including with rape threats. While similar allegations surfaced on social media in 2019 in Sri Lanka, the recent accounts included some specific details of the men accused of harassment, although the women stopped short of naming them.

In a Twitter thread on June 18. journalist Aisha Nazim compiled distressing accounts shared by many women, of facing sexual harassment from male colleagues and bosses, in various Sri Lankan media outlets. Currently on a study break abroad, Ms. Nazim said her Twitter action was driven by the desire to put out the stories in public. "Especially since many of these perpetrators are still out there, in prominent positions, and can often be seen bullying voung women online," she told The Hindu.

A section of Sri Lankan media reported on the development, when a Cabinet spokesman, responding to a question at the weekly press briefing, said the government would investigate the allegations made, that also included state-run media.

Colombo-based portal *Roar.lk* ran an editorial calling for a "topdown change" of culture within Sri Lanka's media industry. "If there was ever a time for industrywide introspection and dismantling of informal structures that allow abuse of power within newsrooms, it is now," it said, calling for formal structures and mechanisms, for all involved par-



ties "to be heard, afforded fair inquiry, and adequate redressal."

Mandana Ismail Abeywickrema, editor of The Sunday Morning weekend newspaper, said change must begin within newsrooms. "We have told our staff that the paper takes the issue very seriously, and that they should feel free to raise any concern without fear. We also hope to have regular discussions with our teams on what in their view constitutes sexual harassment, and what action they think would be appropriate, so that we can collectively come up with an organisational policy," she said.

## Stern response

A strong anti-sexual harassment policy is one of the outcomes those like Ms. Nazim, who flagged the issue, are also hoping for. "It is very important that media houses put policies and systems in place, so that such incidents do not occur in future. We are talking to colleagues in other parts of the world, including India, and looking at laws and policies there, while we evolve our own in Sri Lanka," she said.

At present, Sri Lanka has only a criminal law to address sexual harassment. A person found guilty may be imprisoned for up to five years, or fined, or both, and may have to pay compensation.

However, the criminal law is rarely used, according to Ermiza Tegal, lawver with a practice in human rights and addressing gender-based violence. "Accessing justice, particularly on genderbased violence, is a harrowing experience for victims," she told The Hindu, citing examples of complaints not being recorded, victims being ridiculed, intimidated, and threatened, a failure to initiate legal proceedings, lengthy court cases, continued exposure to the alleged perpetrator and possible reprisal because of prolonged court cases, and procedures such as in-person identification parades. Further, the demands on finances and time, not only of the victim but also of her support system, if she has one, also dissuades survivors from seeking justice.

"I think we need to remind ourselves that criminal laws are not the only laws that we need," Ms. Tegal said, pointing to other laws, policies and services required in providing support and protection to the aggrieved.

Meanwhile, responses to past grievances that have come to light must be guided by what the women who shared their accounts want, in Ms. Tegal's view. "Asking for their consent and giving them control over their own narrative is important. Public disclosure about a grievance can be for many reasons. In these cases, it is often also to break the silence about pain that has been privately endured for many years," she said, adding some survivors experience "relief and release", by asserting that they were wronged.

"If they want legal acknowledgement of violence or harassment, this must be supported, but given the legal system, the personal costs to survivors are often high. Which is also why in the past perpetrators have preferred the narrow path of legal victories and defeats," the lawyer noted.

Ultimately, addressing a "pervasive, systemic and institutionalised" problem such as sexual harassment requires a focus on social change, acknowledgement from leaders, institutions, and professional bodies that a real problem exists, she said, so that practical and sensitive mechanisms for redress and support for victims are put in place.

A-228

#### OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (PPP) P.W.D., RAJASTHAN, JAIPUR

NIT No. 09/2021-22

On behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Rajasthan, PWD, Rajasthan invites sealed bids in specified format from interested Bidders for Package No WB/RSHDP II/Annuity/04 Development and Maintenance of Two Lane of Ramseen-Bhinmal-Raniwara Section of SH-31 (Total Length 62.619 Km) in the state of Rajasthan under RSHDP-II, to be financed by the World Bank on Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM) through Two nent bidding through National Competitive Bidding process as per the World Bank Guidelines. The Bidding documents can be viewed or / and downloaded from website: http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, http://www.pwd.rajasthan. gov in and http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in from 28.06.2021; any further amendr

UBN No. PWD 2122WLOB02011 DIPR/C/5917

shall only be viewed on above websites

ACE (PPP), PWD, Jaipur

		RNMENT OF ODISHA							
1	"e" - PROCUREMENT NOTICE NO.CCEKIP-(KCD)-04/2021-22  (Pertaining to Kanpur Canal Division, Jhumpura)								
1.	Name of the Work	"Construction of Additional Structures & Balance Work from R.D.21600m to 38610m of Kanpur Main Canal of Kanpur Irrigation Project"							
2.	Estimated Cost	Rs.1633.98 Lakh							
3.	Period of completion	18 (Eighteen) Calendar Months including rainy season							
4.	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	29.06.2021 from 10.00 Hours to Dt.13.07.2021 up to 17.00 Hours.							
5.	Last date / Time for receipt of bids in the portal	13.07.2021 up to 17.00 Hours.							
6.	Date & Time of Opening of Tender	14.07.2021 at 11.00 Hours							
7.	Name & Address of the Officer Inviting Bid	Er. Prasanna Kumar Pani, Chief Construction Engineer, Kanupur Irrigation Project, At/PO-Basudevpur, Dist- Keonjhar, Odisha - 758047							
Fu	rther details can be seen from the e-								

Kanupur Irrigation Project, Basudevpur, Keonjhar, Odisha

OIPR-32012/11/0002/2122

Eastern Circle-I, Cuttack OIPR-32370/11/0003/2122

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER **EASTERN CIRCLE-I, CUTTACK** nt Notice No. ACE,EC-I/03 of 2021-22 (On-line As per detailed Tender call not Total No. of Works 5 (Five) Nos. Individual Packago Bid Security MISC.-0007-2019/8943/F dated 18.03.2021. The bids without 2021-22 ACE,EC-I months 09 (Nine 2021-22 ACE,EC-I/ Chief 06 (Six) 560.00 01.07.2021 15.07.2021 16.07.2021 Lakh upto 17,30 hrs. 11,30 hrs. 10.00 hrs. 2021-22 ACE,EC-I months 05 (Five seeccuttack@gmail.com Further details can be seen from the Govt. web site "https://tendersodisha.gov.in Additional Chief Engine

# now accounted for, which is

FSIIC invites proposals from eligible firms for undertaking the project "Design Supply, Installation Commissioning and Operation & Maintenance of 200 M iquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) Storage Facility" RFP document can be downloaded from the website: www.tsiic.telangana.gov.ir

Proposals shall be submitted on or before 08.07.2021, 3.00 pm at following address: The Chief Engineer, TSHC, 5th floor, Parisrama Bhavan, Fateh Maidar

Dt. 26-06-2021 Vice Chairman & Managing Director DIPR R.O.No.13226-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2021-22 Dt. 25.06.2021

**Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department** 

2nd floor, KHB Complex, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G Road, Bengaluru-560009 Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department,

Government of Karnataka is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) an ambitious programme to provide 55 LPCD safe drinking water through functional household tap connections to all the rural households in the state. In this regard comprehensive bulk water supply schemes are proposed to be taken up across the state of Karnataka and the department intends to have an interactive session with the prospective bidders willing to be part of Jal Jeevan Mission. Those interested may send their requests to e-mail id cerws14@gmail.com and contact 080-22533700 for any queries. The interactive session will be held on 01.07.2021 at 11.00 AM through video conference and the link will be intimated to such of those whose requests are received through mail

Sd/- Commissioner **Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department** 

COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC,	, ,
6 Feet	⋰●
Wear Mask Follow Physica Distancing	<sup>7</sup>

System and other Applications".



NOTICE INVITING TENDER Tenders are invited through e-Portal for the selection of Service Provider for "Providing Payment Gateway and Payment Services to KSRTC Online Ticket Reservation

Tender No. 1 No:KSRTC/TRF/AWATAR-176/01/2021-22 1,00,000/-1) Pre-Bid Meeting: 09-07-2021, 11.00 Hrs. 2) Last Date for Submission of Queries: 10-07-2021, 17.00 Hrs. 3) Last Date of Submission of Bids: 26-07-2021, 17.00 Hrs. 4) Opening of Technical Bid: 29-07-2021, 11.00 Hrs. 5) Opening of Financial Bid: 05-08-2021, 11.00 Hrs. 6) The financial bids of the

bidders, those who have qualified in Technical Bid will only be opened. 7) The RFP documents along with terms & conditions, eligibility criteria and other technical details can be downloaded from the e-portal Website: www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in 8) EMD: Bidder has to pay Rs. 500/- through e-portal by e-payment and Rs. 99.500/- through DD in favour of CAO-FA. KSRTC, Bengaluru - 560027. 9) KSRTC reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders without assigning any reasor

Central Offices, Shanthinagara, Bengaluru.

Follow Physical

Sd/- Chief Traffic Manager (Com)

M ND-NDE

Maintair

except yen at 4 p.m.	on June	25
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	74.00	74.32
Euro	88.36	88.75
British Pound	.102.87	103.32
Japanese Yen (100)	66.82	67.12
Chinese Yuan	11.47	11.52
Swiss Franc	80.72	81.07

. 6923.00

UltraTech Cement.

Canadian Dollar.

**EXCHANGE RATES** 

## Policybazaar.com forays

into insurance brokerage

Leading web aggregator Policybazaar on Friday said it had embarked on its insurance broking journey with 15 outlets and aims to expand to 100 locations. Recently, IRDAI had approved the company's insurance broking licence. PTI

# 'Govt. can cut fuel cess by ₹4.5'

Move will ease inflation pressures, spur consumption without revenue loss: ICRA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Union government has room to cut the cess levies on petrol and diesel by ₹4.5 per litre to ease inflationary pressures without a net loss in revenue, rating agency ICRA said on Friday.

Stressing that consumer sentiment had been singed by the second COVID-19 wave. ICRA said that the record retail fuel prices were 'weighing upon disposable incomes and consumption' and feeding into inflationary pressures. Retail inflation crossed the central bank's comfort zone at 6.3% in May.

The revenue loss entailed by the cess cuts would be offset by an expected increase in fuel consumption making this a revenue-neutral measure, ICRA's chief economist Aditi Nayar pointed out.

"Benefitting from the anticipated rise in mobility and economic recovery aided by



Cash to spare: Such a cut in the cess rates would offer some relief to household budgets, says Nayar. • н. s. маилиматн

coverage, ICRA has forecast the YoY growth in the consumption of petrol and HSD (high-speed diesel) at about 14% and about 10%, respectively," Ms. Nayar wrote. "Our forecasts suggest that consumption this year will be 6.7% higher for petrol and 3.3% lower for HSD."

Aggregate revenue from fuel taxes is expected to rise by about 13% to ₹3.6 lakh

an acceleration of vaccine crore this year, with additional revenue of ₹40,000 Foregoing ₹40,000 crore can support a reduction of ₹4.5 per litre, ICRA estimated in a note.

Room for RBI

"Such a cut in the cess rates would offer some relief to household budgets and ease the inflationary pressures related to the rising global crude oil prices," Ms. Nayar emphasised, stressing that this would also give the central bank more room to focus on growth imperatives rather than fret about accelerating inflation.

In the three monetary policy reviews since February, the Monetary Policy Committee, chaired by Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das, has reiterated concerns about inflationary pressures created by the higher cess and VAT rates announced by the Centre and State governments on fuel last year, and the need to unwind them to ease cost push pressures.

While global crude oil prices were on an upswing since January, riding on expectations of a rebound in the global economy, India's record retail fuel prices were also driven by a weaker rupee and the higher domestic imposts levied by the Centre and States, said ICRA.

## SBI to continue digital agenda, looks to slash NPAs in FY22

Better positioned to tackle any subsequent wave: Chairman

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

State Bank of India (SBI) will continue its digital agenda in FY22 and focus on recovery of stressed assets, chairman Dinesh Khara said on Friday.

"The current financial year has begun with unexpected second wave of CO-VID-19 infections," Mr. Khara told shareholders at the bank's 66th AGM. "Although the contain-

ment strategy this time included avoiding complete lockdown and managing the situation through microcontainment zones, the impact on the economy will nevertheless be felt," he added. "In the current financial

year, the bank will continue to accelerate its digital agenda. The scope and reach of YONO will be expanded further," he said. "With the



Dinesh Khara

roll-out of pre-package insolvency for resolution, resumption of courts and formation of National Asset Reconstruction Company, efforts will be in full force to keep the momentum in stressed asset recovery in the current financial year,"

He said the bank was comfortably placed in terms of growth capital. "Oppor-

Mr. Khara added.

tunities for lending in promising sectors will be explored to diversify the portfolio and contain risk."

He said the bank adjusted to the challenges posed by the pandemic and was now better positioned to tackle any subsequent wave. "I am cautiously optimistic that the performance trajectory of FY21 will continue in FY22 as well," he added. He said over the last two financial years, the bank was dealing with a steep rise in stressed assets. All-round efforts in managing stressed accounts initiated in FY19 continued in FY21 as well.

"The corporate segment saw the largest reduction in NPAs at ₹18,530 crore," the chairman added. "The gross NPA ratio of the bank declined to 4.98% from 6.15% in the last year," he said.

## ALL eyes used vehicle market

FY22 GDP growth forecast positive for CV sector: Sondhi

N. ANAND

Commercial vehicle (CV) maker Ashok Leyland Ltd. (ALL) is exploring the possibility of entering the usedvehicle market. It also plans to unveil Bada Dost LCV offshoots from the Phoenix platform, a top official said.

"Yes, we are planning to enter used-vehicle market such as the one for trucks and have already started talking to our channel partners," Vipin Sondhi, MD & CEO, told The Hindu. "Details can be disclosed only after things take a final shape."

Going forward, ALL would continue to grow exports, defence, power solutions, LCV and parts business even as it expands the product reach of its core medium and heavy CVs.

"We will intensify our ef-



Vipin Sondhi

forts in Central Asia and African countries to strengthen our presence," he added.

While trucks, LCVs, aftermarket and power solutions posted good growth during FY21, the bus segment contracted in the absence of public transport and long periods of school closures.

The bus sector would revive when the lockdown situation completely eased. ALL is also betting on fleet replacement by

State governments planning to replenish old fleets.

On rising raw-material prices, he said ALL had raised product prices during the third and fourth quarters of last fiscal and keeping a close watch on costs.

Mr. Sondhi also signaled that output may be raised in July, with an increase in the number of shifts depending on the relaxation in curbs. "With India's GDP poised

to grow at 9.5% in FY22, it augurs well for the CV industry. We are confident that we will come out stronger once demand picks up," he said. ALL is planning to invest

₹750 crore in FY22, against ₹670 crore in FY21. The money would mainly be invested in debottlenecking LCV plants, routine investments in other plants and safety. said CFO Gopal Mahadevan.

## **ONGC** reports ₹6,734 cr. net profit in Q4

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

State-owned Oil and Natu-Gas Corporation (ONGC) reported a net profit of ₹6,734 crore in the March quarter on the back of higher oil prices and exceptional income.

ONGC had reported a net loss of ₹3,214.41 crore in the January-March 2020 period, the company said in a statement. In an investor call, Chairman and MD Subhash Kumar said the company realised \$58.05 for every barrel of crude oil produced and sold in January-March as compared with \$49.01 a barrel realisation a year ago.

The firm had reversed impairment losses, recording an exceptional gain of ₹2,613 crore in the quarter.

## COVID-19 relief up to ₹10 lakh to be tax-free for victims' families

Financial aid sought for treatment also exempted from I-T

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Centre on Friday announced income tax relief for COVID-19 affected taxpayers who had to rely on financial aid for their treatment costs. It also exempted ex-gratia payments of up to ₹10 lakh from employers and other well-wishers to the families of those who had passed away.

"In order to provide relief to the family members of such taxpayers, it has been decided to provide I-T exemption to ex-gratia payment received by family members of a person from the employer of such person or from other person

on the death of the person on account of COVID-19 during FY 2019-20 and subsequent years," the finance ministry said statement. Similarly, no income tax

liability would arise on financial aid received from employers and well-wishers for meeting COVID-19 treatment costs, effective from financial year 2019-20. "This brings much-need-

ed tax relief to taxpayers, who have suffered from CO-VID and received monetary help from their employer, friends and extended families, either for treatment or on account of a family member's death from CO- VID," said Shailesh Kumar, partner, Nangia & Co LLP.

"Though the relief is granted retrospectively from 2019-20, since the due date for filing that year's I-T returns has already expired, it would be important to see whether the government revives the time limit for filing those tax returns," he pointed out.

#### **Deadlines extended**

The Central Board of Direct Taxes has extended the last date for linkage of Aadhaar with PAN from June 30 to September 30, 2021, while granting more time for several other compliances under the I-T Act of 1961.

## TV PICKS

England vs Sri Lanka: 3rd T20I, Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 7 Tour de France: Stage 1:

Eurosport (SD & HD), 7.30

Euro 2020: Sony Ten 2, 3 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 9.30 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Sunday) PGA Women's champion-ship: Eurosport (SD & HD),

10.30 p.m. **NBA**: SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 6.30 a.m. (Sunday)

## IN BRIEF



win Olympic 100m gold

Sprint legend Usain Bolt figures one of the favourites in the 100m at the Tokyo Games will be Trayvon Bromell, who won the event last weekend at the U.S. Olympic track and field trials.

#### **Turkish Grand Prix back** on F1 calendar

The Turkish Grand Prix has been added to the Formula One calendar, to be run on October 3 replacing the cancelled Singapore GP. AFP

#### Judoka Sushila Devi books Tokyo ticket

NEW DELHI Indian judoka Sushila Devi has qualified for the Tokyo Olympics via the continental quota in 48kg, the sport's international federation confirmed on Friday. PTI

#### Aditi in 39th place ATLANTA

Aditi Ashok carded a one-over 73 in the opening round to be placed tied 39th at the KPMG women's PGA Championship, her 17th Major start, here on Thursday. Lizette Salas was in the lead with a 67. PTI



## Uruguay labours into the quarterfinals

Almiron stars for Paraguay as it too qualifies with a win over Chile

## COPA AMERICA

REUTERS

An own goal in the first half and a late second from Edinson Cavani gave Uruguay a 2-0 win over Bolivia on Thursday and guaranteed its place in the last eight of the Copa America.

## Goal and assist

Miguel Almiron got a goal and an assist as Paraguay beat Chile 2-0 and confirmed its place in the last eight. Bolivia, meanwhile, is eliminated.

Uruguay has won this tournament more than any other country but it has laboured so far this year, losing 1-0 to Argentina, drawing 1-1 with Chile and failing to shine against a Bolivian side whose last away win was 32 games ago in Myanmar.

NBA

Thursday

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Paul George scored 27 points

and grabbed 15 rebounds to

power Los Angeles Clippers

over Phoenix Suns 106-92 on

points and Croatian Ivica Zu-

bac had 15 points and 16 re-

bounds as the Clippers made

it 2-1 in the best-of-seven

It was a crucial victory for

the Clippers as no team in

NBA history has ever won a

best-of-seven series after los-

But for the third playoff

series in a row, the Clippers

won game three after drop-

ing the first three games.

Western Conference finals.

Reggie Jackson added 23



Doing a Bolt: Uruguay's Edinson Cavani celebrates in the style of the Jamaican sprinter after scoring against Bolivia. • AFP

Uruguay huffed and puffed through the first half and needed a stroke of luck to take the lead five minutes before half time when Jairo Quinteros and Carlos Lampe combined to put through their own goal.

A low cross came into the

Clippers pull one back against Suns

The Clippers were with-

Deandre Ayton led the

**Incoming!** Clippers' Paul George muscles his way past the

out star Kawhi Leonard, out

with a sprained right knee.

Suns' defence. • AFP

six-yard box and Quinteros – stranded between Cavani and Luis Suarez – was forced to take action but could only knock the ball onto the legs of Carlos Lampe and into the net.

Uruguay hadn't won since beating Colombia in a World

The result: Western Confe-

rence finals: Los Angeles Clip-

pers 106 bt Phoenix Suns 92

Suns with 18 points.

(Suns lead series 2-1).

Cup qualifier last November.

But Cavani guaranteed all three points with his first international goal since that game when he converted a sumptuous cross from Facundo Torres with 11 minutes remaining.

## **Ends winless streak**

The result ended a five-game winless streak for Uruguay and ensures its place as one of the top four teams in Group A alongside the already qualified Argentina.

Braian Samudio gave Paraguay the lead after 33 minutes after heading in a corner from Almiron, who then completed the scoring with a penalty 13 minutes into the second half.

The results: Group A: Bolivia O lost to Uruguay 2 (Lampe 40og, Cavani 79); Chile O lost to Paraguay 2 (Samudio 33, Almi-

Aditya Khanna

to lead over-35

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Aditya Khanna will be the

captain of the over-35 ten-

nis team, selected by the

All India Tennis Associa-

tion (AITA) to compete in

the Young Seniors World

team championship to be

held in Umag, Croatia,

The teams: Over-35: Adi-

tya Khanna (Capt.), Kannan

Settu, Riyaz Ahmed, Manish

Kulhary; Over-40: Krishna

Kumar (Capt.), Swarandeep

Singh Dhodi, Ashish Khanna,

Over-45: Jagdish Tanwar

(Capt.), Rajesh Kumar, Ashish

Parmar and Deepak Marwaha.

Daniel Vijay Anand.

from September 12 to 17.

tennis team

NEW DELHI

## Women's team wins air pistol bronze

## SHOOTING

SPORTS BUREAU

The women's air pistol team of Yashaswini Singh Deswal, Manu Bhaker and Rahi Sarnobat won the bronze in the team championship, as it beat Hungary 16-12 in the shooting World Cup here on Friday. The Indian trio had ac-

tually topped the first stage of qualification of the team event. However, it slipped to the third spot in the second stage of qualification behind Bulgaria and Germany. Thus, the team had to be content fighting for the bronze and winning it.

The men's air rifle team of Divyansh Singh Panwar, Deepak Kumar and Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar failed to win a medal.

The women's air rifle team of Apurvi Chandela. Elavenil Valarivan and An-

jum Moudgil placed 11th. With only two shooters in men's air pistol, in Saurabh Chaudhary and Abhishek Verma, India could not field a team.

The results: Men: Air pistol team: 1. Italy 16 (582) 1729; 2. Serbia 6 (575) 1732; 3. Iran 16 (572) 1729; 4.

Russia 12 (575) 1743.

Air rifle team: 1. Russia 16 (631.4) 1881.7; 2. Hungary 8 (624.6) 1882.7; 3. Serbia 16 (623.7) 1876.1; 4. India 14 (624.4) 1878.7.

Women: Air pistol team: 1. Bulgaria (16 (576) 1711; 2. Germany 10 (575) 1713; 3. India 16 (573) 1727; 4. Hungary 12 (569)

Air rifle team: 1. Iran 16 (625.5) 1882.7; 2. Russia 2 (624.8) 1872.7; 3. Hungary 16 (624.5) 1880.5; 4. Austria 10 (622.3) 1871.6; 11. India 1867.7.

## England seals series

## SL IN ENGLAND

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Liam Livingstone saw England to a series-clinching win over Sri Lanka as the hosts overcame a batting slump in a rain-affected second T20I here on Thursday.

England appeared to have the game sewn up after holding Sri Lanka to 111. But, chasing 112, England collapsed to 36 for four. The target was then reduced to 103 from 18 overs following a rain delay. Sam Billings (24) and Livingstone (29 n.o.) and Sam Curran (16 n.o.) saw England home.

Meanwhile, Jos Buttler will miss the rest of En-



gland's white-ball series against Sri Lanka because of a small tear in his right calf.

The scores: Sri Lanka 111/7 in 20 overs (Kusal Mendis 39, Mark Wood 2/18, Adil Rashid 2/ 24) lost to England 108/5 in 16.1 overs (Liam Livingstone 29 n.o., Wanindu Hasaranga 2/20); target revised to 103 runs from

vingstone; England won by five wkts., leads three-match series

Toss: Sri Lanka; MoM: Li-

## Sananda holds top seed Sneha SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Lower-rated R. Sananda held top seed Sneha Halder to cause the biggest surprise of the third round in the National girls' under-12 online rapid chess tournament that began on Friday.

Thirty two players shared the lead with three points in this 11-round competition. Sananda and Sneha were among those with 2.5 points.

## Women's recurve team in final

## **ARCHERY**

SPORTS BUREAU

Deepika Kumari, Komalika Bari and Ankita Bhakat ensured another medal for India as the trio made it to the recurve women's team final in the archery World Cup Stage-3 here on Friday.

India, which got a first round bye, beat Spain and Turkey with an identical 6-0 margin to reach the semifinals.

Second seed India de-

feated host France, consisting of Lisa Barbelin, Au-Adiceom Angeline Cohendet, 6-2 in the last-four stage to set up a summit clash with top seed Mexico. Deepika is already in the

nals and the mixed team final (with Atanu Das). The Indian recurve and compound men's teams

women's individual semifi-

lost in the quarterfinals. The compound women's team was knocked out in the first round.

# Clean sheet king Italy favourite

Wales will look to up the tempo against Denmark in their last-16 encounter

## **EURO 2020**

AGENCIES LONDON

Italy stormed into the last 16 scoring more freely than in past European Championships, but it is its near-impenetrable backline that makes it favourite to beat Austria in Saturday's knockout game and head deep into the tournament.

Italy won its first two games 3-0 - after never netting three before at the Euros. A solid Italian defence is nothing new.

In three Euro 2020 games, the Azzurri have faced only 12 shots, on or off

#### **Enviable record**

Further back, Italy has kept a clean sheet in each of its last 11 matches in all competitions, going 1,055 minutes without conceding since a Donny van de Beek goal for Netherlands October.

One more clean sheet will see them equal its record of 12 consecutive games without conceding, set between 1972 and 1974.

This is Austria's first appearance in the knockout stages of the Euros.

Fiery striker Marko Arnautovic is more than happy to ruffle some feathers, but Italy's rearguard will relish the competition.



Up against it: The Austrians will have a tough ask on their hands when they face a rampant

One worry coach Roberto Mancini does have is over the fitness of central defender Giorgio Chiellini.

In the day's other game in Amsterdam, Denmark will take on Wales.

#### On the road

While Denmark is hitting the road for the first time at a tournament that is being played in 11 cities across Europe, Wales has had a tougher travel schedule. The team based itself in Baku, Azerbaijan, where it played its first two matches before facing Italy in Rome.

## **TODAY'S SCHEDULE**

Wales vs Denmark, Italy vs Austria, Live on Sony Ten 2, 3 &

Sony Six (SD & HD)

Wales is hoping it can build up the same kind of momentum that carried it to

the semifinals of Euro 2016. Welsh star Gareth Bale, however, has not scored in his last 14 internationals and missed a penalty against Turkey in Baku.

## By The Numbers

- 1 Jorginho leads all Italy players for passes (230), successful passes (190), forward passes (60), interceptions (7) and tackles (5) in this edition
- 11 The Azzurri are on a record 11-game winning run that began in November 2020 and haven't conceded a single goal in these 11
- 60 Italy has fired the most shots in Euro 2020 so far; it has also faced the least number of shots (12)

## Defending champ Halep pulls out with injury

Djokovic opens against British teen; Barty takes on veteran Navarro in first round

#### **WIMBLEDON**

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Defending champion Simona Halep pulled out of Wimbledon with a calf injury as Novak Djokovic learned on Friday he would face Britain's Jack Draper at the start of his quest for a 20th Grand Slam

Romanian Halep, who beat Serena Williams in the final in 2019, tore her left calf muscle in Rome last month and was forced to miss the French Open.

She travelled to London earlier this week but announced her withdrawal minutes before the draw for The Championships, which returns on Monday after it was cancelled last year due the coronavirus

pandemic. Halep's withdrawal fol-

lows that of four-time Grand champion Naomi Slam

Osaka. World No. 1 Ashleigh Barty, who was forced to retire from her second-round match at Roland Garros with a hip injury, opens her campaign against Spain's Carla Suarez Navarro, who is playing her final Wimbledon before retirement after recovering from cancer.

French Open champion Barbora Krejcikova takes on Dane Clara Tauson, with the Czech star bidding to win the one Grand Slam singles title her late former coach and idol Jana Novotna won, in

#### **Milestones**

Big withdrawal: Halep travelled to London earlier this week but

made the announcement minutes before the draw. • REUTERS

Serena Williams is seeking to equal Margaret Court's record of 24 Grand Slam singles titles after missing out on equalling the mark several times in recent years.

The 39-year-old American, seeded sixth, takes on Aliaksandra Sasnovich in the first round and could play German Angelique Kerber, to whom she lost in the 2018 final, in the third round.

The men's draw is also missing some big names, with two-time winner Rafael Nadal and US Open champion Dominic Thiem also absent.

Eight-time winner Roger Federer, beaten in the 2019 final by Djokovic, and twotime champion Andy Murray are in the draw but there are fitness doubts over both players.

World No. 1 Djokovic arrives at the All England Club after winning his 19th Grand Slam at Roland Garros and will first face 19-year-old Draper. One more Major for the 34-year-old Serbian, who

has won Wimbledon five times, will pull him level with Federer and Nadal.

#### **Vulnerable?**

Federer, who is set to play experienced French campaigner Adrian Mannarino in the first round, is seeded sixth this year but has avoided Djokovic's half of the draw.

The Swiss master looks vulnerable after losing in the second round of Halle, his traditional Wimbledon warm-up tournament, which he has won 10 times

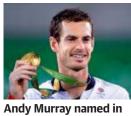
#### Zhang's record

Meanwhile, on Thursday, Zhang Zhizhen became the first Chinese man in the Open era to enter the Wimbledon main draw. The 24year-old defeated Argentina's Francisco Cerundolo 6-0, 6-3, 6-7(4), 7-6(6) in the final round of qualifying.



goes up on The Championships. • AP

#### IN BRIEF



**British Olympics team** 

Two-time defending champion Andy Murray will attempt to win his third consecutive Olympic gold medal after being named to the British team on Thursday. The 34-year-old Murray will compete in singles and doubles at the Tokyo Olympics, his fourth games overall. The games open July

## ICC congratulates NZ

The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Friday congratulated New Zealand on clinching the inaugural World Test Championship title beating India in a riveting final. ICC acting CEO Geoff Allardice said: "I would like to congratulate the first ever World Test Champions, the Black Caps who displayed the skill and temperament required to be the best Test team in the world." PTI

## Verstappen tops

practice sessions SPIELBERG (AUSTRIA) Formula One championship leader Max Verstappen was fastest in Styrian Grand Prix practices at Red Bull's home Austrian track on Friday while Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas caused alarm by spinning in the pitlane. McLaren's Daniel Ricciardo was second fastest in the afternoon and Alpine's

Esteban Ocon third. REUTERS

## Defiance and belief were the hallmarks of Watling's game

For New Zealand, the South Africa-born cricketer was a man for crisis situations

## **TRIBUTE** S. DINAKAR

Bradley-John Watling takes us to the heart of New Zealand cricket - fight, absorbpressure, changing ing Wellington, 2014: Watling

addresses the media after the second day's play. It has been a productive outing for him with five catches with the big gloves. However, New Zealand, 24 for one after conceding a massive lead of 246, is staring at a certain defeat against India.

Speaking to the press,



B-J. Watling... memorable farewell. • REUTERS

"I like such situations. It gets the best out of me. This is the reason we play Test cricket."

These were not empty

New Zealand was reduced to 94 for five in the second innings and the Indian scribes were making plans for two ing for an early finish. Then Watling joined skip-

per Brendon McCullum. And India was wicketless till the post-tea session on day four. McCullum (302) and Watling (124) were involved in a record 352-run stand for the sixth wicket, frustrating the visitor.

McCullum displayed typical flair and Watling was rock solid. And the Test ended in a draw. And now Watling has bid adieu to international cricket after the Kiwis conquered the Test peak at Southampton.

The respect for Watling, pushing 36, is enormous team. No wonder he was among McCullum's favourite cricketers for his never-saydie attitude. Belief was the cornerstone of Watling's

In fact, Watling began his Test career as a specialist opener against Pakistan at Napier in 2009.

And it was McCullum's decision to only 'keep in shorter duration matches that opened the path for Watling to be a wicketkeeper-batsman in Tests

He grabbed the opportunity. Watling figured in 75 Tests, scoring 3,790 runs at a commendable 37.52 with 267 catches and pulling off eight stumpings.

#### **Priceless quality** For New Zealand, this South

Africa-born cricketer was a man for crisis situations in the middle-order. He had the priceless quality of soaking in the pressure and using it as a motivating factor.

The super-fit Watling evolved as a 'keeper and airborne catches on both sides of the wicket were commonplace as his career wore on.

And now when he leaves the international stage to spend more time with family, he does so knowing he has

## **T20 WC** likely in UAE from Oct. 17

NEW DELHI

The 2021 men's T20 World Cup is slated to start from October 17 in the UAE, two days after the Indian Premier League (IPL) final, according to a report in ESPNcricinfo. The final is scheduled for November 14. As per the report, the Board of Control for Cricket (BCCI) in India is yet to write to the International Cricket Council (ICC) officially.

## Intra-squad games for India in Durham: ECB

Kohli's men unlikely to get any warm-up First Class games

## INDIA IN ENGLAND

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

The Indian cricket team will play two intra-squad games at the Riverside ground in Durham before the fivematch Test series against England as Virat Kohli's men are unlikely to get any warmup First Class games against county sides.

## **Displeasure**

India captain Virat Kohli had expressed his displeasure at not being given any First Class games before the England series, starting in Nottingham on August 4.

"Due to COVID-19 protocols, they will play two intrasquad four-day matches before the first Test in August," an ECB spokesperson said on Friday.

While it is understood that BCCI had requested ECB for a few practice games, the COVID-19 situation won't allow any such plan to go ahead.

Asked if there is any chance of a game against county sides, the spokesperson said, "No".

In England, cricketers from various counties are regularly being tested for CO-

VID but are not being kept in

any bubble. The Indian team, once it assembles in London on July 14 and moves to Durham, will be once again be in a bubble.

"The domestic cricketers of England not being in a bubble is an issue for sure. That's why the games in Durham will be intra-squad ones," a BCCI official said on conditions of anonymity.

India is currently travelling with 24 players – 20 in the official squad and four reserves - which will allow them to play intra-squad



Not going his way: Virat Kohli and India would have badly wanted to play practice matches. • AFP

## Srihari just misses out on breaching Tokyo mark

SPORTS BUREAU

Srihari Nataraj came agonisingly close to securing the Amark Olympic Qualification Time in 100m backstroke event, but fell 0.05 seconds short at the Sette Colli Trophy in Rome on Friday.

In what was his last opportunity to get the A-mark, Srihari clocked 53.90s, a personal best and a Best Indian Performance, bettering his own timing of 54.45s set last week in Belgrade. But it wasn't enough to breach the Tokyo 2020 mark (53.85s).

The 20-year-old has been nominated by the Swim-

ming Federation of India for the Olympics via universality quota but was keen to secure A-qualification.

Fellow Olympic hopeful Sajan Prakash will make his final effort to clinch an Olympic spot on Saturday.

**Double delight for Page** Elsewhere, Advait Page came up with the Best Indian Performance in the 1500m freestyle event by clocking 15:23.66s in Mission Viejo, California, on Thursday. En route to his gold, he bettered Kushagra Rawat's previous best of

15:25.22s set last year.

## Indian men target Olympic podium

Hockey coach Reid says team would do well to focus on the present

The Indian men's hockey team knows there are expectations of ending an Olympic medal drought and coach Graham Reid fancies his boys' chances but insists that the team would do well to keep focus on the present.

There are 11 teams other than us at the Olympics and if you see in the last two years, we have played and beaten all except Canada, who we haven't had a chance to play. That's an important point and we will definitely be trying to jump onto that podium but our primary target will be to first qualify for the quarterfinals and then move forward from there," Reid said at a virtual



interaction on Friday.

He did admit that the absence of competitive matches would be a factor but denied reading too much into it. "Honestly, no one knows how much it might affect the team's preparation. But we did have two very good tours coming into this year after a long period of playing internal matches and one of the things we have been talking about is the strength of the daily training environment and how important it is to play those internal games at the competitive level of intensity," he explained.

#### Downplaying it With questions being raised

on the lack of experience in the team's attack, Reid tried to downplay the issue. "There have been training environments around the world, like ours, where we have been together for 15 months and things are going to happen and players will develop unbeknown to the rest of the world. I come from a culture where youth and the ability to bring exuberance and freshness to a group is very important to

In fact, he insisted that the lockdowns and extended periods of training would be an advantage for the team at Tokyo. "We have spent a lot of time building and understanding the mentality of the players, which normally doesn't happen. "I got to know their stories

and everything and what everyone has been through in their lives and in this period which has been a very powerful thing. I am sure it will be important when the chips are down in Tokyo," he

# Men's 4x400m quartet sets meet record

improve in the final.

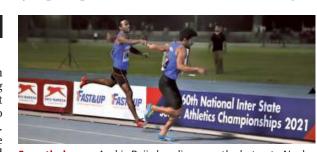
Assures itself of an Olympic spot; women's 4x100m team yet to make progress

## **ATHLETICS**

UTHRA GANESAN

The Indian men's 4x400m relay team had been holding on precariously to the last qualifying spot for Tokyo Olympics for a long time now. On Friday, the quartet broke the three minute two second mark at the National inter-State championships, bettering the meet record and lifting itself up the rankings to be assured of an Olympic

Anchored by Noah Nirmal Tom and comprising Mohd. Anas Yahiya, Arokia Rajiv and Amoj Jacob, the team clocked 3:01.89 in the heats, a timing which is likely to lift it to 13th place on the Road to Tokyo.



Smooth change: Arokia Rajiv handing over the baton to Noah Nirmal Tom in the men's 4x400m heats. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Running in an almost emp-It was the only highlight on ty stadium at the National Inthe opening day of the tourstitute of Sports under floonament that saw middling to dlights, with part of the track mediocre performances in in darkness, the competition the few finals held even as the was all but over when Jacob women's 4x100m failed to pulled away in the second leg make any progress in its before Tom accelerated in quest for an Olympic spot. the last few metres. They now have a chance to further

The foursome of Hima Das, Dutee Chand, Archana Suseendran and Dhanalaksh-

win its heat but not good enough to improve from the current 20th position. The results: Men: 10000m: 1. Vikram Bangriya (MP, 30:16.44s), 2. Kartik

mi managed 43.50 seconds to

Kumar (UP, 30:25.79), 3. Dinesh (Mah, 30:50.74); Pole vault: 1. Shekhar Pandey (UP, 4.80m), 2. Dhirendra Kumar (UP, 4.50m), 3. Parveen Kumar (Har, 4.50m). Women: 5000m: 1. Parul Chaudhary (UP, 16:04.07s), 2. Komal Jagdale (Mah, 16:26.89), Ankita (Utk, 16:58.07); 100mH: 1. Kanimozhi C (TN, 13.66), 2. Agasara Nandini (Tel, 13.70), 3. WVL Sugandi (SL, 13.90); Triple jump: 1. Renu (Har, 13.23m), 2. Sonam (UP, 12.96m), 3. Athira Surendran (Ker, 12.55m); Hammer throw: 1. Manju Bala (Raj, 61.08). 2. Sarita Singh (UP 56.13m), 3. Surabhi Vedpathak (Mah, 54.77m).

M ND-NDE

# Vidit, Adhiban, Gukesh and Arjun in elite field

Carlsen eyes a third straight title in the Champions Tour

#### ASIAN RAPID CHESS

RAKESH RAO NEW DELHI

With one-fourth of the 16player field comprising Indians, the Goldmoney Asian Rapid online chess tournament promises to trigger unprecedented amongst the country's chess lovers when action commences on Saturday.

Vidit Gujrathi, B. Adhiban, D. Gukesh and Arjun Erigaisi will also be trying to break the 'hoodoo' and enter the quarterfinals of this elite competition.

Meanwhile, World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen will be eyeing a third straight title in the \$1.5 million Champions Chess Tour. The maiden presence of four-time women's World champion HouYifan, currently the top-ranked female player, has added to the interest. Eighth seed Vidit faces

Anish Giri (Nederlands), Jan-Krzysztof Duda (Poland), Daniil Dubov, Vladilslav Artemiev (both Russia) and Adhiban on the first day. Interestingly, Adhiban plays the other three Indians on the opening day after taking on Levon Aronian (Armenia)



Top bet: Vidit Gujrathi will lead the Indian challenge in the elite competition. • FILE PHOTO

and Ding Liren (China).

Gukesh, the youngest in the field, plays Arjun and Vidit in the first two rounds on Saturday, when Arjun is due to face Vidit in the eighth round.

The preliminary stage involves a three-day round-robin league after which the top-eight players advance to the knockout stage. The rapid time-control is 15 minutes for each player plus a 10-second increment for every move made.

The players: Magnus Carlsen (Nor), Ding Liren (Chn), Levon Aronian (Arm), Anish Giri (Ned), Wesley So (USA), Alireza Firouzia (FIDE), Jan-Krzysztof Duda (Pol), Vidit Gujrathi, Daniil Dubov (Rus). Peter Svidler (Rus), Vladislav Artemiev (Rus), Salem Saleh (UAE), B. Adhiban, Hou Yifan (Chn), D. Gukesh, and Mercedes driver worried about full capacity crowd at Silverstone up to 130,000 fans for the **FORMULA ONE** July 18 race, but Hamilton

> about the decision. "I watch the news, so I hear about the cases going up in the UK. On that side I'm worrying for people,

said he was feeling "split"

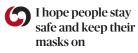
It feels a bit premature, says Lewis Hamilton

naturally," Hamilton said. "There is less people being in hospital but it feels a bit premature to me. I hope we learn something from it, and I hope people stay safe and keep their masks on."

Working with authorities The Silverstone team said it was working with health



authorities in Northamptonshire on the specific conditions of entry that will enable the event to operate



safely. It said visitors must show proof of full vaccination or proof of a negative lateral flow test taken within 48 hours of arrival.

Silverstone will host the second Grand Prix with a full capacity crowd since the start of the pandemic, after next week's Austrian

Hamilton said he did not want to "turn it into a negative" and that he was excited "to see people, and first-

ly to see the British crowd ... to be out to see them and feel the energy that they bring into a weekend.'

Hamilton main's challenger for the F1 title this season, championship leader Max Verstappen, called a packed Silverstone "simply

lovely." "To have a full crowd in Silverstone is what you want, that is what creates the atmosphere and what makes F1 special," the Red Bull driver said.

The drivers spoke at a news conference ahead of the Austrian GP on Sunday.

## Eriksen incident showed how football can unify the world'

#### FOOTBALL

Feeling "split"

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seven-time Formula One

champion Lewis Hamilton

voiced concern for fans vis-

iting next month's British

Grand Prix, calling the deci-

sion to allow a full capacity

crowd at Silverstone "a bit

premature" amid the rising

number of coronavirus

Organisers announced on

Thursday they received go-

vernment approval to host

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA

The Christian Eriksen episode showed football's great ability to unify the world feels top Indian defender Sandesh Jhingan.

"The Christian Eriksen incident also showed how football promotes solidarity. Not many sports in the world have this power and vitality to bring the world together.

"That was evident when

the Finland fans were chanting Christian and the Denmark fans saying Eriksen. The whole world instantly came in support and prayed for his recovery.

"That is how football brings the world together in harmony and appreciation," said Jhingan about the Denmark midfielder who collapsed in the middle of the action during their Euro 2020 match.

**Return of fans** Jhingan was also ecstatic about how the Euro is seeing a return of the fans in big numbers.

"Euro has brought a lot of smiles to the whole world. It is definitely about top quality football and a display of fantastic skills and tactics. What it has also done is bringing the fans back to the stadiums.

"That was one big thing that everyone was waiting for since the pandemic started," Jhingan, who is covering the Euro 2020 for Sony



Thrilled: Sandesh Jhingan has been effusive in his praise of Euro 2020. • FILE PHOTO: RITU RAJ KONWAR

## India's young guns are raring to go in Sri Lanka

Sakariya, Rana, Padikkal, Gowtham and Gaikwad pleased with national call-up

#### CRICKET

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rookie left-arm pacer Chetan Sakariya says he has done his workouts properly during the hard quarantine period here and is raring to go for the limited-overs series against Sri Lanka starting on July 13.

The Indian players, led by Shikhar Dhawan, started their quarantine on June 14 and will continue till June 28. However, their hard quarantine period is over.

"Everybody is now used to quarantine... it is good to come out of the quarantine and meet other players and everybody has done work out as per the needs. I am feeling very good," the 23year-old Sakariya, who has earned his maiden India call-up, told bcci.tv.

"When I got out of the room, I was constantly looking at myself, I was feeling good wearing the jersey, but once I came to the gym, I started doing my normal workout," said the Saurash-



On a high: Chetan Sakariya is looking forward to doing well in the limited-over series against Sri Lanka. • FILE РНОТО

tra pacer, who recently lost his father due to COVID-19.

Attacking Delhi top-order batsman Nitish Rana, who also got his first call-up in the national team, echoed similar sentiments. "The first seven days

were difficult for me as I was waiting to meet my teammates and I was waiting to wear the jersey. That time was a bit tough for me as each hour was feeling like a year," said 27-year-old.

Rana is looking forward to more intense work-out

sessions with a new trainer. Karnataka players Devdutt Padikkal and K. Gowtham, who too earned their maiden call-ups in the national team, also sounded

> 'Yeah, it has been great. Even in quarantine, we were trying to do as much as possible in our room, but it (training) is much better here in the gym and it is good to get out there and have a good session," said Padikkal, himself a flamboyant batsman.

Gowtham, on his part, said that it was good to train with his Karnataka team-

## Dream come true

Young Maharashtra batsman Ruturaj Gaikwad described his India call-up as a dream-come-true moment.

"We were waiting for this for so many years, the place where you want to be, you work hard for that and when you get to know you are finally there, obviously it feels very nice," said Gaik-

Tamil Nadu's new spin sensation Varun Chakravarthy said representing the country is always a special feeling

"Because there have been lots of seasoned players in this tour and working out iust next to them in the gym is a special feeling, it is definitely a dream come true for me," the leg-break bowler

The Shikhar Dhawan-led Indian team will play three ODIs and as many T20Is against Sri Lanka.

## Absentee Aussies could miss T20 WC: Finch

Skipper refers to those who have pulled out of tours of Windies and Bangladesh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Australia limited-over skipper Aaron Finch on Friday said several short-format players have a "very realistic" chance of being overlooked for T20 World Cup selection after opting out of the upcoming tours of West Indies and Bangladesh.

Seven cricketers - David Warner, Pat Cummins, Glenn Maxwell, Jhye Richardson, Kane Richardson, Marcus Stoinis and Daniel Sams who recently played in the IPL have pulled out of the twin tours while Steve Smith has been rested to fully recover from an elbow complaint which flared during the high-profile

In genuine danger Finch said the absentees are

in genuine danger of missing out on the showpiece event in October-November as others stake their claims.

"Yeah, very realistic (to miss out of T20 World Cup). You have to go on current form, and you pick guys who



Plainspeak: It's tough to ignore really good international performances, reckons Aaron Finch. • AP

be on this tour, to get the first opportunity to really put their hand up and take a spot is what it's about," Finch said.

"It's tough to ignore really good international performances. So yeah, absolutely, there's going to be opportunities for guys to put their hand up and take spots," he was quoted as as saying by cricket.au.com.

Australia will on Monday

are playing well. For guys to fly out to the Caribbean for Blurry vision the July 10-25 tour with an 18man squad short of up to seven frontline T20I players.

Finch last week said it had been a "long-term plan" for all-format stars Warner and Cummins, both among Australia's highest-paid IPL players, to miss the 10 T20Is and three ODIs in the Caribbean and Bangladesh after that (pending confirmation).

But he had termed the ab-

up and take a spot is what it's about sence of Maxwell, Jhye, Stoi-

For guys to be on

this tour, to get the

first opportunity to

really put their hand

nis and Kane as "surprising". Chairman of selectors Tre-

vor Hohns had also hinted that there is no guarantee + that some of the IPL returnees who have opted out of the squad for the white-ball tours of West Indies and Bangladesh would get an automatic spot in the T20 World

Finch also said he had expe rienced "blurry vision" during last year's IPL in the UAE and had a surgery on his left

eye recently. So far, the surgery has been a success, yet the 34year-old believes the true indication will come when playing under lights, which Australia are set to do in all eight of their fixtures in the Caribbean.

## WTC: Amarnath for neutral curators

Vengsarkar 'amazed' at Indian team taking a break

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Former India all-rounder Mohinder Amarnath wants the ICC to introduce neural curators and ensure a winner is decided in the next World Test Championship

Amarnath said the games finishing in two days like the day-night Test against England in Ahmedabad is not fair competition.

"You should play on quality wickets. When you play on quality wickets, it doesn't matter where you are playing. Then it is a fair competition.

"The ICC should form a panel of neutral curators like they have for neutral umpires. That team should follow the ICC guidelines and ensure the game goes into the fifth day," Amarnath told PTI on Friday.

## No joint winner

The WTC mace would have been shared if the final between India and New Zealand ended in a draw or tie. Amarnath feels this is another aspect the ICC must tweak in the next cycle.

"A final means there can't be any joint winners in any sport. Whether it is one



aired frank views on the WTC and the Indian team. • FILE РНОТО

game or a best of three final. They have to complete the fi-

India is currently in need of a seam bowling all-rounder like Amarnath with Hardik Pandya being left out of the Test team due to his inability to bowl regularly. The 70-year-old said it is tough to produce that breed.

"They don't come just like that. They come once in a decade or once in 20 years. I am sure somebody will come but it will come from the longer version of the

game," he said. Meanwhile, former India captain Dilip Vengsarkar is 'amazed' at the news that Virat Kohli and his men will be on a "three-week holiday" before the start of England Test series after "poor preparation" cost them the WTC final against New Zealand.

Vengsarkar, a former chief selector, feels India played well over the twoyear WTC cycle but their preparation for the final was far from ideal.

"I don't know how we approach this kind of an itinerary. Where you go for a holiday in-between and then come back to play Test matches. One week break was enough post the WTC final. The thing is you need to play continuously. I am amazed this itinerary was approved."

## History beckons Hoy and Hanna

## **OLYMPICS**

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Veteran equestrian Anthony Hoy will compete in a record-extending Olympics after being named on the Australian team on Friday, 37 years after his debut at the 1984 Los Angeles

The three-time gold medallist will stretch his own record of the most Olympic appearances by an Australian athlete, while at 62 he becomes the oldest male competitor ever from his country.

"To represent Australia at international level over so many years has been the greatest privilege and honour of my life," he said.

"I have never set out to

break records on my number of Olympic Games participations -I am just a country boy who loves his horses, has a huge passion for our sport and thrives on being competitive at the top

He will ride Vassily de Lassos, a 12-year-old gelding, in Tokyo to become just the 13th person in Olympic history to contest eight

Hoy will be joined by grandmother Mary Hanna, 66, aboard mare Calanta after qualifying for her sixth Olympics, the first Australian woman to do so and the

Equestrian Australia chief Darren Gocher said the record-setting Hoy and Hanna were a testament to the longevity of the sport.



Mary Hanna. ■OLYMPICS.COM.AU Anthony Hoy. • OLYMPICS.COM.AU

## 'No spectator' Games remain an option

Organisers to take another look at fans after the current 'quasi-state of emergency' ends on July 11

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A "no-spectator Games" remains an option for the Tokyo Olympics, which open officially in just four weeks, the president of the Tokyo Olympic organising committee said on Friday.

The admission by Seiko Hashimoto comes only four days after she announced on Monday that up to 10,000 local fans would be allowed into venues - with numbers not to exceed 50% of venue capacity regardless of indoor or outdoor events.

cision on local fans for several months, and fans from abroad were banned months The move to allow fans went against many medical

Organisers put off the de-

experts who have said the safest Olympics would be with no fans due to corona-"What I feel is that no spectating should remain an option for us as we look into

things," Hashimoto said at a

news conference. "The situation is changing from time to time so that is why we need to remain flexible and prompt in responding to any change. A no-



spectator Games is one of our options."

**Resurgence in infections** Organisers seemed to back down slightly on fans after a COVID-19 panel for the Tokyo Metropolitan Government reported on Thursday that "there's a sign of resurgence" of infections in To-

The panel said infections grew by 11% in the last week based on the seven-day average - with more of the contagious Delta variant cases being detected. Organisers say they will take another look at fans after the current "quasi-state of emergency" ends on July 11.

Olympic Minister Tamayo

Marukawa delivered another wake-up call on Friday when she confirmed that a member of the Ugandan team who tested positive for the coronavirus upon entry to Japan last week was infected with the Delta variant. Despite extensive testing

before and upon entry, cas-

es like this seem certain to

happen with 11,000 Olympic athletes and 4,400 Paralympic athletes entering Tokyo, along with tens of thousands of added staff, coaches, judges, and IOC and sports federations officials. The Olympic organising committee is very much interested in finding out more

from this (Uganda) example," Hashimoto said. "We will pay detailed attention to get information as much as possible from this experience," with operations refined accordingly. She added: "We cannot

say everything is 100%. We will make a bubble as close to 100% as possible." The head of Imperial

Household Agency had on Thursday said Emperor Naruhito is "extremely worried" about the health risks presented by the Olympics.