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O.P. Chautala released after 10 years in jail

GURUGRAM Former Haryana Chief Minister and Indian National Lok Dal leader Om Prakash Chautala was on Friday released from Tihar Central Jail on completion of a 10-year sentence in a teachers' recruitment scam case, Mr. Chautala told party workers he will soon visit the farmers at the protest sites to seek their blessings.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 9

Two receive certificates without jab in U.P.

Mridula Mangalam, a PhD scholar in Allahabad University, received a certificate noting that she had been fully vaccinated even though she did not receive her second dose. In Mau district, Umda Rai, 65, received a provisional certificate for her first dose at the Doharighat Community Health Centre without even getting a jab. Official says the error could be due to a 'technical reason'

NEWS ▶ PAGE 10

Rawat resigns, BJP legislators to meet today to elect new leader

Uttarakhand Chief Minister steps down amid delay in holding byelection

NISTULA HEBBAR NEW DELHI

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat tendered his resignation to Governor Baby Rani Maurya late on Friday, ending his tenure just four months after he took oath, and paved the way for the appointment of a third Chief Minister for the State this year.

Mr. Rawat had been camping in New Delhi since Wednesday as he was caught in a legal limbo over his continuation as Chief Minister while he is required to be elected as a member of the Uttarakhand Assembly within six months of having taken oath as Chief Minister, under the Representation of the People Act, bypolls are not held for vacant seats if the tenure of the Assembly expires within a year.

The Uttarakhand Assembly's term will expire in March 2022.

Mr. Rawat is a Lok Sabha MP from Uttarakhand and had replaced Trivendra Singh Rawat on March 10 as CM after the latter quit.

The BJP has called a meet-



Churning again: Tirath Singh Rawat speaking to the media in New Delhi on Friday. • ANI

ing of its legislature party in Uttarakhand on Saturday to elect a new leader, with Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar being appointed as observer for the meeting.

Many contenders

On a possible successor to Mr. Rawat, while many names are doing the rounds, sources said only someone who is already an MLA will be chosen this time round.

Sources told The Hindu that Mr. Rawat met BJP president J.P. Nadda on Friday – a second meeting in the three days he had been in Delhi where he was asked to put in his papers. In a letter to Mr. Nadda, Mr. Rawat is believed to have said that due to the difficulties in holding a bypoll within the September 10 deadline for being elected to the Assembly, he was step-

Sources, however, added

ping down.

that Mr. Rawat's frequent courting of controversies and the scandal of fake RT-PCR tests during the Kumbh Mela earlier this year and mismanagement of the issue had also cost him dear.

Mr. Rawat did not speak on record about his intention to resign, while in Delhi, only stating that it was "up to the Election Commission of India to hold bypolls".

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

LeT could be behind drone attack in Jammu, says DGP

BSF fires at drone; five militants, soldier killed in Pulwama

PEERZADA ASHIQ SRINAGAR

Security agencies suspected the role of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) in the twin drone driven blasts on the Indian Air Force's technical airport in Jammu on June 27 and the possibility of it coming from across the border, Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbagh Singh said on Friday.

"The probe [into the blasts] is in progress. We haven't reached any conclusion as to who is actually involved. However, on the basis of the past history of the LeT using drones to drop weapons, narcotics and improvised explosive devices (IED), we suspect the outfit is involved," Mr. Singh said.

Drone spotted in Arnia

Meanwhile, five LeT militants and a soldier were killed in an operation in south Kashmir's Pulwama, while an unmanned aerial vehicle was spotted and fired at by the BSF on the International Border in Jammu's Arnia sector on Friday.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8



On guard: A jawan keeps vigil near an encounter site in Pulwama in south Kashmir on Friday. • NISSAR AHMAD

India flags sighting of drone over mission in Pak.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

A drone was spotted over the Indian High Commission complex in Islamabad last week and Pakistan has been asked to investigate the incident and prevent recurrence of such "breach of security", the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said

The Indian mission has also lodged a strong protest with Pakistan over the incident through a note verbale, which is a diplomatic communique, people familiar with the development said.

The incident came to light amid growing concerns in the security establishment in India after drones were used to carry out blasts at the Jammu Air Force station on June 27.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

⁺ Goods exports touch record \$95 bn in Q1

47% rise in June despite second wave

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

With India registering its highest quarterly merchandise exports of \$95 billion during the first quarter (April-June) of 2021-22, the country is now eyeing a target of \$400 billion in merchandise exports in the current fiscal, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Friday.

As per the official data released, the exports rose by 47.34% to \$32.46 billion in June, following a strong growth in sectors such as engineering, gems and jewellery and petroleum products. However, India was a net importer in June 2021 with a trade deficit of \$9.4

"Despite the severity of the second wave of CO-VID-19, the highest ever merchandise export in a



India is eyeing a target of \$400 billion merchandise exports in the current fiscal.

quarter of \$95 billion has been achieved in April-June 2021, surpassing the previous record of \$90 billion in January-March 2020," the Minister said.

He said measures such as sector-specific interventions had resulted in the record performance of exports.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Akhil Gogoi to revive anti-CAA movement

No foreigner to stay in Assam, he says

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Sibsagar MLA and Raijor Dal president Akhil Gogoi has vowed to revive the anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) movement that lost steam in Assam after a violent start in December 2019.

Mr. Gogoi slammed the leaders of the movement for 'betraying' the people while he spent 18 months in prison. He was released on July 1 after a special court of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) acquitted him and three others under charges of sedition, hobnobbing with Maoists and inciting violence during the anti-CAA movement.

"We will resume the anti-CAA movement and not allow any foreigner to stay in the State," Mr. Gogoi told journalists while on the way to his constituency. The MLA added that he would

mobilise support to oust the "anti-people" BJP and their allies from power in 2026.

He listed the big dams and the toll gates on highways across the State among the other issues the Raijor Dal and associate groups such as the pro-farmers Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti would take up.

Against doctors' advice Mr. Gogoi had left the Gauhati Medical College and Hospital on Thursday ignoring the advice of the doctors, the hospital authorities said in a letter to the State's

Home Department. A copy of the letter was forwarded to the NIA, the Commissioner of the Guwahati Police and the Inspector-General of Prisons.

Mr. Gogoi was undergoing treatment at the hospital under security until his

sanitised and safe space,

which makes it an attractive

holiday option during a pan-

Abraham George, MD, In-

tersight Tours and Travels,

has been inundated with en-

quiries about the reopening

of Kerala. "Once we ensure

complete vaccination, we

should open unconditional-

ly, not with riders attached

such as need for quarantine.

The industry has huge in-

vestments. Everyone is want-

ing to travel and the house-

boat experience is private

demic," says Mr. Jobin.

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Kerala's houseboats get ready to sail

Robust vaccination drive and govt. support reboot the pandemic-hit industry

PRIYADERSHINI S.

The waters of the Vembanad lake are stirring once again. A robust vaccination drive underway has raised hopes of the Kerala houseboat industry to open for business as early as July.

As the latest lockdown eases, tourists and locals are being lured back with deals. Completely vaccinated guests can enjoy the backwaters at discounts up to 50%, while the partially vaccinated get a rebate of almost 40%, says Jobin J. Akkarakalam, vice-president, Kerala Houseboat Owners Federation. "Everyone is looking forward to resuming business, so we can maintain our

staff and boats," he adds. Last year's SOPs - temperature checks, mandatory



owners to maintain their houseboats during lockdown.

masking, sanitising boats and complete guest details on COVID-19 Jagratha Portal - which kicked in during two weeks of operations in December and January, will be invoked again.

Meanwhile, the Kerala government, which has added

marketing tourism, is all set to unleash two new campaigns, that will also highlight the benefits of houseboat holidays this year. 'The houseboat is like a

₹50 crore to its already exist-

vaccination. bubble offering a secluded,

ing ₹100 crore budget for

and safe," he says. To jump-start tourism, the Kerala government has declared tourism personnel in the frontline category, eligible for the first round of

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

No stage to perform, street artistes take up odd jobs

Lockdown has worsened what was already a difficult existence; they are now planning to set up an exclusive village

SHINJINI GHOSH

NEW DELHI A lack of recognition from the government and repeated lockdowns have led to several street performers of the Capital take up odd jobs sustain themselves. While the artistes - who were earlier residents of the Katputhli Colony - maintained that the scenario was bleak even before the pandemic, the various lockdowns have only deteriorat-

ed their lives Ishamudin Khan, a street magician who has performed across the globe, said that there were dedicated arenas for such performers elsewhere but in India they are treated as "beggars."

"The condition is terrible and the lockdown has only



Street performers Ishamudin Khan, Manoj Khan, Anil Khan and Riyakat at Narela on Friday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

increased their troubles. In the past 70 years, no institution has added our profession as fine arts or arts. In India we are called beggars. This is also why we were simply put under the EWS category. Where are the Ministries of culture, tourism,

social justice and empowerment? Several have been forced to become autorickshaw drivers or garbage collectors," said Ishamudin. Speaking at his Delhi De-

velopment Authority (DDA) allotted flat in Narela, Mr.

Ishamudin said: "I am a street performer and I have been placed in Narela. Where am I going to perform here? Simply allotting a flat does not solve the problem. I have generated revenue for the country and all I am asking is to give space for my work. All other major cities in the world have dedicated arenas while here there is nothing."

Own initiative

Mr. Ishamudin, who is dependent on aid from friends to sustain his family, said a group of such performers were also planning to acquire land in a tourist hub to set up a "magic village" to promote the art, in the absence of government assistance.

"Delhi-NCR has around

500 such families and we said: "Due to the pandemic aim to shift at least 200 faand restrictions, crowds are milies first. The village will no longer permitted in puhave food joint, handicraft, blic places. Even earlier there would be some resistraining and performance tance from authorities but centres, besides a magic museum. We are banking we would manage. But now on social media to help us there is absolutely nothing. raise funds. Some members I have started selling scrap are also ready to sell their in order to sustain my familand and contribute. We ly of nine and it is becoming will buy the land ourselves increasingly difficult." and approach the govern-Mr. Ishamudin, who had ment," said Mr. Ishamudin,

his last international performance in Rangoon in 2019, added: "Our art is still alive but things like the lockdown have forced people into different odd jobs, which can lead to the tribe dwindling. Other countries are trying to save these tribes but it is not so here. Both education and justice are very expensive in this



People taking a stroll during a spell of rain in the Capital on Friday

Thundershowers bring relief from soaring heat

Monsoon still far away, says IMD forecast

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

After a heatwave kept maximum temperatures at the hottest this year for over three days, a storm, accompanied by light rain, brought relief to several parts of the city in the evening.

The maximum temperature recorded on Friday was 41.3 degrees Celsius, which was five degrees above normal, and the minimum was recorded at 27.2 degrees Celsius, which was one notch below normal. On Thursday, the maximum temperature was 43.1 degrees Celsius, which was the highest in July since

As forecast by the Meteorological Department, relief from the soaring temperatures arrived in the evening. It said that conditions were still not favourable for the monsoon to advance over the city but light rain is forecast over the weekend.

"Prevailing meteorological conditions, large scale atmospheric features and the forecast wind pattern by dynamical models suggest that no favourable conditions are likely to develop for further advance of southwest monsoon into remaining parts of Rajasthan, West Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi and Punjab during next 5-6 days," the Meteorological Department said in a bulletin.

Light rain likely

The forecast for July 3 reads: "partly cloudy sky with light rain, thundershowers". The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to hover around 39-26 degrees Celsius respectively.

SIM card dealer arrested for forgery, cheating customers

Accused fudged Aadhaar card details

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A 27-year-old SIM card dealer was arrested from south Delhi in connection with a forgery and cheating case, police said on Friday. The accused has been identified as Naushad Khan, a resident of Tughlakabad Extension, they said.

According to police, one Rohan, a resident of Dakshinpuri, lodged a complaint saying that someone has got a SIM card issued in his name fraudulently by using his Aadhaar card. He aiso said that he was not using the SIM.

During investigation, it was revealed that only half of the Aadhaar card details attached with the SIM card application form belonged to Rohan whereas the other half belonged to someone else, the police said.

Police nabbed the vendor Naushad Khan who said that he had issued the SIM card to Rohan, while also registering another SIM issued in the complainant's name without his knowledge, a senior police officer said. Khan had deliberately changed parts of Rohan's Aadhaar card information, pol-



The accused Naushad Khan in police custody. • SPECIAL

ice said.

He has further confirmed that he was issuing the SIM card in the name of another agent Amit, who had closed his agency and surrendered it to the company, but on official records showed that it did not cease functioning. He has also said that he had issued several such SIMs in other persons' name without their knowledge,

the officer said. Khan sold these SIMs to one person from Sangam Vihar who used to sell them to alleged group of cheaters, police said, adding that further investigation is under way.

61-yr-old man kills wife before ending life in Vasant Kunj

Weapon of offence not found: police

STAFF REPORTER

A 61-year-old man allegedly killed his wife and then ended his life in South West Delhi's Vasant Kunj apparently after a heated argument, police said on Friday. No note has been recovered from the spot, the police said.

According to them, a heated argument broke out between Jahid Ali and 53-year-old Nazneen on Thursday evening, following which the husband allegedly hit the wife on her head with a blunt object and killed her. He then allegedly ended his life, the police said.

The couple's 16-year-old son, a Class 12 student, told a neigbhour about the incident who then informed the police, a senior officer said.

No note found

पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, लातेहार

"We got a PCR call around 7.25 p.m. on Thursday. Preliminary investigation suggested that the man killed his wife and later killed himself. But no note was recovered from the spot. The The couple used to fight often. But the exact reason for their quarrel on the day of the incident is being investigated. The bodies will be handed over after a post-mortem

DCP (SOUTH WEST) Ingit Pratap Singh

couple used to fight often. But the exact reason for their quarrel on the day of the incident is being investigated," Deputy Commissioner of Police (South West) Ingit Pratap Singh said.

The weapon of offence has not been found yet, the DCP added. The bodies will be handed over after a post-mortem and legal action will be initiated based on its report, he said.

Nazneen had a few years ago lodged a case of domestic violence against her husband in a court, police said.

Suicide prevention helpline: Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health, 011-4076 9002, Monday-Saturday (10 a.m.-7.30 p.m.

A ND-NDE

shelter home on the third floor of the building. Two of them sustained injuries and 10 succeeded in esare conducting

who escaped from shelter home

Search on to trace 10 women

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Delhi Police on Friday said search operations to trace 10 women who had escaped from a shelter home in Dwarka here over a month ago.

According to police, 12 women were rescued from a kotha on GB Road by a team from Kamla Market police station on March 13. A case was registered and all the women were kept under a shelter home in Dwarka based on directions of the Child Welfare Committee (East).

DCP (Dwarka) Santosh Kumar Meena said: "On May 24, all 12 women escaped by breaking an exhaust fan hole from the caping. In this incident, a case of kidnapping under Section 363 of Indian Penal Code has been registered at Sector 23, Dwarka police station. For the purpose of searching these girls, an advertisement has been published in newspapers," the DCP added.

Wrong information

The advertisement in English dailies erroneously referred to them as residents of a children's home run by DMRC.

The DMRC clarified that the children's home run by the organisation houses only boys. "An advertisement has been issued by Delhi Police regarding the kidnapping of 10 girls allegedly from DMRC children home in Tis Hazari. This is to clarify that the children home run by Salaam Balaak Trust only accommodates boys and no girls stay there. Therefore, DMRC's children home has no connection whatsoever with this incident

All the women are in

(sic)," it said.

the age group of 20-26, police said. The two women, who sustained injuries, told police that they were not under any pressure from anyone but tried to flee as they did not wish to stay at the shelter home, a senior police of-

his debt, they said. With the money, the couple also had plans to settle somewhere else, the police said. The matter came to the notice on June 29 when the man's father approached Aman Vihar police stating that his son had gone to Rohini to attend his friend's birthday party on June 25 and has been missing since then, the police said.

ship with his colleague's wife.

He was in debt and when he

could not pay the dues, he

plotted his kidnapping along

with the woman to get rid of

The man had taken money on interest

adding that the village will

be set up either in Chandi-

Khan had travelled to diffe-

rent cities across the coun-

try in the last 30 years but

now makes a living by sell-

street performer who is sell-

ing scrap to make a living,

Riyakat Ali, another

Ghaziabad resident Anil

garh or Jaipur.

ing scrap.

Man tries to extort ₹25L from

father by staging kidnapping

He wanted to pay off debts; was traced to Rishikesh

STAFF REPORTER and spent it for fun A 28-year-old man was traced to Rishikesh where he went and enjoyment. He into hiding after staging his could not repay the kidnapping in conspiracy loan amount and with a woman to extort ₹25 took another loan to lakh from his father to get rid pay back his of his debts, police said on previous dues

DCP (ROHINI) Pranav Tayal The man works as a supervisor at a company based in Panipat and was in a relation-

During preliminary inquiry, it was found that the man was last seen in Sector 22, Rohini in a hotel. A case was registered under Section 365 (kidnapping or abducting with intent secretly and wrongfully to confine person) of the IPC, said Pranav Tayal, DCP (Rohini).

"During investigation, it transpired that a woman contacted the victim's parents on June 28 and stated that their son is in a debt trap and he needs ₹25 lakh immediately to settle his debts. She also gave

rent persons in which the demanded amount was to be transferred," he said. With the assistance of tech-

nical surveillance and manual efforts, the woman was finally tracked down to a village near Tundala in Agra and during interrogation, she disclosed that the victim was in Rishikesh and she was in constant touch with him on another mobile number, the officer

A team was rushed to Rishikesh from where the 'missing man' was traced and then brought to Delhi, he said.

"During interrogation, it was revealed that the man had taken money on interest and spent it for fun and enjoyment. He could not repay the loan amount and took another loan to pay back his previous dues, but it did not work as planned and the total loan amount rose to ₹25 lakh, which was beyond his paying capacity," Mr. Tayal said.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING

JAL SHAKTI, DIVISION SOPORE

ender document for:- E-NIT NO: 22/PHE/Spr of 06-2021 Dated: - 30/06/2021

1. Name of Works: Retrofitting of water supply scheme Gasigund Mustafabad for providing 100% FHTC for village Ganastan and Gund Khalil by way of design, construction of 0.30 lac gallons capacity OHT exploration of production well incld. boring and testing, Chowkidar Quarter, Chain Link fenincing / providing aying / fitting of pipes and allied works / electro mechanical components for W.S.Scheme Gassigund Westefshed in the literature of the provided in the pr pad, including operation & maintenance for a period of 05 years

Bid Security deceleration to be submitted by all bidders, who wish to participate as per circular No A/MISC(20180-III-895/J dated: 22-12-2020. Issued by finance departr

Completion Period:-09Mo

4. Bidding Document Fee:-Rs 3500/= Retrofitting of water supply scheme for providing 100% FHTC for village Gund Khalil &Ganasthan b way of design, construction of 0.35 lac gallons capacity OHT, exploration of production well incld. boring an esting, Chowkidar Quarter, Chain Link fenincing / providing / laying/fitting of pipes and allied works/electr nechanical components for W.S.Scheme Gund Khalil Ganasthan.including operation & maintenance for

Advertised cost of Work:-Rs 438.00 lacs Bid Security deceleration to be submitted by all bidders, who wish to participate as per circular No A/MISC(20180-III-895/J dated: 22-12-2020. Issued by finance department.

Completion Period: -03 Months

Bidding Document Fee:-Rs.3500/= . The Bidding documents consisting of eligibility criteria, specification, bill of quantities (B.O.Q) set of tern k conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the e-procurement Porta http://www.jktenders.gov.in" and also on departmental website "www.kashmirphe.com" as per schedule c

01 Date of Publishing of Tender Notice 30/06/2021 02 Date of downloading of bidding documents 01/07/2021 03 Last date of submission bid Queries 01/07/2021 04 Bid submission start date 05 Bid Submission end date 23/07/2021 06 Date & time of opening Bids (Technical Cover) 24/07/2021 or and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT of Jammu & Kashmir

Notice inviting e-Tender

E-NIT NO: 22/PHE/Spr of 06-2021 Dated: - 30/ 06/2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT of J&K e-tenders(Two cover System)on composite tender Basis are invited including the maintenance cost for a period of 05 years from reputed and resourcef relevant Class of contractors/Firms/companies/joint venture of repute, which should be uploaded on th Procurement-web portal http://www.iktenders.gov.in up to last bidding date 23/07/2021 up to 04:00 PM fo Procurement—were portain mice./www.yikenders.gov.ni up to last bidding date 23/07/2021 up to 04:00 PM the subjected work referred below to be received by the Superintending Engineer PM.C. Circle Sopore and as per the details mentioned 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 detailed tender document and Specifications etc.can be downloaded on the e-procurement Portal http://www.jktlenders.gov.in. The cost of tender documents (Non-refundable / Non-Transferable) should bein the shape of e-Challan or Treasur. Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Division Sopore

S. No.	Name of Work	Tendered Cost including all Taxes (Rs in lacs.)	ment s.)	Deposit s.)	etion	=	ate of enders ical Bid)	ntrator
140.		Construction Part Civil +Mech (Quotable)	Cost of document (Rs in lacs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs in Lacs.)	Time of completion	Tender Call	Time and Date of opening of tenders online (Technical Bid)	Class of Contrator
1	Retrofitting of water supply scheme Gasigund Mustafabad for providing 100 percent FHTC for village Ganastan and Gund Khalil by way of design, construction of 0.30 lac gallons capacity OHT, exploration of production well incld. boring and testing, Chowkidar Quarter, Chain Link fenincing / providing / laying / fitting of pipes and alliel works / electro mechanical components for W.S.Scheme Gassigund Mustafabad. Including operation & maintenance for a period of 05 years.	₹ 414.68 lacs	Rs 3500/ (Favoring Executive Engineer PHE Division Sopore under MH 0215)	Bid Security deceleration to be submitted by all bidders,	Months	1st	21(11:00	"Ayy Class - Reputed and resourceful Contractors Firms/ Companies, Joint Venture of repute
2	Retrofitting of water supply scheme for providing 100 percent FHTC for village Gund Khalil & Ganasthan by way of design, construction of 0.35 lac gallons capacity OHT, exploration of production well incl. boring and testing, Chowkidar Quarter, Chain Link fenincing / providing / laying / fitting of pipes and allied works/electro mechanical components for W.S.Scheme Gund Khalil Ganasthan. Including operation & maintenance for a period of 05 years.	₹ 438.00 lacs	Rs 3500/ (Favoring Executive Engineer PHE Division Sopore under MH 0215)	instead of earnest money as per standing orders who wish to participate	N 60		24/07/2021(11:00	in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Government

JJM. Head of Account Position of funds Available Position of AAA Accorded

18.0: The successful bidder (L1), after issuance of allotment for these works shall have to start the work of exploration of production well & only after its successful completion with discharge as per requirement. esting/quality of water fit for human consumption to be certified by the competent authority, execution on th other components of the project/scheme shall have to be started.

'Er, GR Leharwa

Division SOPORE

Executive Engineer PHI

For and on behalf of theLt. Governorof UT of Jammu & Kashmir

DIPK-3862/21

Office of the Executive Engineer Drinking Water & Sanitation Division No-2, Dumka.

e-Procurement Notice E-Tender reference no. - DWSD/ DUMKA-2/02/2021-22 Date - 01.07.2021 Date- UI.UI.ZUZI
Detailed survey, designing and drawing, Construction of R.C.C. Intake Well cum Pump House, Infiltration Gallery, R.C.C. Gangway 50 M long and 3.00 M wide, 3.20 MLD capacity Unconventional Water Treatment Plant, RCC Elevated Service Reservoir for Zone-1 Capacity-165 Kilo Litre with staging- 21M, Zone-2 Capacity-192 kilo Litre with staging-21M, Zone-3 Capacity-265 kilo Litre with staging-18 M and Zone-4 Capacity-230 kilo Litre with staging-21M, Staff Quarter, Compound wall, Supplying and laying Raw and Clear Water rising main and Distribution Network, House Connection, Supplying and Installation of VT and Centrifucal pump motor and Five years Name of the Work and Installation of VT and Centrifugal pump motor and Five years operation & maintenance with allied works etc. all complete job for Jargari, Bara Dumriya, Baskidih and adjoining village Rural pipe Water Supply Scheme under D.W. & S. Division Dumka-2 on turnke 2760.04000 Lakh 2 Estimated Cost 3 Earnest Money 4 Cost of BOQ 24 Months + 3 months (trial and run) 6 Tender on Web site 22.07.2021 / 11:30 AM held on Office of the EIC, Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, Jharkhand, Ranchi
30.07.2021 / 5:00 PM Date & Place of pre bid meeting 7

8 Last date /Time for receipt of Bid
Last date of submission of Earnest
Money (Bank Guarantee/T.D. Pass
9 Book/N.S.C) and cost of B.O.Q.

10 Date of opening of Tender
Name & address of office inviting 31.07.2021 / 04:00 PM 31.07.2021 / 05:00 PM xecutive Engineer, Drinking Water & Sanitation Division No-2 Dumka, tender
Name & address of harkhand executive Engineer, Drinking Water & Sanitation Division No-2 Dumka. Opening officer
Contact no of Procurement office harkhand Helpline no of e- procurement cell

(Upendra Kumar Mandal) Executive Engineer D.W. & S. Division No. 02, Dumka PR 248871 (Drinking Water and Sanitation) 21-22 (D) कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय,पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल लातेहार

Note :- As per BOQ Estimated Cost may be decrease or increase Further details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

PR 248909 Drinking Water and Sanitation(21-22)#D

		क्योरमेंट निविदा सूचना <u>,</u> (1st	
	निविदा सूचना संख्या— DWSD/N	IETARHAT/WSS-02/2021-22	दिनांक —01.07.2021
क्र0 सं0	कार्य का नाम	केन्द्र प्रायोजित योजना 'जल जीव Detailed survey, designing and drawing, (intake well cum pump house, Gangway 183 MLD capacity Unconventional Water Trr Supplying and laying Raw/Clear water ri Network, Supplying and installation of VT years operation & maintenance with alli Netarhat & Adjoining Village Rural Pipe W Water & Sanitation Division, Latchar on t	Construction of 5.0 M. dia R.C.C. mtr. length and 3.00 mtr. wide, 1.5 eatment Plant,, Compound Wall, sing main and Laying Distribution and Centrifugal pump motor, Five ed works etc. all complete job for fater Supply Scheme under Drinking
1	प्राक्कलित राशि (लाख में)	901.80116 लाख (नौ करोड़ एक लाख	अस्सी हजार एक सौ सोलह) मात्र।
2	अग्रधन की राशि (लाख में)	9.018 लाख (नौ लाख एक हर	जार आठ सौ रू0) मात्र।
3	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	10,000/- (दस हजा	र रूपये मात्र)
4	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	24 (चौबीस) महीना + 03 (तीन)	महीना Trial & Run.
5	वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि एवं समय	09/07/2021 / 4.30 ৰ	जे अपराहन तक।
6	प्री बीड मिटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान	23/07/2021 / 12.30 बजे अपराहन में अभियंता झारखंड, रांग	
7	बीड प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	30/07/2021 /05.00 व	वजे अपराहन तक।
8	अग्रधन की राशि एवं परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य जमा करने की तिथि एवं समय	31/07/2021 /05.00 बजे अपराहन तक :- (1) क्षेत्रीय मुख्य अभियंता, पेयजल एवं रचच्छता, विभाग र (2) अधीक्षण अभियंता, पेयजल एवं रचच्छता अंचल, मेदिनें (3) कार्यपालक अभियंता, पेयजल एवं स्वा प्रमंडल कार्याल	नगर।
9	निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	02/08/2021 /02.00	बजे अपराहन में।
10	निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी के कार्यालय का पता	कार्यपालक अभियंता, पेयजल एवं र	चच्छता प्रमंडल, लातेहार।
11	निविदा खोलने वाले पदाधिकारी के कार्यालय का पता	कार्यपालक अभियंता, पेयजल एवं र	चच्छता प्रमंडल, लातेहार।
12	प्रोक्योरमेन्ट पदाधिकारी का सम्पर्क नं0	94307256	642
13	ई—प्रोक्योरमेन्ट सेल का हेल्पलाईन नं0	0651-2490	920

DELHI SATURDAY, JUL. 03 RISE 05:28 SET 19:24

RISE 00:53 SET 13:40 SUNDAY, JUL. 04 RISE 05:29 SET 19:24 RISE 01:23 SET 14:32

MONDAY, JUL. 05 RISE 05:29 SET 19:23 RISE 01:53 SET 15:26

Delhi Weather max mir Delhi City 27 Safdarjang

Delhi Palam Today

41°C Duststorm and thunderstorm with light rain may occur during early morning. A hot day with partly cloudy sky.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 42°C Day remain hot with

partly cloudy sky and light winds. Chances of thunder clouds development at some

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STAFF REPORTER

2021-22 on July 5.

The Delhi High Court on Fri-

day posted the hearing on a

petition by liquor traders' as-

sociation seeking direction to

the AAP government to make

public the new excise policy

Justice C. Hari Shankar

said: "At request of counsel

for petitioner, renotify before the roster bench on Monday"

when the High Court will reo-

pen after the summer

The Delhi Liquor Traders'

Association has sought direc-

tion to the Delhi government

to make public the new excise

policy for the year 2021-22,

which was approved in June.

AUD student

'derogatory'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

A final-vear student of Am-

bedkar University here has

been fined ₹5,000 for al-

legedly posting "distasteful

remarks" online against

Chief Minister Arvind Kej-

riwal during the annual

convocation held in De-

The university's convocation was held on Decem-

ber 23 last year with Mr.

Kejriwal as the chief guest.

iversity said people had

joined its ninth convoca-

tion on YouTube. During

the programme, the stu-

dent started disrupting it

using the YouTube chat

by the student were dero-

gatory/slur/distasteful. The

convocation is the most

auspicious programme in

the academic cycle of any student. The conduct...

was unbecoming of a stu-

dent and was against the

values for which Dr. B R

University

"The comments made

In a statement, the un-

cember last.

room, it said.

Ambedkar

fined for

remarks

The petition said on June

NEW DELHI

10 tested COVID positive every hour in June, 62% were men

As per govt. records, 7,804 individuals contracted the virus last month

JATIN ANAND

Six in every 10 people who tested positive for COVID-19 in the Capital last month were male while almost a third of the total men having contracted the virus during the period was aged between 30 and 60 years, according to the Delhi government records.

Over 10 people tested positive for COVID-19 every hour with as many as 7,804 individuals contracting the infection from June 1 to June 30. Of these, 4,873 or 62.44% were males.

Accounting for 1,627 of the total cases, around 21% of the male patients fell in the 14 to 30 age group, followed by patients from the 60-plus and below 14 years categories constituting a little over 9% (713) and slightly over 2% (165), respectively.

In June, four out of five patients - irrespective of

At request of

C. HARI SHANKAR

counsel for

petitioner, renotify

before the roster

bench on Monday

when the HC will

reopen after the

es for the 2021-22 through e-

tendering process in the form

of L-7Z/L-7V for sale of Indian

and Foreign Liquor (except

country liquor) in the Capital

on the basis of the new poli-

cy. It said despite floating the

tender publicly on the basis

Hustle the way

summer vacations



SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

gender – were found to be aged between 14 and 60

Every second patient second patient among them was male and fell in the 14 to 60 age group

with the gender accounting

for over 51% of the total in-

fections in this category. According to statistics, 1,318 female patients fell in the 30 to 60 age group and 1,019 in the 14 to 30 catego-

of approved new excise poli-

cy 2021-22 for Delhi, the poli-

cy is yet to be made public or

available on the Internet/ or

government's website and as

per the schedule of the ten-

ry. Those found infected in the 60-plus category accounted for 465 and female patients below 14 for 129.

The category with the maximum number of infections -30 to 60 years - saw the most cases at 596, being reported from the southwest district followed by 567 from New Delhi and 530 cases from the south district. The north-east district reported the least number of infections in this

category - 89. In the 14 to 30 age group, the most number of infections, 447, were reported from the south district followed by 396 from the south-west and 364 from the New Delhi district.

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH

The Delhi High Court has

restrained the Centre from

taking any coercive steps

against an NGO that was un-

able to submit its annual re-

turn due to discrepancy in

the new form prescribed for

"The citizen cannot be

penalised for a discrepancy

in the form prescribed by

the respondent [Centre],

which has resulted in the

form being unable to be sub-

mitted even in the case of a

law abiding citizen," said Jus-

on a petition by Arbor Char-

itable Foundation, an NGO,

which receives foreign con-

tributions in accordance

with the protocol set out in

the Foreign Contribution

(FCRA). The NGO's grie-

vance arises out of the pecu-

liarities in the new FC-4

form, in which returns, re-

garding foreign contribu-

tions received by it are re-

Section 18 of the FCRA re-

quires the beneficiary of the

foreign contribution to file

an intimation before the

Central government regard-

ing the contributions re-

ceived. The process for filing

said intimation is set out in

Rule 17 of the Foreign Contri-

butions Regulations Rules,

These rules were amend-

ed with effect from Septem-

ber 28, 2020. By the amend-

ment, the earlier Form FC-6,

quired to be filed.

The rules

Act,

The court's order came

tice C. Hari Shankar.

Regulation

NEW DELHI

declaring

contributions.

The north-east district reported the least number of infections, 75, in this category as well.

With 216, 148 and 140 cases, the highest incidence of infection among the 60plus age group was reported from the south-west, west, and New Delhi districts as the north-east district accounted for 19 cases.

The south-west, New Delhi, and north districts, with 44, 43, 36 cases, respectively, reported the maximum number of infections among those aged below 14 years; at 12, the north-east district reported the least number of infections in this

City sees 93 new COVID cases with two deaths

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Capital on Friday reported 93 new COVID-19 cases and two deaths in 24 hours, taking the total number of cases to 14,34,374 and total fatalities to 24,983.

The health bulletin issued by the Delhi government said 73,565 tests were conducted with a positivity rate of 0.13%. There are currently 1,041 active cases in the city, of which, 313 are under home isolation.

Providing figures on number of people vaccinated on Thursday, the bulletin said 1,57,728 beneficiaries have been vaccinated in



People at a vaccination centre in north Delhi on Friday. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

24 hours, of which, 1,25,769 received their first dose. So far, 80,57,875 beneficiaries have been vaccinated out of which, 18,37,720 have received both doses.

Court to hear traders' plea to make new excise policy public on July 5

Over 1.5 lakh vaccinated in 24 hours

der, the last date for the prebid queries is July 5.

Pre-bid meeting The plea said while the prebid meeting is scheduled to 28, the government floated be held on July 6, and the tender inviting e-bids for submission of the e-bid is betgrant of 32 zonal retail licens-

ween July 12 to 20. In order to prepare financially viable and attractive ebids for the tender, it is necessary that the approved new policy should be made available to all prospective stakeholders and public in general,

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

A Delhi court on Friday adjourned for nearly a month the order on whether to put Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on trial in a case related to his wife Sunanda Pushkar's death in a luxury hotel

Goel, who was scheduled to pronounce order framing of charges against Mr. Tharoor, adjourned the matter for July 27 after the prosecution sought a week's time to file written submissions.

prosecution seeking one plied to the counsels of the is allowed. Put up for orders/ arguments if any, on July 27," the judge said in

The court had earlier adjourned the matter for July 2 in view of the ongoing pandemic.

Delhi court adjourns order

been received on behalf of week's time to file written submissions. Copy be supaccused. The application the order.

for a month on Tharoor's trial

Special Judge Geetanjli

The Delhi government on "An application has

is no substitute for hard work. You will face hardships, especially in the initial years. Think of the long term and keep persevering-...Dream big, start small is a mantra I have followed, and

Deputy CM Manish Siso-

2020, the requirement of the account under the FCRA/FCR rules being in the SBI, New Delhi was introduced only in September, 2020 and the specific branch of the bank was notified only on October 7, 2020.

The NGO's accounts where foreign contributions were received were not in the SBI, till October 7, 2020. As a result, the NGO submitted that it has "become impossible" for it to submit the return under FC-4 form for the year 2019-2020.

The NGO submitted that though it made a representation to the Central government on June 15, this year the problem continues.

"The difficulty being faced by the petitioners [NGO] appears, prima facie, to be genuine," the court

"Till the next date of hearing, the respondent (Centre) is restrained from taking any coercive action against the petitioner for failure to file the requisite return under the FC-4 form before 30th June, 2021," the High Court ordered.

The court also dismissed the submission made by the Centre's counsel that the NGO can submit its return even after June 30, 2021, with appropriate penalty. "It [this order] would open a pandora's box. Number of associations will come like this," the Centre's counsel argued.

"You said it will open Pandora's box. What was there in Pandora's box?," Justice Shankar asked while rejecting the plea.

BJP protests outside Delhi Secretariat, seeks Transport Minister's dismissal

Can't act against NGO for not

submitting returns, Centre told

'Citizen can't be penalised for discrepancy in form by Centre'

The difficulty being

petitioners [NGO]

facie, to be genuine

appears, prima

in which the intimation/ re-

turn was required to be sub-

mitted by the beneficiary of

the contributions, was re-

to be accompanied by a copy

of the statement of account

of the beneficiary from the

bank in which the benefici-

ary maintains the requisite

exclusive Foreign Contribu-

tion Account, and is also re-

quired to be certified by an

In September last year,

the Centre made it mandato-

ry for all NGOs to receive fo-

reign contributions only at

the New Delhi Main Branch

of the State Bank of India

(SBI). Prior to this there was

no requirement of the FCR

The NGO submitted that this

has resulted in a peculiar sit-

uation in which, though

March, 31, 2020 would be

the relevant date for filing of

the return for the year 2019-

account being in SBI.

A peculiar situation

officer of the bank.

The FC-4 form is required

placed by an FC-4 form.

faced by the

It says CM must take responsibility for 'financial discrepancies' + wards the Secretariat raising

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The State unit of the BJP on Friday protested against what it termed the "bus purchase scam" at the Delhi Secretariat, demanding the dismissal of Transport Minister Kailash

Demanding that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal take responsibility for alleged financial discrepancies related to the procurement of 1,000 low-floor buses, protesters assembled at Rajghat from where they proceeded to-

anti-Kejriwal slogans. "The matter was raised in State Assembly also. The go-

vernment had no satisfactory reply to allegations leveled by Viiender Gupta. It was after this that the BJP legislative arty took up the matter with the Lieutenant Governor asking for a probe," said Leader of Opposition Ramvir Singh Bidhuri.

BJP Rohini MLA Vijender Gupta said buses normally had a three-year guarantee and so there was no need to have a contract with any privcompany maintenance.

"More money is being spent on maintenance than their purchase value. In other words, ₹900 crore for 1,000 buses and ₹3,500 crore a year," Mr. Gupta alleged. "While ₹900 crore was

spent on the buses' purchase, a whopping ₹5,000 will be spent on maintenance, which is a big scam. Hence, the dismissal of the Transport Minister is a must," Mr. Gupta also

Govt. holds interactive session for students with entrepreneur

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Friday organised an interactive session as a part of its Entrepreneurship Mindset Curriculum (EMC) with Sanieev Bikhchandani - founder of Info Edge India Ltd. – the company that owns Naukri.com.

Mr. Bikhchandani told students those successful businesses are built on deep customer insights and that they must study customer behaviour when they want to set up a business. "There it really helped me."

dia speaking about the EMC and the government's initiative to give seed money to students with entrepreneurial ideas said the students would be given ownership of the profit from their venture, and the government would bear the losses if any.

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

Govt. celebrates third anniversary of Happiness Curriculum

Students told Sisodia how the programme helped them perform better in academic activities

Women carry bundles of firewood over their head on a hot summer afternoon in Delhi.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI The Delhi government on Friday celebrated "Happiness Utsav" to mark the third anniversary of the Happiness Curriculum. Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said the Happiness Curriculum has brought about a change in the lives of children, their families and also teachers.

"If there has been any significant change amongst the children due to the Happiness Classes in just 2-3 years, in the coming 10 years, the children will adopt happiness in their life fully and it will grow to become an important component of their everyday life. These are the real happiness agents and will bring a sea change in the society," Mr. Sisodia

said. Happiness Curriculum was launched in July 2018 by the Dalai Lama and has been running in all the classes from Nursery to 8th standard in the Delhi governIn an interaction with Mr.

Sisodia, students shared how the curriculum had helped them become closer to their family, reduce stress and perform better in academic activities. Students also shared how they had encouraged their family members to practice mind-

fulness "Lakhs of children have practiced mindfulness and other activities learned in the Happiness Classes in their homes with parents and siblings during the pandemic. This has led to people feeling happier and stress-free even during difficult times," Mr. Sisodia ad-

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Leopard kills man in Pauri

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA PAURI (UTTARAKHAND)

A 28-year-old man was killed by a leopard in Uttarakhand's Pauri, officials

Prithvi Chand of Dwarikhal was attacked on Thursday when he had gone to the fields to graze his cattle, Re-

venue Officer Kunwar Prakash said. Villagers began looking for him when he did not return, he said. The man's partially eaten body was recovered around 9.30 p.m., he said. A trap has been set to capture the big cat, DFO, Garhwal range, Mukesh Kumar said.

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CANCELLATION NOTICE

The e-NIT invited vide this office e-NIT No.SE/Proc/02/2021-22 for Purchase of EHV Grade Transformer Oil is hereby cancelled.

NIT No. Tender ID

Description of Material

SE/Proc/02/2021-22 2021_PDD_122746_1 Purchase of EHV Grade Transformer Oil

Superintending Engineer (Procurement) P&P Wing, KPDCL DIP/K-NB-1498/21



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Tilhan Sangh Bhawan, O1 Arera Hills, Bhopal Phone: 0755-2578915, URL: www.mpphscl.in Dated: 02.07.2021

TENDER NOTICE

Tenders for rate contracts of following items/Services shall be floated on websites from today to next 30 working days

Online Tender Ref. No. T-209/OXYGEN GENERATION PLANT (300 LPM)/2021/uploaded on 24.06.2021 (Portal & Website)

2- Tender(s) for Various Drugs

bidders requested to visit Prospective are www.mptenders.gov.in/www.mpphscl.in for further details CGM (TECHNICAL) M.P. Madhyam/101186/2021







Government of Jharkhand Department of Health, Medical Education & Family Welfare Namkum, Ranchi.
Phone No: 0651-2261000, 2261856 &2261002 Phone No: 0651-2261000, 2261630 @22-00 Mail ID: procurementjrhms@gmail.com

e-Procurement Tender Notice

Tender Notice No.: NHM/NAM/26/2021 Date: 30.06.2021 Mission Director, Jharkhand Rural Health Mission Society, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Jharkhand Namkum, Ranchi, invites e-Tender from eligible bidders for **providing**

the technical support for Comprehensive 5 days IUCD Training. Blank tender documents with detailed conditions can be obtained through websitehttp://jharkhandtenders.gov.in and bid should be submitted through e-procurement system only. Hard copies of technical bid and financial bid will not be entertained without detail proposal for technical support of IUCD, Tender Fee &Earnest Money Deposit (EMD).

Sr.No.	Particulars	Details
1	Name of the work	Providing the technical support for Comprehensive 5 days IUCD Training.
2	Date of Publication of Tender on website	02.07.2021
3	Date / time for receipt of bids on website	12.07.2021 To 20.07.2021 UP TO 01:00 PM
4	Date/Time for opening of Technical bid	21.07.2021 at 01.00 pm
5	Tender Document Fee (Non-refundable)	2000 (Two Thousand Rupees)
6	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	2,00,000 (Two Lakhs)
7	Contact Number	9199969106/9110943588/9065527516

Note: The specified dates and time may change due to abrupt declaration of holidays or any other unforeseen circumstances. The

same shall be informed through web-portal as and when required. PR 248866 Jharkhand Rural Procurement Incharge, JRHMS Health Mission Society(21-22)#D



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Akali Dal stages protests against Punjab govt. over power crisis

Party demands financial package for paddy farmers, reduction in VAT on diesel

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHANDIGARH

The Shiromani Akali Dal workers on Friday held demonstrations at several places in Punjab against the ongoing power crisis, blaming the Congress government for the same, which has badly hit farmers, domestic consumers and the industry as

The demonstrations were held outside the offices of the Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) in many districts.

Plans to 'gherao' CM

The Akali Dal demanded an immediate financial package for paddy farmers who were forced to use diesel generators, besides demanding an immediate reduction in VAT on diesel by the State go-

MOHAMMED IOBAL

Rajasthan is taking a big step

in vocational education dur-

ing the pandemic by intro-

ducing vocational classes be-

ginning from Class 6 in

schools as part of the new

education policy of 2020.

The State has also improved

its ranking in the perfor-

mance grading index in

Chief Secretary Niranjan

Arya said here on Friday that

the vocational education

school education.



Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal during a protest outside the PSPCL office in Fazilka on Friday. • PTI

vernment.

The party said if these corrective measures were not taken along with restoration of regular supply of power to farmers as well as the domestic and industrial

vocational education in schools

would aim at inculcating at

least one skill in each stu-

dent. The anganwadi

centres would be connected

with the schools and pre-

primary facility started in

the Mahatma Gandhi En-

glish Medium Schools at all

the 33 district headquarters

tional education were dis-

cussed at the first meeting of

the steering committee on

the implementation of the

new education policy here.

The modalities for voca-

in the State, he said.

Rajasthan takes a big step in

Introduces training in one skill beginning from Class 6

'gherao' the Chief Minister and the Ministers in the next phase of its agitation.

SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal held Chief Minister Amarinder Singh solely responsible for the plight

The increase in the enrol-

ment of students in Sirohi

district by 12% during the

pandemic, which is higher

than the national average of

9%, was cited as an example

of the State's good perfor-

Mr. Arya said the task

forces headed by Collectors

in all the districts would re-

view and implement the

new education policy and

formulate the plans for ex-

tending benefits to all stu-

mance in education.

gress government does not want to provide free power to the farmers, and this is the reason why it is not supplying power when it is needed the most."

'No maintenance'

Mr. Badal alleged the government did not make any attempt to ensure timely maintenance of thermal plants which had led to the closure of the Bathinda plant as well as the shut down of one unit of the Talwandi Sabo plant.

Former Minister Bikram Singh Majithia said instead of resolving the crisis, which had hit the State in the form of a power emergency, the Chief Minister was busy hosting five star luncheon meetings for the Congress

Amarinder has failed in governing Punjab: AAP

'PPAs should have been cancelled'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Aam Aadmi Party Lok Sabha MP and Punjab State president Bhagwant Mann on Friday said the State government's decision of imposing power regulatory measures on industries amid the ongoing power crisis reflects that Chief Minister Amarinder Singh has completely failed in governing the State, for which he should take moral responsibility.

Mr. Mann said the party worker and leaders will on July 3 stage a demonstration outside the residence of the Chief Minister at Siswan. "Farmers are suffering the most as in absence of electricity, tubewells are not working, hampering paddy sowing. The power purchase agreements signed by the previous SAD-BIP government with the private thermal plants and non-can-

cellation of these agreements by the present government are the key reason behind the power crisis," he said at a press conference here.

'Exchequer robbed'

Mr. Mann alleged that so far around ₹20,000 crore had been paid to the private companies by fixed charge, which is nothing short of looting the exchequer of the State. "The Congress had backstabbed the people of Punjab by not cancelling the PPAs," he said.

Mr. Mann said after AAP forms the government in Punjab, a new power model would be implemented. "We will investigate PPAs with private thermal plants and, if necessary, will cancel them. Strict action will be taken against officials who made the wrong agree-

BJD, BJP spar over farmers' issues

Both parties prepare for the panchayat elections in 2022

SATYASUNDAR BARIK

BHUBANESWAR Farmers' issues took the centrestage with the ruling Biju Janata Dal and the Bharatiya Janata Party getting ready to face the panchayat elections scheduled in 2022.

While releasing COVID-19 assistance of ₹386 crore for landless farmers under the Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) here on Wednesday, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced that his government would continue to help landless farmers till recommendations of M.S. Swaminathan Committee were not imple-

According to a statement issued by the CMO, landless farmers have been provided ₹1.000 in addition to their usual assistance under the Kalia scheme. This will benefit 18 lakh families.

'Nucleus of economy' Terming the agricultural labourers as the nucleus of the economy, Mr. Patnaik said his government recognised their sacrifice. "We have continued our fight for the protection of the rights of the landless farmers. I have always demanded implementation of recommendations of the M.S. Swaminathan Committee. Till these are not implemented, the party will support them," he said. The State BJP criticised

the government saying despite repeated demands by the party, full list of Kalia beneficiaries was not made public. "When and how did the State government identify 18 lakh landless farmers? There has been no basis of the identification of the landless farmers. The government released huge funds to please the BJD cadres," alleged BJP spokesperson Golaka Moha-

4,000-year-old settlement found during excavation in Odisha

Archaeologists find distinct traces of three cultural phases at the site

SATYASUNDAR BARIK BHIIBANESWAR

The Odisha Institute of Maritime and South East Asian Studies (OIMSEAS), the archaeological wing of the State government, has discovered a 4,000-year-old settlement and ancient artifacts in Balasore district.

After getting traces of fortified early historic sites near Balasore town, the OIMSEAS had sought permission from the Archaeological Survey of

India (ASI) to document Durgadevi village in Remuna Tehsil. According to the ASI. the site has circular mud fortification of about 4.9 kms, in between the river Sona on south and the Burahabalang on its north-eastern borders.

Interestingly, the archaeologists have come across distinct traces of three cultural phases – Chalcolithic (2000 to 1000 BC.), Iron Age (1000 to 400 BC) and Early Historic Period (400 to 200 BC) -



An early historic site near Balasore town. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

from the excavation site. "Two small nullahs Gan-

gahara and Prassana join the site on its north and south forming a natural moat

which was an ancient water management system developed at least 4,000 years ago," the institute said.

The archaeologists have

ment and artifacts belonging to the Chalcolithic period. "The major discovery was the base of a circular hut, black on red painted pottery, black slipped ware, red slipped ware and copper objects. The floor of the circular hut was rammed with red soil," OIMSEAS secretary and archaeologist Sunil Kumar Pattnaik said. "The people were mostly leading settled life and had started agriculture, domestication of animals and fishing."

come across human settle-

The material including

pottery remains of black burnished ware, black and red ware, iron objects like nails, arrow head, crucible and slag of various kinds belong to the Iron Age Period. Early Historic Period cul-

tural materials such as pot-

tery specimens of red ware, terracotta ear studs, bangles, beads, and some conical objects were also discovered. "The lifestyle had improved to trade. The fortification signifies the emergence of urbanisation at Durgadevi around 400 to 200 BCE," said Mr. Patnaik.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR DIRECTORATE OF HORTICULTURE TALAB TILLO, GOLE PULI, JAMMU (0191-250581(O), 2501219 (Telefax) Email:- dirhortijmu-jk@nic.in

E-NIT No. Horti/Pur/02 of 2021-22 Dated: - 24.06.2021 For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the Accounts

officer Directorate of Horticulture, jammu invites short tern e-tender notice from eligible registered and experienced event management agencies / reputed firms for infrastructures and other arrangements as per NIT for organizing of Divisional Level Horticulture Week a Fruit & Vegetable Mandi Akhnoor w.e.f 12.07.2021 or before 18th of July 2021 likely to be

Description of work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Cost of Bid Documents
he detail of works is given in Annexure A", "B", "C" Lacs	Rs. 4.30	Rs. 8600/-	Rs. 500/-
The Oritical Dates are as fall areas	•		

The Critical Dates are as follows:-

- The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibly criteria, specifications, Bill of Quantities can be seen / downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in from Dt. 25.06.2021 at 3:30 am
- Bid Submission end: Last date of bid submission is on 05.07.2021 upto 14:00 hrs. Hard copy Submission: The hard copy of the bids will be submitted only by the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial bids. Complete bidding process will be ONLINE.
- Bidding documents can be seen and downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in. Bidding documents containing qualifying criteria for bidders technical specifications, general terms and conditions, terms of contract and other

Other details can be seen in the bidding document Accounts Officer, Member Secretary, DLPC

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

1.The Executive Engineer , Shimla Division No-III, HPPWD , Shimla-3 on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system, from the eligible class of contractors registered with HP.PWD., for the work as detailed in the table. Estimated Starting EMD Cost Deadline for Sr. Name of work

No.		Cost	date of downloading Bid		of Tender	submission of Bid
1.	Improvement of road from Cart road to	Rs. 8,23,903/-	8-07-2021	Rs. 16,500/-	Rs. 350/-	15-07-2021
	Annadale KM's 0/00 to 4/160 (SH:- C/O PCC R	/Wa ll at RD's	1/247 to 1/25	1).		
2.	from Cart road to	Rs. 8,23,903/-	8-07-2021	Rs. 16,500/-	Rs. 350/-	15-07-2021
	Annadale KM's 0/00 to 4/160 (SH:- C/O PCC R	/Wa ll at RD's	1/255 to 1/25	9).		
3.	damages under	Rs. 14,35,962/-	8-07-2021	Rs. 28,720/-	Rs. 500/-	15-07-2021
	various roads under Shimla Division No.III(S 30mm thick bituminous Oak Sanjauli Km. 0/000	concrete on	approach road	Raman &	Bhaba H	Hostel at Holly

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website www.hptenders.gov.in. The Executive Engineer reserves the right to accept/reject any tender/application without assigning any reason.

Executive Engineer
Shimla Division No.-III.
HPPWD Shimla-3
(On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh HP / 2049/21-22

Minister threatens to quit over official 'apathy'

AMARNATH TEWARY

Bihar Social Welfare Minister Madan Sahni has threatened to resign, alleging high-handedness by officials.

Mr. Sahni said he would hand over his resignation to Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Saturday as he was away from Patna.

The JD(U) MLA from Bahadurpur constituency in Darbhanga district is said to be livid at being allegedly ignored by a top Department official on the transfer and posting list of officials sent to him. "When I sought the transfer of officials who have been staying put in the department for years and are working in an arbitrary manner and sent the list to the Department secretary, he refused to listen and ignored the list," he said.

He also demanded a probe into the assets of a senior bureaucrat of his Depart-

DIP/J-3210/21 in electronic tendering system from the eligible class for the works as detailed in the table

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT **INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

The Executive Engineer HPPWD Division Bhoranj Distt. Hamirpur H.P. on behalf of Governor of H.P invites/re-invites the item rate bids,

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Starting date for down- -loading Bid	Deadline for submission of Bid
1.	Construction of type-II quarter 4 Nos for HPPWD employees at Bhoranj Distt. Hamirpur(SH:- C/O building portion , water supply sanitary installation, septic tank and site development including boundary wall).	90,31,388/-	1,22,900/-	28/07/2021	05/08/2021
2.	Construction of type-III quarter 4 Nos for HPPWD employees at Bhoranj Distt. Hamirpur(SH:- C/O building portion , water supply sanitary installation, septic tank and site development including boundary wall).		1,29,000/-	28/07/2021	05/08/2021
3.	Construction of room for PSA Oxygen plant band Manifold system at 100 bedded Civil Hospital Bhoranj Distt. Hamirpur (SH:-C/O Civil works).		19,000/-	28/07/2021	05/08/2021
4.	Providing and fixing manifold system along with tubing for 50 bedded covid in 100 bedded Civil Hospital at Bhoranj (SH:-providing and fixing covering as pine line in pewly created block for Covid patient)	38,32,398/-	65,000/-	28/07/2021	05/08/2021

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the **Executive Engineer** department website www.hptenders.gov.in. Bhoranj Division, HPPWD, Bhoranj. Pin Code 176045 Telephone No. 01972-266099, e-mail: eepwd-bhoranj-hp@gov.ir HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK HP / 2055/21-22 On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

link road to Speaker residence).

एसजेवीएन लिमिटेड SJVN Limited (भारत सरकार एवं हिमाचल प्रदेश सरकार का संयुक्त उपक्रम)

(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of H.P.) CIN No. L40101HP1988G0I008409 SUNNI DAM HYDRO POWER PROJECT

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Through e-tendering process only) Open e-tender under two bid system are hereby invited on behalf of SJVN Limited from the eligible Contractors / Firms

registered in State Govt. / PSU / ai	ny other Govt./	Semi Govt. org	janization as pei	description gi	ven below :	
Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Tender Cost (Rs.)		submission/	Date & Time for opening	Completion period
			Downloading of bid	uploading of bid	of bid	
Construction of approach road (7/9 mtr wide) from MDR-22 to proposed double lane steel truss bridge left bank (SDHEP-PCD-14)	1,76,25,728/- Exclusive of	₹ 5900/- (Tender cost 5000/-+ GST 900/-)	05.07.2021 to 26.07.2021 (1000 hrs. to 1200 hrs.)	27.07.2021 Time (1400 Hrs)	27.07.2021 Time (1500 Hrs)	06 Months

Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender shall be available on websites www.sjvn.nic.in, www.eprocure.gov.in and https://sjvn.abcprocure.com however, Tender document is available for viewing/downloading on website https://sivn.abcprocure.com only. In case of any amendment/corrigendum to this Tender Notice as well as to the Tender Document shall be issued by SJVN on all afore mentioned websites only and no press notice thereof shall be issued in any other form except that extension of bid submission and/or modification in qualification criteria or may contact on Phone Nos. 0177-2786586

> DGM (P&C) SJVN, SDHEP, VPO, Sunni, Distt. Shimla, HP-171301

said on Friday.

IN BRIEF



to stay proceedings

The Kerala High Court on Friday declined to stay all further proceedings in a sedition case registered by the Karavatti police against Lakshadweep-native filmmaker Aisha Sultana for her controversial comments that the Central government had used bioweapon against the islanders

'Explosion-like' sound heard in Bengaluru

Residents in some parts of the city were startled by a loud 'explosion-like' sound around 12.30 p.m. on Friday. The Bengaluru city police suspect that it was a sonic boom produced during a fighter plane sortie in the

Tension at Srisailam, Nagarjunasagar

Stand-off may end soon, says govt. adviser

STAFF REPORTER

Tension continued to prevail at the Srisailam and Nagarjunasagar projects as efforts by the Andhra Pradesh government to stop Telangana from drawing water for power generation met with little success on Friday.

Officials on both sides engaged in dialogue, but the deadlock remained as the Prime Minister's intervention sought by Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has not yet been received. The two projects had a large number of police personnel deployed at them to meet any contingency.

The Srisailam which is the major bone of contention, is under close surveillance, and so is the



Under pressure: Police personnel deployed at the Right Bank of the Srisailam Dam in Kurnool district on Friday. • u. subramanyam

Rajolibanda diversion scheme in Kurnool district at the tri-State junction of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana.

Meanwhile, Andhra Pradesh government adviser Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy told mediapersons that there might be no need for the

Central government to take over the maintenance of the projects, expressing hope that the stand-off would end sooner than later with its intervention.

He asserted that Andhra Pradesh was trying to fully utilise the water allocated to it and had no intention of

"stealing water" as alleged by Telangana, and observed that Andhra Pradesh could not draw 40,000 cusecs of water from the Pothireddypadu head regulator unless the minimum level was 881

The full reservoir level was not likely to last for more than 15 days, in which time Andhra Pradesh had to utilise the water to meet its irrigation requirements.

Mr. Ramakrishna Reddy recalled Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's promise to settle the dispute over water releases to Rayalaseema as a "big brother", and said it appeared to have been "forgotten or deliberately ignored".

More forces deployed The number of police per-

sonnel deployed at the Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme Right Canal worksite at the tri-State junction, and at the Srisailam Reservoir in Kurnool district, was increased on Friday.

Kurnool Superintendent of Police Fakkeerappa Kaginelli told *The Hindu* that the situation was under control at both the sites.

(Inputs from Anantapur Special Correspondent)

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



Forecast for Saturday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Nagaland, Tripura, Sikkim, Bihar, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Punjab, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Rayalaseema, coastal Karnataka, Karaikal, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CIII.	ItAIII	WIAA		CITT	ILA III	WIAA	
Agartala	1.6	27.8	24.7	Kozhikode	32	32.0	23.8
Ahmedabad		37.4	27.0	Kurnool		33.2	27.2
Aizawl	0.2	–	22.5	Lucknow		38.5	29.0
Allahabad		35.1	27.4	Madurai	0.8	38.6	24.5
Bengaluru		31.4	22.0	Mangaluru	30.1	30.6	23.8
Bhopal		34.0	25.8	Mumbai	0.2	33.2	27.6
Bhubaneswar.		36.0	26.5	Mysuru		30.9	21.2
Chandigarh		39.9	30.0	New Delhi	5	41.3	27.2
Chennai		37.2	27.2	Patna	27	33.2	24.2
Coimbatore	0.4	33.4	23.6	Port Blair	1	30.5	25.2
Dehradun		36.0	25.3	Puducherry		34.2	23.2
Gangtok	27	20.2	17.5	Pune		31.6	22.3
Goa	12	31.5	24.4	Raipur		31.0	25.5
Guwahati		28.2	25.5	Ranchi		31.5	23.6
Hubballi		28.0	22.0	Shillong	2	23.2	17.6
Hyderabad	18	29.8	22.0	Shimla		30.8	21.1
Imphal	5	26.8	21.4	Srinagar	3	29.9	16.8
Jaipur		40.2	29.9	Thiruvananthapuram	7	32.4	23.8
Kochi	5	31.2	24.6	Tiruchi	70	37.3	22.6
Kohima		26.4	18.4	Vijayawada			
Kolkata	15	35.6	24.6	Visakhapatnam		31.2	28.6
				*			

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

....5048 11 .55 100 ..201 .305

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

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

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

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath heart

Mother moves Kerala HC for Nimisha Fathima's repatriation

The Keralite woman is languishing in an Afghanistan jail

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A writ petition was filed in the Kerala High Court on Friday by the mother of Nimisha Fathima, a Keralite woman who is languishing in an Afghanistan jail following the killing of her IS fighter husband in an attack, seeking a directive to the Centre to take expeditious steps to repatriate her daughter and minor granddaughter.

In her petition, K. Bindu, mother of Fathima, said that according to reports, after the killing of Abu Akbr al-Baghdad, leader of Islamic State in 2019 by the United



Nimisha Fathima

States Armed Forces, a group of 10 women and 21 children had surrendered to the Afghanistan police. Her daughter and granddaughter were among the group.

The Afghanistan government wanted to deport Nimisha and her minor child and other Indians detained in the Afghan jail. However, the Indian government had refused to take back its citi-

It was the responsibility of Centre to bring back its citizens. Her daughter and granddaughter would not pose a threat to the security of the nation or society if they were brought back. In fact, her minor granddaughter could be rehabilitated and reintegrated into Indian society, she said.

T.N. has formally invited us for investment, says Kitex Group

No official from Kerala reached out to us, says Sabu Jacob

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Tamil Nadu government has extended a formal invitation to the Kitex Group to invest in the State, the group has said in a press release issued here on Friday.

The invitation comes close on the heels of the group announcing that it was withdrawing from investments to the tune of ₹3,500 crore promised in the garment manufacture sector and in private industrial parks in Kerala. The group had alleged harassment in the form of frequent inspections on its premises at Kizhakkambalam, near here, by officials of Labour and other departments.

Sabu M. Jacob, chairman of the Kitex Group, told *The Hindu* that he was surprised that no official from the State had contacted him since he had announced the scrapping of the group's investment plans. This was in stark contrast to Chief Ministers, Industries Ministers and others contacting him over these three days, inviting him to invest in their States, he said.

The press release said Tamil Nadu had offered many incentives along with the invitation letter. The incentives included a 40% subsidy on investment, land at half the market rate, exemption on stamp duty, 5% interest rebate for six years, 25% subsidy for pollution control/environment protection measures, ₹4,000 to ₹6,000 per worker during the six-month training period, 50% subsidy for quality control mechanisms, low power tariff for five years, State GST waiver for capital investment, and the government paying up to 20% of wages for 10 years.

The invitation was in the wake of discussions held, Mr. Jacob said.

Pawar denies links with firm under ED scanner | Sidhu attacks Amarinder

Nothing has come of probes in the past into MSCB scam, he says; misuse of ED known to all: Sanjay Raut

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Ajit Pawar on Friday denied any connection with a company linked to him and his wife which is under the Enforcement Directorate (ED) scanner in connection with the multi-crore Maharashtra Cooperative Bank (MSCB) scam.

On Thursday, the ED attached assets worth over ₹65 crore of the Satara-based Jarandeshwar cooperative sugar factory, which was run by one of Mr. Pawar's relatives, as part of its probe into the MSCB affair. The agency has alleged that Jarandeshwar Sahkari Sakhar Karkhana was purchased by Guru Commodity Services Private Limited and then immediately leased to Jarandeshwar Sugar Mills Private Limited, whose majority shareholder is said to be another company called



Sparkling Soil. Sparkling Spoil is said to be linked to Mr. Pawar and his wife Sunetra.

"There have been several probes in the past into this affair [MSCB] by agencies such as the State CID, the Anti-Corruption Bureau and the Economic Offences Wing, but nothing came of them... everyone knows what kind of politics is going on in the country currently," said Mr.

He further said he had no idea why Guru Commodity Services was facing an ED probe and clarified that he had no association with it.

"This sugar factory [Jarandeshwar] was among 14 mills which were sold after they failed to repay loans to MSC Bank. The MSCB floated a tender and as the bid of Guru Commodity Services [of ₹65.75 crore] was the highest, the bank sold the mill to that company," he said.

Mr. Pawar said Hanmant Gaikwad of the BVG Group and one of his directors had later floated the Jarandeshwar Sugar Mills Private Limited and leased the mill from Guru Commodity Services, but that they later pulled out after suffering losses.

"It was then that one of my relatives, Rajendra Ghadge, took the company on lease and started running it, but he, too, incurred losses for some years," Mr. Pawar said.

Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut said the misuse of the ED was well known to all and that the tripartite MVA government would not topple as a result of such investigations.

Attachment of sugar factory politically motivated: Shetti

State can vaccinate all by Aug. 31: Pawar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Reacting to the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) attachment of a sugar factory linked to a relative of Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar in the Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank case, Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatana chief Raju Shetti on Friday questioned the timing of the ED's action, while dubbing it as "politically motivated".

The former MP said he had been pursuing the case for the last five years, but neither the ED nor the erstwhile BJP government nor the EOW nor any other agency had taken cognisance of

his petitions. "As the management of cooperative sugar factories in Maharashtra has been in

the hands of political heavyweights, they have always acted in a prejudicial manner to interest of farmers. I had procured proof of money laundering pertaining to 89 individuals who ran 44 supposedly 'sick' sugar factories which were sold at throwaway prices," Mr. Shetti said.

'The point is why only Mr. Pawar or his relatives must be investigated? Why not BJP leaders who had similarly purchased sugar factories by dubious financial transacasked the farmer leader.

Meanwhile, anti-graft crusader Anna Hazare expressed satisfaction at the ED's action and demanded similar action on 49 other sugar factories in the MSCB

on power crisis in Punjab

He says there is an over-dependence on private plants

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

At loggerheads with Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, his former Cabinet colleague Navjot Singh Sidhu on Friday yet again fired shots at the Chief Minister about the ongoing power crisis in the State.

In a series of tweets titled, "Truth of power costs, cuts, power purchase agreements and how to give free and 24hour power to the people of Punjab", Mr. Sidhu said there was no need of imposing power cuts in the State, if there's action in the right direction.

Pointing out that Punjab is buying power at average cost of ₹4.54 per unit while the national average is ₹3.85 per unit, Mr. Sidhu said that Punjab's over-dependence on three private thermal



Navjot Singh Sidhu •

plants was to blame.

"There's no need for power-cuts in Punjab or for the Chief Minister to regulate office timings or AC (Air Conditioners) use of the common people... If we act in the right direction," he said in a

Mr. Sidhu said that Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) were signed during the previous Shiromani Akali Dal-BJP government with three private thermal power

plants in Punjab. Till 2020, Puniab has already paid ₹5,400 crore due to faulty clauses in these agreements and is expected to pay another ₹65,000 crore just as fixed charges, he added.

Advising that the Vidhan Sabha can bring in new legislation with retrospective effect to cap power purchase costs to prices available on the National Power Exchange at any given time, and thus, by amending the law, these agreements will become null and void, saving the public money, he said. He also added that Punjab's revenue per unit of consumption is one of the lowest in India, due to gross mismanagement of the system. Punjab State Power Corporation Limited pays ₹0.18 per unit "extra" on ev-

ery unit supplied, he said.

HC directs PWD, NHAI to fill potholes on highway

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Bombay High Court on Friday directed the Maharashtra Public Works Department (PWD) and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to fill potholes and carry out repair work on the Mumbai-Goa National Highway

A Bench was hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) petition filed by one Owais Pechkar, a regular commuter on the highway. The plea highlighted the increase in the number of potholes and sought a direction from the court to the State and the Centre to repair them.

The PIL said although the highway was being widened, the work had been delayed for years, inconveniencing citizens and causing regular

The plea also sought a direction from the authorities to ensure proper barricading of portions, where a road-widening work was underway along the highway, to prevent loss of lives.

The Bench said, "The situation on the highway is not good. We want the State PWD and NHAI to look into the immediate issues, including potholes."

Deputy CM urges Centre to ensure constant supply of doses SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Friday said the Maharashtra government could vaccinate the State's entire eligible population by August 31 if the Central government ensured consis-

Mr. Pawar also alleged more vaccines to the BJP-

that the Centre had allotted ruled Uttar Pradesh, while taking stock of the COVID-19 situation in Pune division.

students, and teaching and the non-teaching staff are fully vaccinated. He said he would be holding a meeting with Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and State Medical Education Minister Amit Deshmukh in this regard.

ing this decision to ensure that the State does not face a shortage of doctors. Each year, thousands of doctors leges, and if classes are not conducted, new professionals will not pass out, creating a serious shortage."

a surge in cases in urban pockets such as Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad.

tions in the district owing to

"Pune city's case positivity rate was 4.6% a few days ago, but has risen to 5.3%, while for Pimpri-Chinchwad it has risen to 5.4% from 5.1%. We were thinking of reopening malls and relaxing timings, but 'Level 3' restric-

corded 8,753 new COVID-19 cases as opposed to 8,385 recoveries, taking its active case tally to 1,16,867. A total of 156 deaths pushed the to-

Rules framed to prevent fake jabs: BMC to HC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has informed the Bombay High Court that it has framed draft guidelines to prevent fake vaccination camps at private housing societies, offices and other premises.

BMC's counsel, senior advocate Anil Sakhare, said the civic body has decided to appoint nodal officers for monitoring vaccination camps.

Public Helath Institute, Sheshadri Road, Opp. S.J.P. College

obtained from this office.

DIPR/DDU/726/2021-22

Karnataka State Medical Supplies Corporation Limited (R)

K.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560001. E-mail: ad.kdlws@gmail.com, md.ksmscl@gmail.com No.: HFW/KSMSCL/EQPT/Covid-19/REKM/49/2021-22 Date: 02.07.2021

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Ref.: HFW/KSMSCL/EQPT/Covid-19/REKM/49/2021-22, Dated: 02.07.2021

Nationwide Tender is invited through GEM Portal under KTPP Ac 1999 and Rules 2000 for the following tenders: 1. Tender for supply of RNA Extraction Kits Manual Test Kits

for Covid-19. The tenderers who have registered under GeM-Portal may participate through GeM-tendering.

Details regarding specification. Terms and Conditions and othe information is available in the GeM Bid Document, which can be downloaded from the Gem portal from 02.07.2021. The eligible tenderers shall submit their bids under GeM-portal platform for above mentioned tenders. Further information if any may be

> Sd/-, Managing Director KSMSCL, Bengaluru

> > A ND-NDE

traffic congestion.

tent supply of vaccine doses.

He said the State government was mulling resump-

tion of classes at medical col-

leges with the caveat that

He said, "We are consider-

graduate from medical col-

Mr. Pawar added that there would be no relaxa-

tions will remain," he said. The State on Friday re-

tal death toll to 1,22,353.



Unjust green

India must continue to monitor discrimination in vaccine passports issue

The European Union's decision to enforce a "Green Pass" to allow travel within the EU from July 1, and linked to specified vaccines, has set off a storm of protest from several quarters including India. According to the European Medicines Agency (EMA) that sets the guidelines, the vaccines given "conditional marketing authorisation" were Comirnaty (Pfizer/BioNTech), Vaccine Janssen (Johnson & Johnson), Spikevax (Moderna) and Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca), which makes it clear that neither of India's vaccines, Covishield and Covaxin, as well as Russia's and China's, would be eligible for the EU Digital COVID Certificate (EUDCC), as the Green Pass is formally called. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar took up the exclusion strongly with EU authorities this week, particularly the case of Covishield, which is made under licensing and certification from AstraZeneca, and cleared by WHO. India has argued that the entire idea of "vaccine passports" would leave developing nations and the global south at a disadvantage, as they have restricted vaccine access. An unspoken but valid criticism is that there is a hint of racism in the action – the EMA list only includes vaccines already used by Europe and North America. A letter of protest on the EMA's decision was also issued by the African Union and the Africa CDC this week, which called Covishield the "backbone" of the COVAX alliance's programme, that has been administered in many African countries. The EMA list is not binding however, and countries can choose to include others individually. After India's vocal protests, and its subtle threat to impose reciprocal measures, at least a third of the EU has said they would recognise Covishield (Estonia has accepted Covishield and Covaxin).

While the news that Austria, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Spain and Switzerland (not an EU member) have accommodated India's concerns is welcome, there are still some hurdles before Indian travellers. Most of these countries are not at present accepting Indian travellers at all, as no non-essential travel is allowed to EU countries, and the spread of the Delta variant, first identified in India, has meant further travel restrictions. In addition, Indians who have taken doses of Covaxin will need to wait even longer, until this vaccine receives WHO clearance. Finally, as more nations complete their vaccine programmes, they will seek to tighten their border controls with "vaccine passports" and longer quarantines in order to curtail the spread of new variants. While it is necessary for the Government to keep up with these actions worldwide, and battle discriminatory practices, the real imperative remains to vaccinate as many Indians as possible, given that more than six months after the Indian inoculation programme began, only 4.4% of those eligible have been fully vaccinated.

Net loss

The Centre must help provide Internet links to all schools as an essential service

The digital divide in India's school education system, reflected by the absence of computers and Internet access on campus, emerges starkly from the Education Ministry's Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+), for the pre-pandemic year of 2019-20. Physical infrastructure has traditionally meant good buildings, playgrounds, libraries and access to water and toilets, but the advent of hybrid learning even ahead of the coronavirus crisis has made essential online access and computers key adjuncts to make the learning process more engaging. During 2020-21, it became painfully evident that most students had to rely on remote learning, but many faced the double jeopardy of not possessing their own computing devices and smartphones at home, and their schools remaining in the dark without such facilities. In remote areas, particularly in the Northeast, many had to travel closer to mobile phone towers to access the Internet on shared phones to get their lessons. The latest data confirm that a mere 22% of schools across the country on average had Internet access, while government institutions fared much worse at 11%. On the second metric of functional computer access, the national average was 37% and for government schools, 28.5%. Beyond the averages, the range of deficits reflects deep asymmetries: 87.84% of Kerala schools and 85.69% in Delhi had an Internet facility, compared to 6.46% in Odisha, 8.5% in Bihar, 10% in West Bengal and 13.62% in Uttar Pradesh.

Students and teachers not being able to use computers and the Internet is acknowledged to be a form of deprivation, especially during the pandemic, just as the inability to attend in-person classes is another. Many scholars see the teaching-learning process as multi-dimensional, helping to inculcate social skills. COVID-19 has, however, compelled all countries to evaluate hybrid education models, with a mix of lessons delivered virtually now and on campus later when the virus threat abates. In such a multi-layered process, bringing computers and the Internet to all schools cannot be delayed any longer. The Centre must explore all options, such as the National Broadband Mission, the BSNL network and other service providers, to connect schools, including all government institutions that are severely deprived; the upcoming 5G standard with the benefit of high wireless bandwidth may also be able to help bridge the gap quickly. Getting computers to schools should also not be difficult because, apart from public funding, communities, corporates and hardware makers can use recycling and donation options. The UDISE+ shows that many schools have fallen through the net, and they need urgent help to get connected.

In centenary backdrop, this is no hand of peace

Beijing's recent and muscular behaviour towards India could stem from deeper tensions within China



n atmosphere of unpredictability prevails as regards In-✓ **L**dia-China relations, even as China embarks on its 100th anniversary celebrations of the foundation of the Communist Party of China (CPC). Memories of the bloodiest clash in recent decades that occurred in the Galwan Heights in June last year, are still vivid in India's memory. The situation in Eastern Ladakh currently remains tense. After some progress in talks over troop disengagement in the vicinity of Pangong Tso Lake and the Kailash ranges, matters have since reached a stalemate. Meanwhile, there is new information on China's manoeuvres in the border regions across Ladakh. China is reportedly raising new militia units comprising local Tibetan youth, to be deployed in Eastern Ladakh, for both high altitude warfare and surveillance. India has, meanwhile, been expressing its concern to China about the continuing 'close up deployments', which has only produced a strong verbal riposte from China.

All this has left an indelible imprint on the state of relations between the two Asian giants, who share a several thousand kilometre land border. Answers to the question as to why China chose to attack Indian positions in Ladakh, without any provocation, causing the death of a platoon of soldiers belonging to the Bihar Regiment, are still not forthcoming. An answer needs to be found before a reset in India-China relations can take

Global concerns

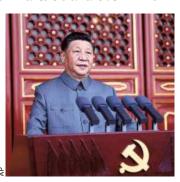
India's concerns about China are grounded in reality. Other nations today have, however, begun expressing concern about the threat posed by China to the existing world order. During the past month, both the G-7 and North Atlantic Treaty Organization, have criticised China for its military ambitions and the threat it posed to world peace. China is, however, unlikely to be deterred by any of this, and its mindset is best revealed by its actions in the South and East China Seas, its treatment of its Uighur Muslim minority, and its actions in Hong Kong.

A lesser nation might be deterred by the kind of criticism that China faces today, but it does not seem to impact China. Moreover, and notwithstanding the hype surrounding India's membership of the Quad and the role assigned to it by the United States and the other western powers in the Indo-Pacific, to think that this may have rattled China, compelling it to indulge in actions that verge on the erratic would be a mistake. China could be expected to have fully catered for all such eventual-

Going back into the past

We may, hence, need to look elsewhere to find a proper explanation for China's behaviour *vis-à-vis* India, and also elsewhere. Delving into China's recent past, and examining periods when it possibly acted in a similar erratic manner, may provide some clues. In the late 1950s and 1960s, China's then Chairman, Mao Tse Tung/Mao Zedong, when finding himself in a difficult situation on account of his ill-conceived policies and programmes (history tells us that Mao confronted one of the worst famines in history on account of his misadventure of the Great Leap Forward Movement) rather than accepting his mistake and retracing his steps, embarked on his campaign to attack India, in spite of the close friendship that existed at the time between the two coun-

Later, it was surmised, that Mao's actions were intended partly to divert attention from China's internal turmoils at the time, and possibly more important, to counter the dissidents who existed within the CPC, and who were critical of Mao's autocratic attitude and his ill-conceived policies. Oth-



can be quoted: Deng Xiaoping's behaviour following the Tiananmen Square movement in the 1980s, is an excellent example.

A leader in a hurry

Xi Jinping is seen today as a Mao clone, someone who seeks to achieve the same kind of dominance over the CPC as the latter. Like Mao, he is a man in a hurry, seeking to consolidate his power and achieve a pre-eminence of the kind enjoyed by Chinese Emperors in the past. He has assiduously attempted to accelerate the pace at which China expects to overtake the U.S. as the world's number one super power which, however, seems to be stalling for a variety of reasons. China's attempt, under Mr. Xi, to become the world's most powerful military is also nowhere

On the other hand, China's misadventure in the Ladakh heights in June last year, exposed certain shortfalls with regard to mechanisation of China's People's Liberation Army (PLA), diminishing the latter's hopes of becoming fully mechanised by the time the PLA celebrates its Centenary in 2027. Much of the blame for both situations is being attributed to Mr. Xi. Given the extent of concentration of power in his hands, this is leading many in the Party to question

Mr. Xi's claims to omniscience. Apart from this, several of Mr. Xi's other ideas have run into difficulties. His plans to remake the global order on terms favourable to the CPC seem to have gone awry. The Chinese economy though performing better than most other world economies - is showing signs of slowing down. er instances of this kind exist and Mr. Xi had been betting on technological prowess and economic heft to achieve the kind of geo-political transformation that he wished for, but this is clearly not happening at present.

Most important, and despite having accumulated so much power, Mr. Xi seems to be finding it difficult to push through his 'new socialist ideology with Chinese characteristics' (through which he hoped to demarcate himself from his immediate predecessors like Hu Jintao) and is intended to be his lasting legacy.

There are some clues

Undoubtedly, therefore, Mr. Xi is finding himself in a difficult situation, including within the Party. There is an old Chinese proverb that says "the wind sweeping through the tower heralds a storm rising in the mountain" and this, perhaps, provides a clue to Mr. Xi's, and Chinese, behaviour in the recent period. The extent of innerparty tensions is little known to the world outside, given the opacity of Chinese society, but the existence of dissidence or dissension within the CPC is no secret, however.

While it is generally believed that the CPC is a monolith entity, the reality is otherwise. In the 100 years of its existence, the CPC is known to have gone through several transformations, many of an ideational nature, leading to serious upheavals. Deep fissures have existed, and perhaps, still exist, within the party, though the extent may not be known outside. What is generally seen is that during such periods, China's attitude often borders on the erratic. The question is whether something of this nature is occurring at present inside the CPC and China.

It is tempting to think that history is again being repeated, and China's recent erratic behaviour is largely due to growing inner-party criticism of Mr. Xi's policies and actions, rather than due to extraneous factors. The Ladakh adventure (or misadventure) could well have been a misguided attempt by Mr. Xi to demonstrate to his opponents within the CPC that he is well and truly in command. One of West Bengal

could also anticipate that this could well be a prelude to a limited purge of dissenters within the highest echelons of the CPC.

An accumulation of problems does produce in closed societies (such as China) a 'pressure cooker' syndrome, where the safety valve is often in the hands of the leadership. If the latter is precariously poised, and out of sync with reality, it leads to erratic behaviour. What may be aggravating Chinese leadership concerns at this time also is that the world is seemingly tilting towards India at this juncture, regarding it as more sophisticated, diplomatically, and more flexible, ideologically, compared to an increasingly obdurate China. Within the CPC itself, there are reportedly quite a few who prefer peaceful coexistence' to sustain peace, as compared to Mr. Xi's more muscular approaches.

India needs to be on guard

A final thought. It is worth remembering that Mr. Xi is one of the few world leaders known to have made a study of Goethe's works, including Faust. Not only that, some of Mr. Xi's actions, such as modelling himself on Mao and a practising advocate of Maoism 2.0 despite the humiliation both he and his father suffered at the hands of Mao prior to, and during the Cultural Revolution – tend to make him out to be something of a Faustian character. Was Mr. Xi, through his aggressive behaviour in Ladakh, and notwithstanding the warm relations that he is known to have with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, preparing the ground for a 'Faustian Bargain'. If so, Mr. Xi has made yet another serious miscalculation, not only about the ground situation but also the mood of the nation and its leadership. This could cost him dear. What all this suggests is that 'peace is not at hand' and that India should expect, and prepare for, more situations of this kind, with many more provocations coming from China.

M.K. Narayanan is a former National Security Adviser and a former Governor

Rural power solutions even other States can emulate +

As a recent ruling by Rajasthan's power regulator implies, enabling energy access must go beyond powering rural homes



HARSHA MEENAWAT & BHARATH JAIRAJ

ver the past decade, India has made great strides in expanding energy access in rural areas. Credible estimates suggest a near doubling of electrified rural households, from 55% in 2010 to 96% in 2020 (World Bank,

2021; https://bit.ly/2UeGqpA). However, the measure of access to power supply, has been the number of households that have been connected to the electricity grid. While this is a significant measure, it discounts large areas of essential and productive human activities such as public schools and primary health centres. And despite greater electrification, power supply is often unreliable in

rural areas. A recent ruling by Rajasthan's power regulator points to this yawning gap, but also suggests solutions that other States could emulate. The Rajasthan Electricity Regulatory Commission (RERC) has ordered the State's three power distribution companies, or discoms (the Jaipur, Ajmet and Jodhpur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited) to solarise unelectrified public schools. This has the potential to electrify about 1,500 governmentrun schools in the remote parts of the State with roof-top solar panels and generate about 15 megawatts suggested installation of batteries to ensure storage of power.

Apart from enabling education, this ruling would benefit several other crucial aspects of rural life. Government schools serve as public spaces in rural areas. They doubled up as COVID-19 care centres in the past year (https:// bit.ly/367tq7V) and have housed villagers from extreme weather such as storms and floods, apart from turning into polling centres come election season.

Battery storage of power ensures that they cater to children's after-school activities. Schools could also extend power supply to mid-day meal kitchens, toilets, and motorised water pumps and not limit it to powering fans and lights in classrooms.

Clean energy drive

The RERC order also directs Rajasthan's cash-strapped discoms to seek corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds for the solarising drive and allows schools ownership of the power systems in a phased manner. This removes the burden of infrastructure development expenses on discoms, while also ensuring clean energy for the

The power that is generated could also be counted towards the discoms' Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPO). RPO is the pro-



portion of power that distribution companies must procure from renewable sources. This ratio is a gradual annual progression to encourage greater use of renewable energy and to provide for a phased manner to reduce dependence on climate warming fossil fuels.

Achieving a target

In 2019, Rajasthan set itself an ambitious target of producing 30 GW of solar energy by 2025 (Rajasthan government, 2019). It currently has an installed capacity of about 5 GW (https://bit.ly/3ycyjIT), most of which are from large-scale utility plants, or solar parks with ground-mounted panels. The State must install at least 7 GW every vear for the next four years to achieve this target. This is not impossible, but it would require investment and installation on a war

While Rajasthan is India's largest State in terms of land mass with vast, sparsely populated tracts available to install solar parks, bulk infrastructure of this scale is susceptible to extreme weather events. With climate of such events, a decentralised model of power generation would

Taking a cue from the RERC ruling, a greater number of public buildings could be used to install roof-top solar panels. Buildings such as primary health centres, panchayat offices, railway stations and bus stops could easily be transitioned to utilising clean energy. And with battery storage, the susceptibility of grid infrastructure to extreme weather events could be mitigated. This is called climate proofing.

For instance, the power blackout in the American State of Texas due to an extreme weather event earlier this year was caused due to inadequately climate-proofed natural gas equipment, which supplied domestic electricity. While the State's Governor Greg Abbott blamed it on frozen wind turbines and solar panels, about 70% of power that is generated in Texas is from natural gas and coal-fired power plants. Windmill power is

about 20% and solar is a mere 1.1%. Large-scale projects are generally financed by companies that wish to profit from economies of scale. They are less interested in investing in rural electricity as it is not as lucrative. Large-grid based projects add to the supply of power in urban areas, and therefore, only marginally further greater energy access goals.

As solar installations become inexpensive and with rapidly ad-

change increasing the possibility vancing battery storage technologies, decentralised solar power generation has become a reality. A prove to be more climate resilient. State such as Rajasthan, which is most exposed to solar irradiation, could set an example by making its urban and rural centres, power generators, consumers, and suppliers in the same breath. Indeed. its government has an ambitious plan to catapult the State into being a power "exporter", but it must consider the possibility of achieving this through means that do not destroy the environment and are most productive, cost-effective, and optimal for human activity.

Working together

One of the hurdles to holistic, climate resilient, clean energy access is the lack of convergence between government departments.

In Rajasthan, for instance, the discoms could work with the State's Education Department to determine the schools that require electrification, and their expected demand and infrastructure expenses. They could then liaise with the CSR arms of companies to generate funding, and with industry to produce cost-effective solar photovoltaic panels and batteries. Sustaining these new power systems would require some unlearning and re-learning, but it is not unimaginable.

Harsha Meenawat and Bharath Jairaj are researchers at the World Resources Institute, India's Energy Programme

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.

Crisis in schooling India prides itself in being one of the leading software hubs of the world, but it is clear that it has failed the vast multitude of our

school-going children during the pandemic crisis by depriving them access to online education (Page 1. "In last academic year, only 22% schools had Internet", July 2). With the present and abysmal levels of these tech facilities, it would be futile to plan for "hybrid teaching and learning" during the academic year

2021-22, as the time and

resources required to ramp up such facilities quickly may be too short. As many schoolchildren have already lost a full academic year without learning anything, – it is even worse in rural India – plans for 2021-22 should be realistic and aimed at providing some solid education. Plans should be made for physical classes only. If necessary, the syllabus for the academic year should be reduced by 40% to 50% so that the rest of the syllabus could be covered during the limited number

of physical classes held in a staggered manner. Kosaraju Chandramouli,

■ It is not only school but even college students too who face problems. Many have semi-functional phones, poor or no Internet. There is also the issue of them having poor knowledge to use the net/computers. KIRTI WADHAWAN, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh

China watch A letter ("Letters to the

Editor", July 2), presented a

Communist Party of China. If so, how did China make rapid strides on the economic front and become a dominant global power challenging the supremacy and hegemony of the U.S.? Whether one likes it or not, one has to admit that China is now, strongly, shrewdly and strategically, making moves to further expand its sway across the world. The role played by the U.S. pertaining to Afghanistan,

Iraq, the Israel-Palestine

deal make the rhetoric and

negative picture of the

New wasp species

A group of us researchers affiliated to the University of Calicut have recently identified a new species of conflict, and the Iran nuclear bizzare chalcid wasp of the genus Smicromorpha from

sermons of America on

of democracies, making

far as liberties, and the

people are concerned.

N. RAVEENDRA BABU,

There are dictatorial

democracy sound hollow.

tendencies in quite a number

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freedoms and the rights of

Thenhipalam, Kerala

South India. Only seven species of these are known to exist till date and we found an eighth species, from Kerala. The findings are published in Zootaxa. In admiration of Sir David Attenborough's immense and profound journey to make the natural world accessible to common people, we named the species after him as Smicromorpha attenboroughi. BINOY C.,



THE HINDU DELHI GROUND ZERO 7 SATURDAY, JULY 3, 2021

Change, but no closure, in Plachimada

The defunct Coca-Cola building in Plachimada was recently converted by the Kerala government into a COVID-19 care facility. But it will take more than a transformation to appease the people of the village who won the battle against the multinational company but are still waiting for compensation, writes **Abdul Latheef Naha**

n Plachimada, a small Adivasi village in Palakkad district of Kerala, a buildlacksquare ing, once infamous, was lying derelict and abandoned until recently. Overrun by weeds and bushes, it was hard to imagine that this building was once the bottling plant of Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages, the Indian subsidiary of the Atlanta-based manufacturer of aerated drinks. Spread over 34 acres, the 35,000 sq ft 'Coke building', as it is referred to by the locals, used to look haunted. Winds would whistle through broken windowpanes and snakes would lie hidden in the thick undergrowth. People rarely loitered in the area.

Today, the sprawling single-storey edifice wears a fresh coat of paint. The 'Coca-Cola' logo has disappeared from the entrance of the building, which smells of disinfectants and paint. The contested site now serves an important purpose, to meet the challenges of the times. The Government of Kerala has spruced up and converted the building into a COVID-19 care facility. The company that had once caused grief to the locals closed the plant and left long ago, but the building remained a symbol of despair. While the government believes that it has now become a sign of hope for all those affected by the raging pandemic, the villagers of Plachimada are not as enthused.

A transformed space

The miraculous transformation took barely six weeks. The local bodies, helmed by the Perumatty Grama Panchayat in Palakkad, led the efforts. The building had caught the attention of the local administrators during the peak of the second COVID-19 wave in May. Palakkad was seeing more than 3,500 infections every day on average and a test positivity rate of more than 30%. The State Minister for Power, K. Krishnankutty, who wields great influence in the eastern Chittur belt, including the Perumatty Grama Panchayat, is largely credited for converting the Coke building into a healthcare facility with a clear eye on a possible third wave of the pandemic sweeping across the district.

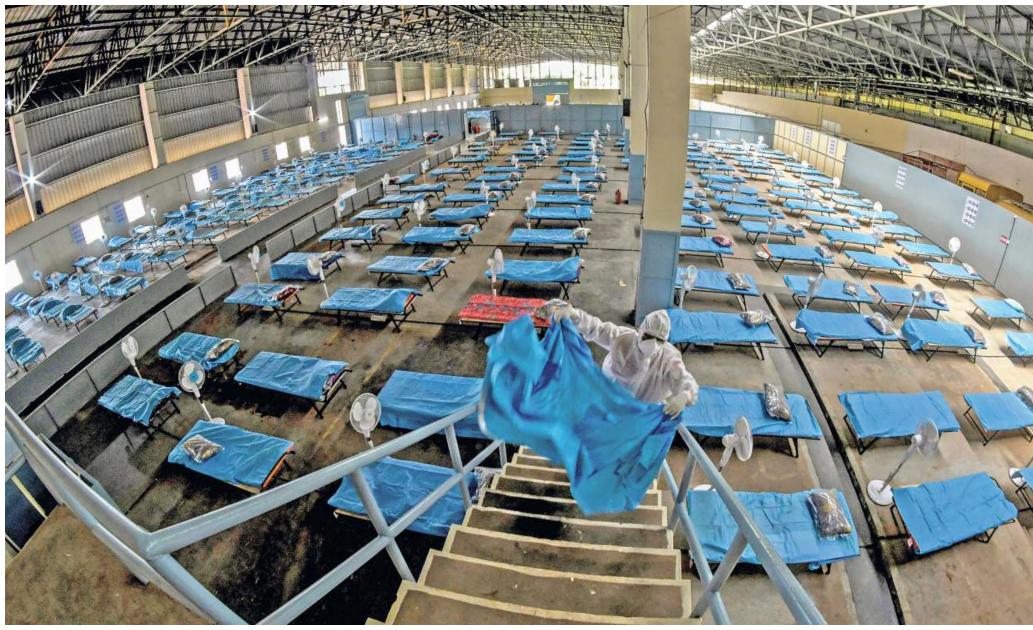
It was important for the administration to ensure that the building was swiftly transformed. In May, discussions on the project assumed a sense of urgency. In just a day, 200-odd volunteers under the leadership of the Perumatty Grama Panchayat president, Risha Premkumar, cleared the weeds and bushes in the compound of the plant. Eight neighbouring panchayats under the Chittur Block joined hands and offered to donate up to ₹10 lakh each when the District Disaster Management Authority and the Chittur Block Panchayat chipped in ₹30 lakh each. With ₹1.4 crore in their pocket, the authorities were excited to take up the work of the new COVID-19 care centre. Officials in Coca-Cola chipped in too, offering their corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds to renovate the building. According to sources in the government, Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages has spent ₹60 lakh from its CSR funds in three phases, including to repair the building. Officials of the company refused to speak to this reporter.

With money flowing in, new toilets were built and water facilities arranged. Apart from electrical partitioning and plumbing work, the Nirmithi Kendra arranged cots, beds, and electrical fittings. A new spacious kitchen was set up with facilities to cater to more than 600 people. Engineers with experience in the medical field oversaw the setting up of a triage facility and sheds for biomedical waste disposal. With everyone working at a frenzied pace, the goal was

accomplished in about six weeks. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan could barely conceal his excitement when he inaugurated the hospital virtually on June 17. He was all praise not only for the officials of Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages but also for all those who worked to build the treatment centre. "Four weeks is record time in setting up such a huge facility. The Plachimada treatment centre will give us a fillip in the fight against COVID-19. The centre will be most suited for COVID-19 treatment as it is located quite a distance away from areas where people live," he said.

The care facility has 550 beds. Of them, 100 are oxygen beds, 50 are ICU beds and 20 have ventilators. It also has air-conditioned ready-made cabins, a portable X-ray console, a round-theclock pharmacy, and a COVID-19 outpatient wing. The capacity of the oxygen tank set up at the centre can be enhanced from 1 KL to 2 KL.

At the time of going to press, 40 CO-VID-19 patients had sought admission at the facility. "The infrastructure is right. We can accommodate 400 patients now. Very soon, we will raise it to full capacity," said Nenmara Divisional Forest Officer R. Sivaprasad, the nodal officer of the centre. Doctors and nurses have been appointed to take care of 200 patients round the clock. The patients here are not as fearful and concerned about the virus as those in other parts of



An inside view of the new COVID-19 facility in Plachimada, a village in Palakkad district of Kerala. The building was the bottling plant of Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages until 2005. (Below): Adivasi women sit outside the Palakkad civil station on May 4, 2017, demanding compensation. • K.K. MUSTAFAH



the State. For now, none of them is critically ill. At present, only B-category patients are being admitted.

A water-guzzling plant

The unusual silence in the hospital is in contrast to the pitched struggle of the people in Plachimada some two decades ago. The people don't show the same excitement that politicians and the government authorities display about the COVID-19 care facility.

Santhi C.S., a 43-year-old Adivasi woman who was at the forefront of the agitation against Coca-Cola, said: "The people of this village are still suffering. We haven't been given a single paisa of compensation. So, how can we smile?"

Many who were part of the agitation echoed her sentiments. They said that applauding the transformation of a plant that had destroyed their water resources would amount to "making fun of the cause for which they stood". Santhi, an ASHA worker, had been jailed several times along with other leaders of the agitation. She had also undergone a week-long hunger strike. "They are cheating us. These political leaders have their vested interests," she said.

Wariness about official promises and initiatives stems from the events in Plachimada that grabbed global attention in the early 2000s. A few months after Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages began operation in Plachimada in 2000, the villagers in the neighbouring areas began to face problems. According to one study by Dr Sathish Chandran, the water in some open wells and shallow bore wells which the villagers depended on began to taste strong and bitter; according to another study by Jananeethi, an NGO, it started tasting salty and hard after the company began manufacturing.

The plant, the villagers realised soon, was a water-guzzler: it drew about 20 lakh litres of groundwater from six bore wells and two ponds in the area every day. As a consequence, local wells were slowly sucked dry. As the company had extracted excess groundwater, the villagers began to drink water with high levels of calcium and magnesium.

Studies conducted at a laboratory at the University of Exeter, U.K., found high levels of lead and cadmium in the sludge from the factory. The villagers had not been aware of the health threats posed by these metals until activists and scientists informed them about it. The sludge was initially sold to the farmers as fertilizer. Later, it was given free. When protests erupted, the sludge was dumped by the roadside.

"Many of us developed skin rashes and deformities. Although we stopped consuming the contaminated water in our wells, many of us had already fallen sick because of it," recalled Santhi.

M. Thankavelu, son of Mayilamma, the 'Plachimada Heroine' who stood at the forefront of the agitation until her death in 2007, was at the brink of death after he contracted psoriasis. "Like my mother, I too contracted this terrible disease from our exposure to toxic water. I could not move out of my house for about a year. I never thought I could survive to speak to you now," he said.

C. Murugan, a paddy labourer from Plachimada, said that at least half a dozen people had miscarriages because of the contaminated water.

With water rapidly depleting and giving them all kinds of health problems, the residents soon became parched. Many had to trek long distances for potable water. Their primary livelihood from farming was affected and agricultural production declined.

From April 2002 to March 2004, Plachimada witnessed fierce and protracted protests, under the banner of the Coca-Cola Virudha Janakeeya Samara Samithy (Anti-Coca-Cola People's Struggle Committee), demanding people's right to natural resources, especially water. Groups from different parts of the country joined the agitation. National activists like Medha Patkar and Vandana Shiva inspired the protesters. Hundreds of protesters, including women and children, were arrested and beaten up. Soon, the agitation turned into a long legal battle.

A world water conference organised near Plachimada in January 2004 adopted a declaration which stated that "it is our fundamental obligation to prevent water scarcity and pollution and to preserve it for generations... Water is not a commodity. We should resist all criminal attempts to marketise, privatise and corporatise water. Only through these means can we ensure the fundamental and inalienable right to water for the people all over the world".

The people won the agitation in 2005 when the company finally put up the shutters and left Plachimada. In 2017, Coca-Cola submitted to the Supreme Court that it had no intentions of resuming operations in Plachimada. Santhi, the joint convener of the protest body, said that it was not a mere victory of their agitation; "it was a victory of all such struggles to come".

Waiting for compensation

However, the people of Plachimada remain disappointed. Governments have come and gone, but their promises have not been fulfilled. "The transformation of the building seems to be an effort to whitewash the actions of the multinational company. Governments have always been supporting the company. That's why our leaders have not given the villagers who suffered from water pollution a single paisa in compensation," alleged Arumughan Pathichira, State general convener of the Samara Samithy. "If the government is honest, let it give the victims their compensation. We have no objection to the CO-VID-19 hospital; it is very important. But the government should have confiscated the property and compensated the victims," he said. Arumughan warned that the villagers would strengthen their agitation until the victims are duly compensated.

A government-appointed high-level committee headed by the then Additional Chief Secretary, K. Jayakumar, had assessed the degradation of the environment and damage suffered by the people of Plachimada and recommended a compensation of ₹216.24 crore to be paid to them. The committee had also recommended setting up a tribunal for proper distribution of damages. Although the State Assembly passed the Plachimada Coca-Cola Victims' Relief and Compensation Claims Tribunal Bill in 2011, it did not get the Centre's nod. And though the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government had assured the people that a tribunal would be formed, in its 2016 Assembly election manifesto, this promise has not been kept. The LDF has got a consecutive second term in Kerala but the people of Plachimada are not hopeful.

Coca-Cola has consistently opposed the setting up of a tribunal. It has claimed that the estimated losses were computed through a flawed process. According to Coca-Cola, its operations in Plachimada did not cause any water depletion or environmental damage as the company had followed the same process in the village as it did around the

The residents of the village scoff at this claim. "Everyone knows that the company has left leaving behind a trail of misery . We need compensation," said Sakthivel K., general convener of the Samara Samithy. Sakthivel was among the dozen-odd agitators who were arrested by the police on June 17 for protesting outside the new COVID-19 facility while the Chief Minister was inaugurating it. Front-line leaders of the Samara Samithy – Vijayan Ambalakkad and Vilayodi Venugopal – also courted arrest along with Sakthivel.

Preparing for a third wave

For the State government, this new facility is more than politics. Minister Krishnankutty, who has been involved throughout the process, said the Plachimada facility will go a long way in strengthening the district's preparedness to face another wave of COVID-19 infections. "We are thinking about how we can overcome the problems we faced in the second wave. Such a hospital in government control will help provide care for COVID-19 patients from all sections. We can ensure equity in treatment for everyone in the rural sector," he said.

Water for the facility will be drawn from a large pond within the compound. It will be used after UV filtering. Two tanks of 10,000 L capacity each have been set up and fresh pipelines have been laid for the purpose. Sivaprasad said that potable water was available and storage capacity would be enhanced when more patients come. Today, almost all houses in the village have pipeline connections and water is being pumped in from the Bharathap-

The facility is close to Kerala's border with Tamil Nadu. If the COVID-19 situation worsens during a third wave, the hospital can be opened for the people from Tamil Nadu as well. The Palakkad district administration has given consent for this.

"We are happy we could use the abandoned factory to gear up for the next phase of the pandemic," said Premkumar. "We had faced many shortcomings when we set up a first-line treatment centre for COVID-19 at the Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Park at Kanjikode. Here, we have been able to address all of them," she said.

State Health Minister Veena George recently visited the Plachimada hospital and said that the State was prepared to face a third wave. Problems that the district saw during the second wave included a shortage of oxygen beds, ICU beds and ventilators. Some private hospitals refused to set aside beds for COVID-19 treatment. A recent assessment also found that a large number of category-A patients had occupied the beds, leading to a shortage of beds for category-B patients. Given the failure to treat non-CO-VID-19 cases, long distances from houses to hospitals, and non-cooperation of some private hospitals, cases shot up in Palakkad in recent months.

A committee of officials and people's representatives will be in charge of the Plachimada COVID-19 hospital. But the people still want closure for their past suffering. Kanniyamma, 75, said the early 2000s were a terrible time. "We lost peace, our drinking water, our sound health," she said. The State government may have seized an opportunity to heal Plachimada, but its residents are still far from being placated.





FROM PAGE ONE

Uttarakhand Chief Minister steps down

He then departed for Dehradun on Friday and held a late night press conference there, where he spoke of his achievements since March

While his press office handed over a five-page press note enumerating these "achievements", Mr. Rawat again refused to confirm whether he was quitting. He then met with State BJP chief Madan Kaushik and other senior party leaders at his residence.

Following the meeting, close to midnight, Mr. Rawat reached the Raj Bhavan to tender his resignation.

Sources in the BJP, however, said that Mr. Rawat's problem wasn't just whether bypolls would be held or not, but also the seat from which he would content.

While the Gangotri seat has been vacant for sometime with the death of sitting MLA Gopal Rawat in April this year, prospects of his victory were not convincing.

A couple of MLAs on safe seats were asked to vacate it for the Chief Minister but they reportedly refused to

Goods exports touch record \$95 bn in Q1

Further, Mr. Goyal said as per his discussion with stakeholders, he was confident that the services sector will achieve \$350 billion exports by 2025, and may even go up to \$500 billion very

He added that the Commerce Ministry has decided that in collaboration with private sector, EPC, industry associations, MSME, engineering, agriculture, automobile, and steel sector, this year the country will be targeting to achieve merchandise exports of \$400 billion.

He also pointed out that India received the highest ever FDI inflow in 2020-21 of \$81.72 billion, up 10% compared to \$74.39 billion in

"The positive momentum continues with FDI inflow of \$6.24 billion during April 2021, which is 38% higher than April 2020," he said. Additionally, he said that the number of startups recognised by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has crossed 50,000 and was spread across 623 districts in India. With these startups, nearly 1.8 lakh formal jobs have been created by over 16,000 recognised star-

tups in 2020-21. On remission of duties and taxes on export products, the Minister said it is at a very advanced stage of inter-ministerial discussion.

"It was a colossal task, there are about 11,000 items which need to be studied... We will shortly notify the rates. We will be very very soon coming out with more details of rates for different sectors. This is not a subsidy to any exporter, this is only a refund of taxes," he added.

'LeT could be behind _ drone attack in Jammu'

"Alert BSF troops fired at a quadcopter belonging to Pakistan on Friday morning at 4:25 a.m. as it was trying to cross the IB in the Arnia sector. Due to the firing, it returned back immediately," a BSF spokesman said.

Singh said the security agencies had a suspicion that drones came from across the border. "But the second aspect [of being launched locally] can't be ignored."

On the day of the twin attacks, he said, the police arrested a person, who was tasked to carry out an IED attack at a public place to inflict maximum casualties. "We have captured a module, which delivered an IED from across [the border]. It was an RDX-fitted one and fabricated to fit on a if the two incidents are linked," he added.

In Pulwama, the five terrorists killed include LeT's district commander Nishaz Lone, alias Khitab, and one Pakistani terrorist, said Inspector General of Police Vi-

India flags drone over mission in Islamabad

"We expect Pakistan to investigate the incident and prevent recurrence of such breach of security," MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said at a media briefing. It is learnt that the drone

was sighted within the complex when an event was being held at the mission.

Asked about the drone attack on Jammu airbase, Mr. declined

Kerala's houseboats get ready to sail

The government also rolled out a programme to provide a maintenance grant, ranging from ₹80,000 to ₹1,20,000 depending on boat profile, so owners can keep their boats water worthy through the inactivity of

A boat's annual maintenance is a costly affair. "Every year the bamboo sheets on a boat's roof are changed. It is labour intensive and requires 50 to 60 men. Wages are high, ₹ 1,200 daily, since it is a skilled job," says Mr. Jobin. "Add work on the engine, inverter, generator, air conditioners, furnishing, flooring... It is more expensive than maintaining a house,"

Alappuzha-based houseboat owner Jose Abraham is applying for a grant as soon as he renews the Pollution

Control Certificate. He runs two boats under SKA Houseboats, one with five bedrooms while the second has eight bedrooms and an 80 X 20 feet convention hall that can accommodate 150 people. "The boat has hosted meetings of top corporates and clubs in the good old days," says Mr. Abraham, explaining that boat trips are priced according to

going," says Mr. Kumar, who

has two children.

the boat category. Migration of labour is one of the biggest disruptions the industry is facing. Manish Kumar E.M., a licensed boat driver who worked in Specified the capacity for seven years has moved to painting and tile work at a construction site to earn daily wages. mediate effect. 'The last 15 months have been very tough and I had to find work to keep the family

tonnes has been imposed on wholesalers provided they do not hold more than 200



Judges must look at facts of a

case and its human aspect: CJI

cedents surrounding the issue before us, as well as the facts of the case, but also the repercussions of what we decide and the precedent we may be setting. This makes it necessary for us judges to be logical and objective and theoretically sound. However, we should not lose sight of the people and their difficulties behind the cases. The

little discretion that is given

CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

to us, is the area in which a judge has flexibility to display his philosophy," he observed.

The CJI was speaking at a farewell organised by the Supreme Court Bar Association for retiring judge Justice Ashok Bhushan.

He said Justice Bhushan, besides his "remarkable judgments", had, as a "humanist judge", left a mark in

the hearts and minds of the people of the country.

The CJI termed the Bar "the protector of the institution".

He said, "Lawyers must respect the institution and protect the judiciary from any onslaught which is likely to affect the functioning of the judicial system. I know, the Supreme Court Bar is always a frontrunner when it comes to supporting the institution from motivated attacks. They always cherish the contribution of judges and appreciate their hard work. They never forget the efforts of judges".

The CJI underscored that the strength of the institution lay in the unity of the

HC asks Bengal police to take note of NHRC report

Bench says cases should be registered

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Calcutta High Court on Friday directed the West Bengal police to register cases on the recommendations of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in connection with post poll violence in the State.

Issuing interim directions in the matter in which the court had directed the NHRC to set up a committee to probe the allegations of post poll violence, a fivejudge Bench headed by acting Chief Justice Rajesh Bindal directed that medical treatment be provided to those who suffered injuries.

It directed that a second autopsy be carried out on the body of deceased BJP worker Avijit Sarkar, who was allegedly killed during the clashes. The court also



issued notice to the district authorities of certain areas for failing to prevent the vio-

The next hearing is on July 13.

Following the court's directive on June 18 to probe the violence, a committee of the NHRC visited the State, held meetings and hearings and submitted an interim

BJP MLAs disrupt Governor's speech in Bengal Assembly

They said there was no mention of deaths of party workers

SHIV SAHAY SINGH

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

facts of a case and, on the

other, the human aspect.

Judges should use the "little

discretion" law allows to

keep sight of the human suf-

fering and toll behind every

case. A decision of the court

would echo through time. It

will have repercussions. A

judgment becomes the law

of the land. A judge has to

keep all this in mind while

dealing with a case, he said.

easy task. We not only have

to focus on the law and pre-

"Deciding cases is not an

The West Bengal Legislative Assembly witnessed noisy scenes on Friday, the first day of seventeenth legislative Assembly, with BJP legislators raising slogans during the address by Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar.

The Governor had to cut short his address. The eighteen-page speech was summed up by the Governor in a few minutes. Amidst the din and ruckus, it was not clear which portions of the speech was read and which

BJP MLAs led by Leader of Opposition, Suvendu Adhikari, stood up on their seats and held up photos of party workers allegedly killed during post poll violence as Governor Dhankhar read his

Speaking to journalists, Mr. Adhikari said there was



Warm greeting: Mamata Banerjee and Jagdeep Dhankar sharing a lighter moment on Friday. •PTI

no mention of the post poll violence in Governor's address, prepared by the State government. The BJP leader said the Governor had been sensitive to the issue of post poll violence and visited Sitalkuchi and Nandigram but had to read the speech which was approved by the State Cabinet.

Despite a bitter exchange

of words between Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Governor Dhankhar a few days ago, both exchanged pleasantries ahead of the Assembly session.

Earlier, Governor Dhankhar had objected to contents of the speech and said that certain portions of his address would not go well with the people.

TMC demands removal of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta

Controversy after Suvendu Adhikari went to S-G's house

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A visit by the Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly Suvendu Adhikari to the residence of the Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta created a political storm on Friday, with Trinamool Congress MPs writing to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking the removal of Mr. Mehta.

The Solicitor General, however, clarified that though Mr Adhikari had visited his house 'unannounced' on Thursday, he declined to meet the BJP leader.

"Shri Suvendu Adhikari did come to my residence cum office yesterday at around 3:00 p.m., unannounced. Since I was already in a pre-scheduled meeting in my chamber, my staff requested him to sit in the waiting room of my office building and offered him a



Tushar Mehta said that he did not meet Suvendu Adhikari.

cup of tea. When my meeting was over and thereafter my PPS [principal private secretary] informed me about his arrival, I requested my PPS to convey Mr Adhikari my inability to meet him and apologise as he had to wait," Mr. Mehta said in a statement, adding,"The question of my meeting with Mr Adhikari therefore did not arise".

Three Trinamool Congress MPs - Derek O'Brien, Mahua Moitra and Sukhendu Sekhar Roy - wrote a letter to the Prime Minister demanding the removal of the Solicitor General since the BJP leader is an accused in the Narada and Saradha scam.

Letter to PM

"The Solicitor General of India is the second highest law officer of the country after the Attorney General of India and advises Government of India and its various organs and in crucial legal matters such as Narada and Sarada cases. Such meeting between an accused in grave offences, with the learned Solicitor General who is advising such investigation agencies by whom the said accused is being investigated, is in direct conflict of interest with the statutory duties of learned Solicitor General of India," the letter

House panel awaits States' surveys on learning losses

Only those with access to technology could take classes during pandemic

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ

The Education Ministry told a Parliamentary panel on education that it is still collating information from the States on learning losses caused by COVID-19 school closures and students' access to digital education during the pandemic. At its meeting on Friday, the panel heard presentations on the use of satellite technology to bridge learning gaps instead, members said.

"Unless there is some assessment of the existing learning losses, and the im-

pact of the activities already being conducted, what is the point of simply listing more activities to be undertaken?" asked one member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports.

"The School Education Department says more time is needed for the States to collect the data [on learning losses]. Hopefully, we will get it by the end of the month," said another member, acknowledging that the Ministry had earlier promised to share such data by



Extending help: Some clubs and local libraries have given their facilities for students to access online lessons. • FILE PHOTO

the end of June. With regard to satellite technology, members said presentations were made by the Indian Space Research Organisation, Prasar Bharati and the Bhaska-

racharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics, which possesses the infrastructure used to beam the Centre's Swayam Prabha educational

television channels. School Education Secretary Anita Karwal and Education Department officials from Uttar Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Telangana and Bihar, also spoke on how such technology is already being used.

One member raised the concern that this was a "top heavy approach", suggesting that the focus needs to be on ensuring community television sets are available for students to receive this content in each of the 2.6 lakh gram panchayats in the

"Swayam Prabha is not being utilised to its full potential by many States. There is some inertia," said another member.

Uddhay writes to Governor on OBCs' data

STAFF REPORTER MUMBAI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Friday asked Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari to join his government in seeking empirical data on OBCs from the Central government, which is essential for maintaining political reservation for the community in local civic bodies. He also said his government had requested the State Election Commission to postpone bypolls to local bodies' seats that fell vacant following the SC verdict on scrapping political reservation for OBCs.

Centre asks States to impose limit on stocking of pulses

Govt. says the move is to arrest the spiralling prices

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

In an attempt to arrest the spiralling prices of pulses, the Union government on Friday directed the States to impose stock limit on all pulses except moong till October 31.

The Department of Consumer Affairs issued the Removal of Licensing Requirements, Stock Limits and Movement Restrictions on Foodstuffs (Amendment) Order, 2021 prescribing the limits which have been imposed with im-

The stock limit of 200 tonnes of one variety of



Wholesalers can stock 200 tonnes of pulses.

pulses, the Ministry said in the order. On retailers, the stock limit will be 5 tonnes. In case of millers, the stock limit will be the last three months of production or 25% of annual installed capacity whichever is higher. For importers, the stock limit will be the same as that of wholesalers for stocks held or imported prior to May 15, 2021. And for pulses imported after May 15, stock limit applicable on wholesalers will apply after 45 days from date of customs clearance, the order said. If the stocks of entities ex-

ceed the prescribed limits, they have to be declared on the online portal of the Department of Consumer Affairs and have to be brought within the prescribed limit within 30 days of the notification of the order.

"Since the entire country has been reeling under the impact of the pandemic, the government has been committed to adopting timely measures and has substantially alleviated the concerns and anguish of the common man," a statement said.

Anganwadi workers struggle with Centre's order on 'Poshan'

They seek phones to download mandatory mobile app

JAGRITI CHANDRA

Anganwadi workers in several States, including Punjab and Haryana, are up in arms after a government order threatened them with a pay cut if they did not download the government's mobile application called 'Poshan Tracker' to record delivery of services by them. They demanded to know who would give them the mobile phones and bear the ex-

penses for recharge. The application and the use of technology for realtime growth monitoring and tracking of beneficiaries is the mainstay of the government's Poshan Abhiyaan, which aims to improve nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers. In Punjab's Gurdaspur,

several thousand anganwadi workers and helpers held a demonstration on Friday.

"There are nearly 30,000 anganwadi workers affiliated to our union and none of them have downloaded the Poshan Tracker application because the government has neither given us mobile phones, nor money for recharge," says Usha Rani, president, All India Federation of Anganwadi Workers

and Helpers. "We are not opposed to the Poshan Tracker, but we need a mobile phone, expenses for recharge as well as training to use smartphones as the application is compatible with mobile phones that are Android 6 or above. Many workers only know how to use the keypad mobile phones," says Shakuntala Devi, general secretary, Haryana Anganwadi Workers and Helpers Union.

In Himachal Pradesh, anganwadi workers are faced with a different challenge. Veena Sharma, general secretary, Himachal Pradesh Anganwadi Workers and Helpers Union, says, "Many anganwadi centres are situated in remote locations and often don't have Internet connectivity. As a result, we have to walk 500 metres to 1 km to a spot where we can get some network coverage.."



'China has improved its air operations'

It has improved infrastructure after disengagement, says Air Force chief

Since the disengagement in eastern Ladakh in February, there had been a kind of status quo on the ground but China had strengthened infrastructure and improved efficiency of air operations, Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal (ACM) R.K.S. Bhadauria said on Friday.

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen. Bipin Rawat said both the nations understood that returning to the status quo was in their best interest for ensuring peace.

Responding to questions on the proposed integrated theatre commands, ACM Bhadauria said the IAF was "fully committed" to integration and theatre commands. "We must get it right."

'Supporting role'

Earlier, responding to questions on the theatre commands and reports of certain reservations on the part of the IAF, Gen. Rawat said while the Air Force had an air defence charter, it was also required to provide support to the ground forces. "Do not forget that the Air Force continues to remain a supporting arm of the armed forces, just as the artillery or engineers support the combatants within the Army. They have an air defence charter and support the ground forces in time of operations," he pointed out. This was the basic charter they have to understand.

ACM Bhadauria said, "It is not a supporting role alone. The air power has a huge role to play in any of the integrated battle role..."

Gen. Rawat noted that the proposed theatre commands comprised an air defence command, a maritime theatre command and twoland based commands on the West and North. However, the Army's Northern Command, which overlooked both China and Pakistan, would be left as it was for now.

ACM Bhadauria said China had spent a lot of energy building infrastructure at many of their airfields, which he termed "defensive"



Taking stock: Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat during a recent visit to the forward areas along the LoC. • ANI

in nature because they have analysed as to "what all can be hit by us quickly" if the situation required. "The other issue is they are looking at covering deficiencies wherever they are. Apart from infrastructure, in terms of training and other issues, they have done other methods to bring in efficiencies in air operations," he observed.

They were monitoring the situation closely and had taken across the board actions "We are much more capable than we were one year back. It's not that we have maintained status quo on our cap-

Responding to questions on the situation in Ladakh, Gen. Rawat cautioned not to take things lightly. "We must be prepared for any misadventure and respond accordingly. We have responded in the past and will do so in the

future," he asserted.

He said the ongoing talks at various levels for disengagement and de-escalation would take time. "I think in a gradual manner, we should be able to achieve the *status* quo, because if you do not achieve the status quo and remain in this kind of a position, it could lead to misad-

'Attack using drones aimed at IAF assets'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The attack on the Jammu airbase last Sunday, believed to have been carried out by drones, was a terrorist attack targeting the Air Force's assets, said Chief of the Air Staff RKS Bhadauria on Friday. He asserted that they had the capabilities to counter such attacks.

"That attack has failed and our assets are safe. One strike had high explosives; other was fragmentation round...," the Air Chief said at a webinar. "We have gone over the subject in terms of the implications of this kind of capabilities in the hands of non-state actors and the kind of effect the armed drone capabilities would have in future conflicts," he stated.

Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Bipin Rawat cautioned against hybrid attacks. He noted that the next attack need not be through a drone.

Former Haryana CM Chautala released after 10 years in jail

He will soon visit protesting farmers to seek their blessings

ASHOK KUMAR

Former Haryana Chief Minister and Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) leader Om Prakash Chautala was on Friday released from the Tihar Jail on completion of a 10year sentence in a teachers' recruitment scam case.

Addressing party workers assembled on the Delhi-Gurugram border to welcome him, the octogenarian leader said he would soon visit the farmers at the protest sites to seek their blessings. He would also visit villages across the country.

He thanked people for supporting his party against the "wrong" policies of the government and assured them that he would continue to fight for the poor, downtrodden and farmers. Mr. Chautala stated that doctors had advised him rest for a few days, after which he would visit the protesting

Mr. Chautala was jailed in



Free at last: Om Prakash Chautala being greeted by INLD supporters after being released from jail on Friday. •PTI

2013 in connection with the Junior Basic Training teachers recruitment scam case. He was on emergency parole since March 26, 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sunaina Chautala, principal general secretary, women's cell, INLD, said the release of Mr. Om Prakash Chautala had infused new energy into the workers and the party would return to power with a thumping majority.

Son's charge

INLD principal general secretary Abhay Chautala, at a press conference in Chandigarh, said the Congress was to be blamed for implicating his father in the recruitment scam. He also accused the Aam Aadmi Party of delaying the release of his father for more than two years.

CBI arrests 2 ED officials in Ahmedabad for graft

They had sought ₹75 lakh from a firm

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Central Bureau of Investigation has arrested two Enforcement Directorate officials in Gujarat for allegedly demanding ₹75 lakh in bribe from the director of a private company that is facing a money laundering

"The accused have been identified as Deputy Director Purna Kam Singh (an Indian Revenue Service official) and Assistant Director Bhuvnesh Kumar of the ED," said an agency official. The two accused received the first instalment of ₹5 lakh through a middleman.

According to the First Information Report (FIR), the complaint was lodged by Paresh H. Patel, director of H.M. Industrial Private Limited. The company and its directors are facing a CBI probe for allegedly cheating the Bank of Baroda of about ₹104 crore.

Based on the CBI case, the ED's Ahmedabad unit is also carrying out a probe under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, in connection with which Mr. Patel and his sons were summoned to the office of Mr. Singh in Ahmedabad on April 22 and May 25. Mr. Kumar assisted the Deputy Director in recording the state-

On June 18, as instructed, Mr. Patel and his son Hardik again went to Mr. Singh's office. The complainant alleged that he and his son were beaten up by the official, who also threatened to attach their properties. Mr. Singh then allegedly demanded ₹75 lakh in the presence of Mr. Kumar to settle the case and also for not torturing him physically.

ments on both the days.

The complainant was also told to talk about the bribe amount in a coded language, referring to ₹1 lakh as "one kg"

On June 26, Mr. Patel was directed by Mr. Kumar on a Whatsapp call to pay the first instalment of ₹5 lakh through an "angadia" firm in Delhi. The amount was to be collected by a middleman, the FIR states.

Denmark steps in to provide AstraZeneca jabs to Bhutan

India could not supply repeat doses due to shortage

SUHASINI HAIDAR NEW DELHI

After weeks of uncertainty over vaccine supplies, Denmark stepped in to provide Bhutan with 2,50,000 doses of AstraZeneca vaccines on Friday, about half of its requirement to complete the inoculation population.

"Around 2,50,000 Astra-Zeneca vaccines are coming to Bhutan as a donation from the Danish government to help Bhutan combat CO-VID-19 and secure that the citizens get the second jab in time," said a statement from the Danish Embassy in Delhi, which also oversees relations with Bhutan.

The supplies, which are part of an entire tranche of about 5,50,000 being coordinated by the European Union through its Civil Protection Mechanism, which was reported by The Hindu earlier this week, were necessitated because India was unable to provide the second round of Covishield doses



A file photo of AstraZeneca's

due to the coronavirus pandemic's second wave and domestic vaccine shortages.

On Friday, the government repeated its earlier stand that it could not supply to Bhutan, along with other neighbouring countries, that have been hoping that India would resume its "Vaccine Maitri" export consignments, many of which have been paid in advance.

"Currently our priority is on domestic production for the domestic vaccine programmes," said MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi, responding to queries from Speaking to The Hindu,

Bhutan's Health Minister Dechen Wangmo had said Bhutan understood India's current problems and said it would not be "morally right" to push India for more vaccines at this time, and government had reached out to about 17 other countries, requesting that they provide any surplus unexpired vaccines on an emergency basis. "Denmark received requests from many countries for vaccines, but since Bhutan had few options, the government decided to help Bhutan," said Danish Ambassador to India, Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka Freddy Svane.

A statement from the Danish government said the vaccines would be delivered at the "earliest possible." Bhutanese officials said they had requested the vaccines by next week, so as to complete their second dose distribution by mid-July.

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

ED summons Yami Gautam in FEMA case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned actor Yami Gautam in connection with an inquiry under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).

It is alleged that the inquiry is into an amount equivalent to ₹1.5 crore received in Ms. Gautam's bank account. She has been asked to appear on July 7.

Respond to NEET aspirants' plea, says SC

NEET-MDS counselling delayed

The Supreme Court on Friday asked the Medical Counselling Committee (MCC) to respond to a plea by NEET aspirants alleging "unjust and infinite delay" in the announcement of the counselling schedule for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test and Masters of Dental Surgery courses (NEET-MDS) 2021.

A Bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and M.R. Shah issued notice after the petition complained that there had been no updates about the counselling. The exam was held way back in December 2020.

Umpteen efforts The petition said "umpteen efforts" were made to get in

and elicit a response on the counselling schedule, but to no avail. The plea also flagged the

touch with the authorities

issue of simultaneously conducting the counselling for NEET-PG and NEET-MDS.

Plea to announce dates "It will be unrealistic to or-

ganise the counselling for both the examinations together, as it would infinitely delay the counselling for the NEET-MDS candidates and would cause undue hardship to the NEET-MDS aspirants," the aspirants said.

The petition asked the court to intervene and direct the Medical Counselling Committe to release the counselling dates at the earliest and not later than three

IN BRIEF

SKM to protest against fuel price hikes on July 8 NEW DELHI

Farm unions will hold nationwide protests against the hikes in fuel prices on July 8. Protestors will bring empty cooking gas cylinders and gather by roadsides without obstructing traffic from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, said the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), after a meeting at the Singhu border on Friday.

300 kg of heroin seized at Navi Mumbai port

NEW DELHI The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) on Friday seized about 300 kg of heroin from some containers at the Nhava Sheva Port in Navi Mumbai. A hunt has been launched for the intended recipients. Preliminary search suggests that the containers had originated from Bandar Abbas port in Iran.

Army inducts DRDO's 10m bridging system

NEW DELHI The Army on Friday inducted the first production lot of 12 Short Span Bridging System (SSBS)-10m, designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in association with Larsen & Toubro Limited, the production agency.



Did not get medical care: rights group

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI

The Manipur Human Rights Commission has been asked to probe the alleged custodial deaths of two women from Myanmar, who were among 29 refugees kept at a centre that was turned into a temporary prison. The two women, identi-

fied as 46-year-old Ma Myint and 40-year-old Mukhai, died of COVID-19 without proper medical care, a rights group called Human Rights Alert (HRA) said in a letter to the Commission on July 2.

HRA's executive director, Babloo Loitongbam, said the 29 Myanmar nationals, including six minors, were kept in judicial custody at Saadbhavana Mandop in Churachandpur district's New Lamka after they were arrested on March 31 for entering India illegally.

They were remanded to police custody on April 7 after a local court recorded that they "crossed the border due to threat and fear of persecution as a result of the military coup ... without any valid documents and papers". They were later remanded to judicial custody, with the Manipur government declaring the centre as a temporary prison under

the Prison Act of 1994.

The government had planned to transfer the 29 Myanmar nationals to different jails in Imphal. Scared of living separately, they requested the authority to let them stay together.

"The authority conceded to their request but did not provide them with any food or healthcare," said Mr. Loitongbam, adding that local organisations volunteered to organise food for them.

The inmates of the camp started falling sick by the end of May and nine of them were found to be COVID-19positive on June 5. While the two women died, 13 others recovered. "The inmates are dependent only on the charity of the civil society organisations. They were deprived of their right to adequate nutritious food and mandatory medical attention they deserve as any other prisoner," said Mr. Loitongbam, adding that the death of the two women was a violation of the right to life.

The HRA requested the MHRC to direct the government to provide nutritious food and regular medical attention to the inmates of the temporary prison and recommend monetary compensation to the next of kin of the two deceased women.



he vendors who are enlisted with us are also required to submit the offers as per tender. The due date f submission of tender will be on or before 02.08.2021 by 2:30 PM and tenders will be opened 02.08.2021 at 3:00 PM. Visit our website www.fsnl.nic.in for tender documents, Corrigendum, Ti

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NOTICE INVITING BID for "Construction of white/back water storage RCC tower (Refloated)" Due date for submission at Kagithapuram - 14.07.2021

Interested bidders may purchase a complete set of Bid Document, agains submission of a written application to TNPL and upon payment of applicable non-refundable fee of Rs.5,900/-, by way of Demand Draft / Banker's Cheque in favour of Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Limited, payable at Trichy. Alternatively, details of the bid may be viewed at TN Govt. / TNPL website and a soft copy of the Bid Documen can be obtained against request by a mail. can be obtained against request by e-mail TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Pap DIPR/1938/Tender/2021



NOTICE INVITING BID Notification No.6312

Online Bids through e-Tender portal (https://tendersodisha.gov.in) are invited from eligible bidders for Supply of Pediatric Items (Re-Tender) as per the particulars

men	ioned below:				
SI. No.	Particulars	Date and time			
1.	Date & time of release of bid	02/07/202	21, 11 AM		
2.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time	End Date & Time		
		02/07/2021, 3 PM	09/07/2021, 11 AM		
3.	Date & time of Online Technical bid Opening	09/07/202	1, 11:30 AM		
4.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the	e qualified bidders		

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including

Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites www.osmcl.nic.in and https://tendersodisha.gov.in. OSMCL reserves the right to reject or modify any conditions of the tender or cancel the tender or cancel the issued purchase order at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.

Managing Director, OSMC Ltd., Odisha OIPR-10112/11/0038/2122

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vation Cell of Delhi Jal Board initially for a period of 01 (one) year which may be further extended as per requireme

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER (T) VARUNALAYA PHASE-II, KAROL BAGH NEW DELHI-110005 Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for engagement of following Consultants/Specialist on contractual basis in

S No.	Name of the post	No. of Posts
1.	Contract Specialist	01 No.
2.	Safety and Environment Auditing Specialist	01 No.
3.	Structural Engineer (Civil)	01 No.
4.	Electrical/Mechanical Engineer	01 No.
5.	Environmental Engineer	01 No.
6.	Senior Landscape Architect	01 No.
7.	Middle Level Architect	02 Nos.
8.	Ground Water_Expert	01 No.
0	Lishan Diannas	01 No

The last date of receipt of application is 30.07.2021 upto 05:00 P.M. Interested candidates are requested to send their application the office of Assistant Commissioner (T), Room No. 215 Varunalaya Phase-II, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005 within the prescribed time limit. Online application may be sent to the Email Id <u>dibact1@gmail.com</u> No application shall be entertained afte

For eligibility and further information, please visit our website www.delhijalboard.nic.ir ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)

Advt. No. J.S.V. 154 (2021-22)

<u>A-249</u>:

(VIRENDER SINGH)
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER (T)

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, RUSHIKULYA BAHUDA BASIN, BERHAMPUR - 760004 Phone No.0680-2281966 / 2281550 (Fax); E-mail ID: se_sicbam@yahoo.com 1st Corrigendum to e - Procurement Notice No. ACE, RBB- 03 / 2021-22

The Bid Identification No. for the work, " Flood protection to both bank of River Bahuda from village Sundarada to Tentuapada under NABARD Assistance in RIDF-XXVI " at SI.No.05 of the above tender call notice may be read as : ACE,RBB(CHID)-07/2021-22. Additional Chief Engineer.

Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur OIPR-32411/11/0003/2122 GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, ANANDAPUR BARRAGE PROJECT, SALAPADA.

	E-procu	ırer	nent	Notice	No.	CCEA	BP-02	of 202	21-22	
E-Procurement Officer	Name of the Work	Bid id No.	Tender Cost in Lakhs	Bid Security (Online)	Cost of Bid Do- cument (Online)	Class of Contra- ctor	Period of Comple- tion	tender	bility of On-line dding To	Date of Opening of Technical Bid (Cover-1)
교			(Appx)		` ′					,
Chief Construction Engineer, A.B. Project, Salapada	Excavation and Cement Concrete Lining of Salandi Left Main Canal (SLMC) form RD 40927 m to RD 45570 m including Construction of Structures and Service Road	ABP-MCD-01/2 of 2021-22	3900.00	Bid Security Declara- tion	10,000/-	Super Class	12 Calendar months	08.07.21 11.30 AM	23.07.21 5.00 PM	26.07.21 11.30 AM
Chief Construction Engineer, A.B. Project, Salapada	Balance work including Construction of additional Structures and cement concrete lining of Salandi Left Main Canal (SLMC) from RD 36247m to RD 40927m	ABP-MCD-02/2 of 2021-22	2459.00	Bid Security Declara- tion	10,000/-	Super Class	12 Calendar months	08.07.21 11.30 AM	23.07.21 5.00 PM	26.07.21 11.30 AM

(E- mail id: cceabp-eicwr.od@nic.in / loabp-eicwr.od@nic.in)

urther details can be seen from the Govt. website www.tendersorissa.gov.in / www.dowr ddendum / corrigendum / cancellation if any required will be published in Govt. website only Chief Construction Engineer, Anandapur Barrage Project, Salapada OIPR-32180/11/0003/2122

In Uttar Pradesh, two receive certificates without vaccination

Official says error could be due to a 'technical reason'

OMAR RASHID

On June 18, Mridula Mangalam, a PhD scholar at Allahabad University, received a certificate noting that she had been fully vaccinated. The final certificate of vaccination said she had been administered the second dose of Covaxin by health staff Anita at the Community Health Centre (CHC) (Soraon) in Prayagraj district. While being certified as being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 would have been a matter of joy for the 25-yearold scholar, it came as a big shock to her.

Ms. Mangalam got the certificate even though she did not receive her second dose. In fact, she said, she did not even go to the CHC on the said day. "I scheduled my appointment for vaccination but couldn't go," she stated,



Jam-packed: People waiting in queues to receive COVID-19 vaccines at a centre in Prayagraj on Thursday. • PTI

rent number and asked me

to get the first dose of Covax-

in with the new account,"

she said. This way she would

have got her two doses. But

though she registered with

another number, she had

not been able to get a slot for

In Mau district, Umda Rai,

65, is facing a similar situa-

tion. On May 4, she received

a provisional certificate for

her first dose at the Doha-

righat CHC, without even

getting a jab, said her son Vi-

dva Bhushan Rai. Mr. Rai

said his mother did not go to

the CHC for her vaccination

a dose of Covaxin.

reasoning that it was raining and the CHC was over 20 km away. She said she later tried to contact a senior official but was told that it was due to a human error and the matter would be resolved if she visited the centre.

Ms. Mangalam then struggled to reschedule her appointment as she had received her certification of full vaccination. On June 22, she went to the CHC but was told there was a server problem and that they could not do anything about it.

"They told me to create another account with a diffe-

as she had developed fever days before the appointment. "We thought as per government guidelines, we should not get her vaccinated while she was having fever... " he stated.

Mr. Rai, a shopkeeper, emphasised that he complained on the helpline number and even spoke to an official about the problem but no solution came about.

Dr. B.K Yadav, vaccination in-charge, Mau, said such cases were "rare" but they would be probed if the person submitted a written application. "The person can then get vaccinated."

The "mistake" in the portal could be due to a technical reason arising if a person booked a session for more than one person through the same number. "The person gets a verification code. Without that, it [vaccination details] cannot be entered into the portal. How her vaccination code reached the vaccinator [would

Estimate of 216 crore vaccine doses was aspirational: Paul

Top official reacts to query on varying figures

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A May 13 estimate, by one of India's top officials overseeing the COVID-19 pandemic response, that India would have 216 crore doses of vaccines from August-December was based on an "optimistic, aspirational assessment" and on what vaccine manufacturers had conveyed

government. V.K. Paul, Chairman, National Empowered Group on Vaccine, at a press briefing on Friday was responding to a query on why there was a mismatch between his May projection of 216 crore vaccine doses and a Health Ministry affidavit to the Supreme Court on June 26 that said 135 crore doses would available August-December.

The discrepancy is signifi-



V.K. Paul

cant as the Centre has said that it plans to vaccinate all adults, estimated to be 93-94 crore, by the end of 2021, thus requiring 186-188 crore doses. So far, 33 crore doses have been administered, and 51 crore doses, including those already given, are expected to be administered by the end of July. After a burst of vaccination post June 21, that saw 90 lakh doses administered in a day and over 50 lakh doses on average subsequently for the rest of the week, the last week of June has been relatively lacklustre, with a daily average of about 35 lakh vaccine doses administered.

200 crore doses will be available, we had said that this was based on information provided by manufacturers of how much they were optimistically, and I had said 'aspirational', likely to deliver," said Dr. Paul. "It was important to share this with people because [at] that time there was a doubt whether vaccines would be available. However, we had also said that planning by the Health Ministry was based on 90 crore doses being made available by our two leading companies [Serum Institute of India and Bharat Bio-

tech]," he said. The figure of 216 crore doses, according to Dr. Paul's presentation on May 13, was premised on 75 crore doses of Covishield and 55 crore of Covaxin, which adds up to 130 crore doses, whereas in the Health Ministry's affidavit, it comes up as 90 crore. The rest is based on expectations of 45 crore vaccines from Biological E, Zydus Cadila and Sputnik V.

COVID review teams sent to six States

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Central government has sent multi-disciplinary teams to Kerala, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Manipur, which are reporting a high number of COVID-19 cases.

"Teams will be supporting them in their efforts for targeted COVID response and management, and effectively tackling the pandemic," said a government release.

The two-member teams sent to States comprise a clinician and a public health expert each. They will monitor the

overall implementation of COVID-19 management, involving testing, surveillance and containment operations; adherence to COVID appropriate behaviour; availability of hospital beds and logistics, including ambulances, ventilators and medical oxygen; and vaccination progress. They will suggest re-

ED attaches actors' assets in Sandesara case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached assets belonging to actors Dino Morea and Sanjay Khan, Aqeel Abdulkhalil Bachooali aka DJ Aqeel, and son-in-law of late Congress leader Ahmed Patel, Irfan Ahmed Siddiqui, in the case against the Sandesara group and others. They include immova-

ble properties, vehicles and bank balances. "These attached assets belong to Sanjay Khan (₹3 crore), Dino Morea (₹1.40 crore), Aqeel Abdulkhalil Bachooali (₹1.98 crore) and Irfan Ahmed Siddiqui (₹2.41 crore)," said the agency, adding that the total attachment in the case now stood at ₹14,521.80 crore.

The agency, in a statement on Friday, alleged that the Sandesaras, who are the promoters of the Sterling Biotech group, had diverted the funds in question to Mr. Khan, Mr. Morea, Mr. Bachooali and Mr. Siddiqui.

The ED is conducting the money laundering probe based on a First Information Report registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation, alleging that several public sector banks were cheated. The total proceeds of the alleged crime have been calculated to be over ₹16,000 crore.

The ED has so far filed four chargesheets in the case and arrested four per-

Cong. questions 'silence' on Covaxin deal

Contract with Brazil has run into fraud allegations

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Raising Bharat Biotech's controversial \$320 million deal to supply 20 million doses of Covaxin to Brazil, the Congress party on Friday asked why the Narendra Modi government was "conspicuously silent" on the serious allegations.

Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinate told mediapersons that since Covaxin was developed along with the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR), "It is important for us to raise these questions because Bharat Biotech may be a private entity but public



Sharp controversy: Brazil had signed a \$320 million deal with Bharat Biotech for 20 million doses of Covaxin. • AP

funding was diverted for the development of this vaccine, taxpayers money was put into this.'

On Wednesday, the Brazilian Health Ministry suspended a contract to procure 20 million doses of Covaxin over allegations of the vaccine's price being increased from \$1.34 to \$15 per dose by the Indian manufacturer. Though Bharat Biotech denied any wrongdoing, the Congress claimed that facts in the public domain merit an investigation, and asked how a contract to export vaccines could be carried out when the Centre had placed a blanket ban on Ms. Shrinate claimed that

Brazil's Opposition parties

had also raised the issue of offshore payments demanded by Madison Biotech, a Singapore-based company and a partner of Bharat Biotech.

"The allegations also are that a \$45 million offshore payment was asked by Madison Biotech and it lies at the centre of the controversy," she said.

Ms. Shrinate also targeted BJP leaders over their response to former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi's tweet that "July is here but vaccines are not".

Ms. Shrinate said, "Please ask all these Ministers who tweet from the air-conditioned chambers, acting like petty two-rupee trolls, to go to rural India, smaller towns, and see how bad the vaccination [programme] is."

1&J jab creates more antibodies against Delta variant than Beta'

Biological E likely to produce the vaccine, says V.K. Paul

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Johnson & Johnson's singleshot vaccine elicited more antibodies against the Delta variant, the most dominant form of the SARS-CoV-2 in India, than against the Beta variant, which was first isolated in South Africa.

"We believe that our vaccine offers durable protection against COVID-19 and elicits neutralising activity against the Delta variant. This adds to the robust body of clinical data supporting our single-shot vaccine's ability to protect against multiple variants of con-



of a pre-print study that analysed eight volunteers.

cern," Paul Stoffels, M.D., vice-chairman of the Executive Committee and chief scientific officer at Johnson & Johnson, said in a statement on Friday.

These results were part of a pre-print (or not peer-re-

viewed) publication and based on an analysis of a group of eight vaccinated volunteers. Antibody levels alone aren't an indicator of a vaccine's ability to elicit protection against infection. They are part of the company's larger 44,000 volunteer-strong phase 3 trial that has so far reported an efficacy of 85% against severe dis-

On Friday, Dr. V.K. Paul, Chairman of the National Empowered Group on Vaccination, said the Hyderabadbased Biological E would likely be producing the

Voices against 'taxes' by NSCN grow stronger

People of Nagaland, Manipur speak out

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

People in Manipur and Nagaland are speaking up against the collection of "taxes" by the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN), particularly the Isak-Muivah faction.

Kahuto Chishi Sumi, the headman of Hevishe village in Dimapur, wrote an opinion piece in The Morung Express titled 'Taxation for dummies'. His write-up followed a statement by the NSCN (I-M)'s criticising Nagaland Governor R.N. Ravi

for trying to "criminalise the Naga political movement by questioning the taxation right of the NSCN".

Other people have also been criticising the outfit. "NSCN (I-M) stated that they collect tax to "support Naga people's political movement". But the fact is that NSCN (I-M) is exploiting the Nagas..." Abiema Lisham wrote on Twitter. Traders said they are forced to sell duplicates of branded items to make "sustainable profit" after paying up to 22-24% "taxes" to various groups.

Hospital staff in Odisha refused to help him; video goes viral on social media

SATYASUNDAR BARIK

Two employees at the Kandhamal district headquarters hospital in Odisha were placed under suspension after a man was forced to carry his wife's body on his own without help from hospital

Balakrushna Kanhar, who belongs to the Kandh tribe of Motingia village under Phiringia Block, had admitted his wife to the hospital on June 29. She was suffering from severe anaemia and respiratory distress. She breathed her last on Thursday.

When the man wanted his wife's body to be carried up to the hearse, no one from the hospital came forward to help him.

With much difficulty, Mr. Kanhar carried his wife's body from the bed and went down the stairs from the female ward on the second floor. He found a stretcher on the ground floor and, after placing the body, dragged it to the hearse. The vehicle driver, too, refused to help

He finally had to take the help of his ailing father, who was carrying Mr. Kanhar's two-year-old daughter. They put the child on the floor and finally placed the body in the vehicle. The video of Mr. Kanhar carrying his wife's body has since gone viral.

Man forced to carry wife's body to hearse, 2 suspended

"The woman was suffering from severe anaemia and respiratory distress syndrome. Blood transfusion was also done. Despite the best efforts of doctors, she died. Hospital staff were supposed to oversee the transportation of the body from the bed to Mahaprayan vehicles (hearse)," said Kandhamal Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO) Rajashree

Patnaik. "Hospital staff were found to have neglected their duty. Two employees, including a staff nurse and an attendant, have been suspended."

Arup Jena, president of Kandhamal Citizens' Forum, said, "The incident reminds us of the case of Dana Majhi who had to carry his wife's body over his shoulder for 12 km in Kalahandi cases a few years ago."

After the Dana Majhi episode in 2016, the Odisha government had started 'Mahaprayan' hearse services to help transport bodies.



A snapshot from the video that went viral online.

THEROSSWORD+ 13290 We are digital now. Come solve online.

14 Digital protection, rest falling out (6,5)

19 Losing interest in undergarment for one is mad (7)

21 Country in review, Spain ablaze (7) 23 The bulk is loaded, without mass it cannot take off (7)

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

25 Support child with limited help (7)

26 Ray is sick, is infected (8) 27 One clothed in extra material (5)

1 Extremely hard, yes, said to be hard to get the pigment (8)

2 Harry aimed to get first rank, you must appreciate it (6)

3 Rents going up, it's not so much weak (10)

4 Time to admit, you'll be called fit (4) 5 Perhaps mistaking ink mark? (6)

6 Remove ends - did he send you music list? (6)

8 Total bliss! Within hidden message, reveal odds (7)

9 Supplement – fuss over date and time (3,2)

13 One way to locate address in most letters – located correctly (6,4)

15 Last Sovereign, one who ruled the city (7) 16 Settles on the rim - effect of ground movement (8)

17 Monk, Rabbi – both disrobed (5)

18 Well, going around bends is a problem (6) 20 Bother to pay back, head the other way (6) 22 Creator of music and creator of the universe are different, finally (6)

24 African told to keep quiet, essentially (4)

SUDOKU

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FAITH

Power is dangerous

Explaining Kulasekhara Azhvar's Thillai Thiruchitrakootam pasurams, commentator Periavachan Pillai says Rama is 'vakutta seshi.' That means He is the Master of all of us, present in all of us, said Akkarakkani Srinidhi in a discourse. Kulasekhara Azhvar wonders when his longing to see Rama will be fulfilled. Periavachan Pillai explains this elaborately. Kulasekhara Azhvar regrets being caught in the responsibilities of kingship. Jnanis see power as a hindrance to reaching

There is a story about a dog that sought justice from Rama. Rama asked Lakshmana to find those who had grievances so that He could solve their problems. Lakshmana found that no one in Ayodhya had any complaints. Finally Lakshmana came upon a dog which said it had been wronged. So he took it to Rama. The dog said a man called Sarvarthasiddhi had thrown a stone at it. Rama sent for Sarvarthasiddhi, and he admitted to the crime. He said he had faced so many problems, that in sheer frustration, he had thrown a stone at the dog. He was ready to face punishment. The king's advisers left the mode of punishment to Rama himself.

Rama asked the dog to suggest a possible punishment. The dog said the man should be made a dharmadhikari in a temple. It might seem as if this was a reward. But the dog explained to the puzzled courtiers why it was a punishment. The dog said, "The position he is being given is a responsible one. I once was in this position. But it is not easy to adhere to all the rules when you are heading an institution. I failed in my duties inadvertently and hence have been born as a dog. I am sure this man too will err, and will take birth the way I have." Wise men know that power is dangerous and can lead one down the wrong path.

12 Food in the top layer, it's off and extremely raw (7) 13 Yahoo hasn't left, that's nice (7)

11 Fashion finally becomes cross (7)

ACROSS

6 Old man crossing the line with nymph in the woods (5)

7 Number the entire book in the head without a drink (8)

10 Record of work on board, by say end of December (7)



Instapick

Mumbai's 'treetop' walkway: As we get back outdoors, some good news. Later this year, Malabar Hills will be home to a 700 metre wooden elevated forest trail to be designed by architect Rahul Kadri. Meanwhile, forest 'bathers' can appreciate the new Merlin Bird ID app from New York's Cornell Lab. It can identify bird sounds of over 400 species. On GooglePlay and iOS.



Talking point

Euro Cup 2021: It's been a thrilling week for football fans as Raheem Sterling and Harry Kane shot England into the quarter-finals with a 2-0 win against Germany. Later tonight, watch England and Ukraine wrap things up at the quarter-final in Rome. And let's not forget all the action at Copa America 2021 in Brazil, with the quarter-finals scheduled this weekend.

KRISHNA SHASTRI DEVULAPALLI

Will those old days, when we all lived as one, ever come back? Till they do, here are three little heart-warming vignettes about better times.

Community

This was late 2019, when masks were for superheroes and loan defaulters.

As I walked along Besant Avenue, carefree, no hand sanitiser in my pocket, a couple on a bike came speeding down the road.

Suddenly, with absolutely no preamble whatsoever (which is what 'suddenly' means), they came screeching to a halt under a tree.

The young man whipped out his phone. On cue, the girl riding pillion put her smooth face to his stubbled cheek. They both smiled like professionals, showing young white teeth, and clicked a picture. To record for posterity their unbearable beauty on that random day on a random road under a random tree at 4.36 pm.

They took a second to look at the astonishing results on their phone. I could see the wave of nostalgia sweeping over both their faces for the times gone by of three seconds ago.

Fuelled by the latest evidence of their astounding joint and individual beauty, the young man then revved his bike, made it leap like a Black Buck, hit a protruding manhole cover and landed face down on the road.

His companion, the smile from a minute ago nowhere in sight, landed a second later, with her nose deep in her lover's upturned rear.

I filmed the whole thing and put it



on Facebook. 636 likes, 97 shares. Good times, I tell you, good times.

Festivity

It was marriage season. I had a warm fuzzy feeling. I had just handed over my cheque of ₹10,001 from my defunct bank account to the couple. And it was time for lunch. For me, *the* genuine feel-good factor of attending a wedding has always been getting to eat in the coveted first batch.

I had learnt to identify the hungriest *mamis* in the gathering, and stick with their twitchy noses

stick with their twitchy noses.

Placing my trust in their stealth and speed had paid rich dividends over the years. This time, too, was no

different. Abandoning my wife (she hampered my speed), I had positioned myself behind a group of four veterans who had seen more weddings than Mountbatten Mani Iyer. As the doors of the meals section opened, I slipstreamed like Häkkinen in their wake into the dining room.

The meal, needless to say, was excellent.

But, for me, the real thrill had always been what came after the meal. It was that indescribable joy of walking out of the dining room, adjusting the waistband of my pants and giving a look to the sorry folks trying to get into the second batch (which included my wife, lol), a look that said 'Listen, suckers, the food was excellent. I had an extra *appalam*. Your turn may have come now, but I ate *first*. Remember that, losers. My food was the freshest. I'll always have that and you won't.'

How I long for that community feeling. Sigh.

ulture

My readers are aware that I'm all about culture. And by that, I mean classical dance. I was invited to an NRI *akka*'s dance recital. I put on my favourite Fabindia *kurta* that I had last worn for a funeral. (It had been washed, okay!) My wife viewed me with suspicion. 'You're ready,' she said. 'Without being threatened with violence? And want to go?'

I nodded.

Our car mysteriously broke down on the way. We did make it to the cocktail party hosted by her husband, though.

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

Pick of the week

Virtual tours, events and launches you just can't miss



Workshop for poetry lovers

The National Centre for the Performing Arts, Mumbai, is curating an eight-session workshop on the interpretation of select verses of Kalidasa's 'Meghdoot - The cloud messenger'. Speakers will explain the Sanskrit poems for new-age poets in Hindi. The sessions beginning on July 7, will be conducted by Dr. Rishiraj Pathak along with guest speakers, over zoom call every Wednesday till August 25. The 90-minute sessions will start at

6.30 pm. Fee ₹2,000 per

8879114939/ 9819002515

participant. For registration call



At Paris Couture Week

Representing India at the

2021 edition of the Paris

Haute Couture Week are designers Rahul Mishra and Vaishali Shadangule, the country's first female designer to showcase her couture collection at the event. July 5 to 8. hautecouture.fhcm.paris At Antar-Agni, Ujjawal Dubey has a new line of slip-ons for men, crafted with cotton silk and handwoven cotton from surplus fabric. The footwear come with striped, wrinkled and pleated details. ₹11,700 at antar-agni.com



Haute horology

A new addition to Fabergé's isionnaire collection is the DTZ Dynamist watch, with a ceramic and titanium case. Displaying two time zones simultaneously, the timepiece is complemented by a classic black fascia in addition to yellow gold accents. ₹21,96,245. faberge.com Mumbai-based jeweller Viren Bhagat will present a selection of jewels at Christie's selling exhibition at Cipriani Monte Carlo that begins today. Other artists include Wayne Thiebaud, Pierre Soulages, etc. Till July 18. christies.com



From selfie fails to the survival of the

fittest at weddings... remembering the

good times

Mind matters

SPIT TAKE

Tinder India steps in to battle India's rising mental health crisis with free resources and therapy sessions on its app. In collaboration with Visit Health, the initiative has guided meditations, fitness videos, etc. Free sessions are valid till July 31. tinder.com Community platform Emoha Elder Care invites senior citizens to participate in their ongoing #EldersFirstFestival. Virtual sessions on post-Covid recovery, emotional wellness, financial planning, and more are on. Until August 21. emoha.com



A podcast with Karadi

In Karadi Tales' latest podcast, The Little Book Makers. authors and illustrators interview one another about their favourite children's books. A new episode drops every Saturday at 6 pm and this week's session features Samit Basu. spotify.com Uttarakhand-based Travellers' University is now inviting applications for its 52 Pari Fellowship, an 18-week programme for youngsters exploring alternative livelihoods. travellersuniversity.org

Zari florals

at Needledust

onwards, on needledust, com

'Summer Wishes', the new collection from the Delhi

designs. Aptly called sunflower serenade, sea of sand,

and strawberry lemon pie, to name a few, the juttis

come with detailing on the front and back. ₹3,690

brand, comprises a mix of pastel hues and quirky



Wimbledon 2021

The Grand Slam is back after a year's gap, with Noval Diokovic as the men's singles defending champion. Winning Wimbledon would give him his 20th major title, tying him with Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal. Serena Williams retired through injury earlier this week amidst several casualties on the wet courts. Despite the reduced star presence – the absence of Naomi Osaka. Nadal, Simona Halep and Dominic Thiem — one hopes for action-packed days leading up to next weekend's finals. leawimbledon.com



Catch up at Cannes

The Indian lineup at the 74th edition of the Cannes Film Festival features *Invis* Demons, Rahul Jain's documentary on Delhi's air pollution crisis; A Night of Knowing Nothing, by FTII alumnus Payal Kapadia; and Eka by Kolkata-born director Suman Sen, which will be part of the La Fabrique Cinema programme. International titles to keep an eye out for include The French Dispatch , Annette, and others. July 6-17. festival-cannes.com Read our columnist Naman Ramachandran's Cannes update on weekend.thehindu.com



(Clockwise from left) Snapshots of the Zoom rehearsals, and Raveesh Jaiswal

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Live from Bombay Theatre Company's latest offering is a play performed from England via Instagram

Stratford-upon-Avon

GOWRI S

Three friends gather in a home at Statford-upon-Avon in England for a quiz night as an audience scattered around the globe watch on Instagram, in real time, from their couches. This is what international theatre looks like in a pandemic world. As screens take over, actors, directors and playwrights from all over the world are experimenting with new formats - from plays performed through Minecraft to live shows on WhatsApp groups - and Mumbai-based Bombay Theatre Company (launched in 2019) is no different. Their latest offering, Quiz Night, features actors located in the UK, directed remotely from India, performing live through Instagram for audiences worldwide. The 15-minute play, with a very British premise, follows a physical quiz night where the friends gather for the first time after the lockdowns are eased in the UK. The reunion lays bare an elephant in the room, which was hidden behind the rush of life all along.

If split screens and remote perfor-

mances from multiple cities were the rage until recently, $\bar{\textit{Quiz Night}}$ adopts a different approach: partly because the actors could come together in one place. Raveesh Jaiswal, director of this show and founder of Bombay Theatre Company, blocked the play over Zoom from Mumbai. "All the virtual international plays we have done in India, are two-actor or three-actor plays, with the cast based in their respective burrows and houses. Whereas, this play will happen in the living room of a country house in England," explains Jaiswal, who along with cast members Hannah



McBride, Stacey Warner and writer Joshua Gallagher, devised a strategy that would work for the story as well.

"It's an out-and-out British play. I frankly didn't want to change or 'Indianise' anything," he says, adding that the script by Joshua captured the bleak times in a light-hearted manner. "It is based on a real activity [online quizzes] that was happening in England a lot during the pandemic." But he feels the premise would be relatable to the Indian audience, since we had our own ways of coping with being cooped up at home.

This is not the first time Bombay Theatre Company is collaborating with international talent for virtual shows. Last year, they had worked with New York-based actors and directors for live virtual productions and have done 22 Instagram plays till date since 2020. Jaiswal had always wanted to go international with Bombay Theatre Company and sees these virtual collaborations as the first step. "I am very systematic with my approach. Once the actors come together, I leverage Zoom. So we connect there and do play readings. We then get into characterisation. Post that, I also block the scenes on Zoom," he says. Rehearsals are done through proxy Instagram accounts meant solely for this purpose. When the cast goes live with the rehearsals, Jaiswal gives feedback through the comments section. The process also involved detailed starter mails on how to operate the platform and navigate its pitfalls.

The fact that live plays on social media at least attracts a live audience, makes them closer to theatre, than a recorded performance where actors perform to an empty theatre. "One of the actors that I worked with told me that he felt butterflies in his stomach... the same way you feel on stage," says Jaiswal. Instant gratification and the push to keep at the performance, remain the same, because a responsive audience is present.

The play will be performed on July 3 at 7.30 pm (IST) on Instagram @the_bombay_theatre



Former magazine editors and journalists are taking their skills and roster of contacts to e-tailers like Amazon, Myntra and Nykaa. Will it prove to be the Promised Land?

Eashion ecitors ecommerce

switch The answer is simpler than the

You don't have to be a fashion in-

sider to know that the past few

years have not exactly been easy

on print publications. Within

this segment, lowered ad bud-

gets and dwindling subscrip-

tions (with social media bring-

ing brands and designers

closer) have hit fashion maga-

zines the hardest. Over the past

two years, this has led to a few

shutting shop in India, with vete-

ran editors and journalists out of

Amid all the gloom, those

who once set trends and could

make or break brands with their

editorial power have found an

unlikely refuge in e-commerce.

Multi-brand e-tail destinations

like Nykaa, Tata CliQ, Myntra,

Amazon and Ajio, among oth-

ers, now employ many whose

bylines once populated the pag-

es of Vogue, Harper's Bazaar,

Elle, Marie Claire and L'Officiel,

But what could mass e-retail-

ers want from people whose

sole job it was to talk to select

audiences who would rarely, if

to name a few.

question makes it seem.

For years, fashion editors and journalists have been walking a tightrope between their responsibilities to their advertisers and their readers. In an ideal scenario, readers would take precedence. But in the real world, where fashion titles in India came to rely heavily on ad-sales, their allegiance shifted to those paying the bills and salaries. They had to survive.

Now, these writers who grew up knowing and understanding the Indian fashion industry and customer inside-out find themselves free from that insane balancing act. It is not surprising that the top people at India's fast-growing e-commerce sites turned to them. Their reasons range from the social and cultural legitimacy that comes when on-boarding respected names, to utilising their clout and roster of contacts to expand retail categories. Former journalists also bring an editorial edge to the way such e-commerce giants talk about the products they sell.

Bringing in some heft This isn't new. Back in 2012, I

was offered the post of fashion editor at Myntra when its founever, shop from such portals? ders were still running the com- friends, though, it could be said digital ads have begun looking

pany. Apart from overseeing the almost daily shoots for both clothes and accessories, one of my main roles was to suggest cool, young brands to on-board for the then-emerging category of homegrown designer labels with accessible price points. I was no path-breaking forerunner; it was too early in the day for that category to exist - no matter how farsighted the founders may have been.

Besides, once there, I realised that I wasn't ready or trained enough to bridge the divide between luxury fashion and e-retail. I also found it challenging to fit my style of working into the kind of detailed, structured way a corporate office is run. Used to taking decisions, and being responsible for them, it was hard for me to run my images and copy past the desks of those who specialised in data analytics and SEO/SEM, and had literally no connection to my dreamy world of fashion.

For our recently-liberated

that they have trained for this. And it shows. Myntra has launched a successful video series with famous fashion and celebrity stylists; something I wouldn't have thought they'd ever do because of the massoriented price points their merchandise represented earlier. NykaaFashion has an expanding array of brands as well as designer labels on one platform.

Already, shoots, videos, and captions on social media, emailers, website banners, and even

Digital campaigns, and a couple of

editors who made the switch -

Rochelle Pinto, editor, Tweak India; and Nonita Kalra, editor in chief, Tata **CLiQ** Luxury

a beast that never sleeps. A recent chat room on Clubhouse – that wonderful new app making audio addicts of us all reminded me of the conversations I used to have with my peers at various fashion weeks. We spoke about designers, retailers, our editors and publishers, and the future of fashion in India. Too soon, it seems, the future is here, standing in front of us. Mais ou sont le nieges d'antan? Where are the snows of yestervear, it asks, mockingly.

It is here that I tell myself to have more faith in an industry that has become a major player in the world economy. In India, the domestic textiles and apparel industry contributes 2% to the GDP, 7% of industry output in value terms, and 12% of the country's export earnings, according to government figures.

In these significant numbers, all set to climb in the future, shines a silver lining. Former journalists may yet invent new forms of expression to meet growing necessities. Maybe the voices of my peers will come out stronger for having been honed by the needs of homegrown brands, labels, and companies that can no longer be ignored. The talk of locally-relevant material has been growing louder over the years; owned content that does not rely on inaccessible tastemakers is already being spoken of as the way forward. Who knows, we could even see new magazines coming out, funded by successful e-retailers. Perhaps this is the deep breath before the much-awaited plunge?

Varun Rana is a fashion commentator.

FOOD SPOT

The charm of chholey bhaturey!

Neither light nor heavy is what the writer loves about Anandji's chholey bhature in Lajpat Nagar



RAHUL VERMA

It all started with a trip to a doctor. I was touched when two of my dear friends said they'd come along with me. After the consultation, though, they didn't go their respective ways back home - instead they went looking for a well-known chholey bhaturey wallah in Rajinder Nagar. I was a little unhappy that they could think of the all-time favourite dish when I was not feeling well. And I must say I sniggered a bit when I heard that the *chholey bhaturey* shop was shut when they went there.

But since then I have been thinking of this delicious street food that gladdens most hearts. I was in particular thinking of Chachey di hatti. Now Chacha, as many of you may know, is an iconic shop in Kamla Nagar in North Delhi. Generations of students have written their tutorials or found their life partners while munching on Chacha's bhatureys. I was feeling rather nostalgic about his fare when a close friend who lives in the university area promised to



Delicious Anandji's plate of chholey bhaturey SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

bring some over.

He did, and we had a happy breakfast the next day. The chholey (chickpeas curry) in particular had been well cooked with just the right amount of spices. Still, I thought, it wasn't what I had eaten in the 80s and 90s. But that was largely because a dayold *bhatura* (fried Indian bread) doesn't give you the kind of pleasure that a freshly fried bhatura just off a hot kadai does. All in all, though, I enjoyed my brekker.

The stomach still yearned for more. So, a couple of days later, I ordered some chholey bhaturey from Anandji's in Lajpat Nagar. I would say this signature dish at Anandji's is among the best you get in south Delhi. His is a 25year-old shop in Lajpat Nagar 1 (shop number 3, Krishna Market). I had placed my order on Zomato an hour before lunch time, and the food came dot on time.

This time, I had no regrets. The bhatura was soft, a bit moist, and not the least bit rubbery. The chholey had been cooked with some small pieces of

potatoes, which blissfully added to the taste. There was a pickled piece of carrot on the side, and a sharp green chilli. I didn't have their onion rings, but cut some chunks of a red onion at home. I tore off a piece of the bhatura, rolled it around the dark, aromatic chholey and popped it into the mouth, and then took a bite of the pickle, the chilli and onion. And what a delicious mouthful

There are some great chholey bhaturey places in Delhi - among them Nagpal's in Amar Colony and Nand in Sadar Bazar, where the bhatureys are fried in desighee. But I like Anandji's because despite the fact that you can't make bhaturas without deep frying them, you don't get a heavy feeling after eating a plateful. I had one bhatura with a bowl of chholey, and some homemade curd, and thought it was a delicious lunch, indeed. Not light, no, but not heavy either.

I think I have had my fill of chholey bhaturey. Till the next craving, that is.

The writer is a veteran food critic



Barbara

growing her empire



DIVYA KALA BHAVANI

At the mere mention of retinoids, Dr Barbara Sturm is aghast, her crystal blue eyes wide with disappointment. During a virtual event ahead of the June 8 launch of Dr Barbara Sturm products on the Global Store on Nykaa's mobile app, the internationally-acclaimed inflammatory doctor and skin specialist tells a virtual room of influencers and journalists that retinol is inflammatory and can do more harm than help.

A deep appreciator of Ayurveda, she tells The Hindu Weekend in an email interview that her love for skincare and holistic beauty comes from - like most people - her mother, who was a chemist, and her grandmother, who was a pharmacist.

"They both loved milk baths and dry brushing, and would mix creams for us as children. We would often go into the forest during my childhood and pick medicinal herbs and roots,"

> deeply rooted in and skincare

> > She is also known for her Darker Skin Tones products that aim to even out and brighten rather than lighten the skin of melanin-active Indian consumers. Dr Sturm's products are also geared towards women's needs, such as her V Collection specifically for intimate skin care.

Yes, the products are

pricey. But she says such price tags on skincare are attributed to their development and ingredient concentrations. She explains, "It is inevitably going to be 'luxury' because it is so expensive to make it that way. I do think people are beginning to appreciate and understand that process."

That is why she has created so many 'white

better. E-tailers are now more responsive on social media, and

take an interest in regional fes-

tivals and cultural high points,

too. Ideas like inclusivity – in

size, shape, gender and race -

are coming to the fore, however

tenuously. Ironically, even sus-

tainability is being discussed,

though we cannot be certain to

what extent it is being inculcat-

ed. And this signifies that if not

directly, these former magazine

editors have definitely helped e-

retail giants develop a new un-

derstanding of our very unor-

But like anything that's too good

to be true, it raises the question:

how long will these marriages

last? Already there are murmurs

within the inner circles that the

hierarchical, corporate struc-

ture is proving difficult to navi-

gate on a day-to-day basis, that

editorial creativity may have ta-

ken a back seat to the realities of

the retail cycle. Keep in mind

that many of the former editors

and journalists come from a

monthly publishing cycle. E-

commerce, by stark contrast, is

The German skincare specialist talks about bringing her products to India, her bestsellers, and why they are pricey

Science of ingredients

Sturm's Germany-made line

between nature and science.

is what I build my skincare

solutions around – potent,

studied for their properties

key ingredients that have

been widely, clinically

and efficacy.'

"Advanced ingredient science

But the framework of Dr

ganised fashion industry.

Tackling the grind

According to Nayar

The Dr Barbara Sturm launch on the Nykaa Global Store is one success among many for Nykaa CEO-founder Falguni Nayar. The platform already has big names such as Evolve, Rodial and Cosmedix, showcasing the shifting demands for luxury beauty. "We show brands the opportunity that India presents as a fast-growth, evolving market, and spend considerable time and effort to assist them in bringing operations to the country. Seeing the overwhelming response we receive around these brands, we continue to work to build further access for the Indian consumer," says Nayar.

T-shirt' products such as the Hyaluronic Serum (₹10,660), Sun Drops SPF 30 (₹5,050), etc – all in her trademark sand-blasted glass bottles and tubs. One of her more novel and pandemic-ready inventions is her reusable Nano Silver Mask that both protects and cares for the skin (price TBC).

The great equaliser The skincare luminary has worked with some famous faces such as Jennifer Lopez, Venus Williams and Kim Kardashian, but she says skin health is an equaliser for her. "Skin is skin," she insists, "there is no difference between a celebrity's skin and yours. My fundamental advise never changes: protect and boost your skin barrier function, provide it with essential nutrition and hydration, and combat inflammation with skincare ingredient science. Avoid make-up, irritating and aggressive ingredients, acid peels and lasers. Heal and protect your skin and it will

When the coronavirus pandemic hit the beauty and skincare industry hard, Dr Sturm found she and her teams had to pivot hard to a new normal.

"For me, it caused an emergency acceleration [product development, expansion, etc] of the things that I intended to carry out anyway at my company to improve the customer experience."

One of the more popular ventures is Skin School, a series of free-to-attend, monthly live digital classes via Eventbrite, focussing on the needs of young adult and teen skin; the series (on YouTube) features celebrities such as model Hailey Baldwin and actor Colton Haynes, among others.

Dr Barbara Sturm's products is available on the Global Store on Nykaa's mobile app.

After 2 decades, U.S. exits key Afghan base Israel strikes Hamas site

Bagram Airfield, which was key to U.S. war against al-Qaeda, has been handed over to Afghan forces

ASSOCIATED PRESS

After nearly 20 years, the U.S. military left Bagram Airfield, the epicentre of its war to oust the Taliban and hunt down the al-Qaeda perpetrators of the 9/11 terrorist attacks on America, two U.S. officials said on Friday.

The airfield was handed over to the Afghan National Security and Defence Force in its entirety, they said on condition of anonymity.

One of the officials also said the U.S. top commander in Afghanistan, General Austin S. Miller, "still retains all the capabilities and authorities to protect the forces."

Gen. Miller met Afghan President Ashraf Ghani on Friday and according to a Da-



Security challenges: Afghan soldiers standing guard at the gate of the Bagram Airfield on Friday. • REUTERS

ri-language tweet by the presidential palace the two discussed "continued U.S. assistance and cooperation with Afghanistan, particularly in supporting the defence

and security forces."

Hong Kong

U.S. President Joe Biden on Friday said the withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan is "on track" but it will not be completed withU.S. to relocate Afghan translators: White House

Translators and other Afghans who assisted U.S. forces during the war will be relocated to countries outside of Afghanistan while visa applications to the U.S. are processed, the White House said on Friday, declining to give further details. White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki also said that the drawdown of U.S. forces from Afghanistan was expected to be complete by the end of August.

in the next few days.

Speaking to reporters at the White House, Mr. Biden said that some U.S. forces will still be in Afghanistan in September as part of a "rational drawdown with our allies."

Meanwhile, Afghanistan's district administrator for Bagram, Darwaish Raufi, said the American departure was done overnight "without any coordination with local officials or the Governor's office", and as a result, early on Friday dozens of local looters stormed through the unprotected gates before Afforces ghan control. The Taliban too wel-

comed the American withdrawal from Bagram Airfield. In a tweet by spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid, they called it a "positive step," urging for the "withdrawal of foreign forces from all parts of the country."

in Gaza over fire balloons

Military says it targeted a weapons manufacturing site

REUTERS JERUSALEM

Israeli aircraft bombed a Hamas site in the Gaza Strip overnight in response to incendiary balloons launched from the Palestinian enclave, Israel's military said on Friday.

Gaza's Islamist rulers Hamas confirmed one of its sites had been struck. Israel's military said it had hit a Hamas weapons manufacturing site. There were no reports of casualties.

Since a May 21 ceasefire ended 11 days of Israel-Hamas fighting, Palestinians in Gaza have sporadically launched balloons laden



Rushing for cover: People escaping tear gas shells fired by Israeli security force in East Jerusalem on Friday. • REUTERS

with incendiary material across the border, causing fires that have burned fields

Palestinians say the balloons aim to pressure Israel to ease restrictions on the coastal enclave.

Balloon launches had ebbed after Israel eased some curbs on Gaza last week. But on Thursday, balloons were again launched from Gaza, causing at least four brush fires near Israeli cities along the border.

Six million EU citizens apply to stay in U.K.

Scheme gives them right to live there

Priti Patel

promised to protect the

rights of EU citizens who

have made their life in the

U.K., and developed the

hugely successful EU Settle-

ment Scheme to ensure they

could call the U.K. home in

the years to come," Home

The government has tout-

ed the settlement scheme as

the successful delivery of

promises made to EU na-

tionals in the U.K. after Bri-

tain's withdrawal from the

bloc in December and the

However, immigration

rights campaigners have

complained that the most

vulnerable - including chil-

dren placed in care, young

adults previously in care,

the homeless and the elder-

ly - have been allowed to

slip through the scheme's

end of free movement.

Secretary Priti Patel said.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

More than six million EU citizens have applied to stay in the U.K. after Brexit, the government said on Friday, nearly twice the number thought be living in Britain before it left the bloc.

There was a late flurry of applications ahead of a June 30 deadline for the settlement scheme, designed to allow EU citizens residing in the U.K. to retain the same rights as they enjoyed before Brexit.

But since the end of the Brexit transition period on January 1, EU citizens wishing to settle or stay have faced tougher tests to secure residency and employment.

The final figure of 6.02 million applications, with 5.1 million grants of status, is far higher than the 3.7 million EU nationals originally estimated to be in the counwhen the scheme launched in March 2019.

More than 4,00,000 applications were made in the final month before the scheme ended, the Home Office said, adding that those who had missed the deadline on "reasonable grounds" could still make a late application.

"When we left the EU we



AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

A 50-year-old man who died after stabbing a Hong Kong police officer was a "lone wolf" attacker who had been politically "radicalised", the city's security chief said on Friday.

Footage of Thursday attack was evening's caught by a local journalist's livestream.

It showed a man in a dark T-shirt stabbing an officer in the back in the shopping district of Causeway Bay.

Police said the man who has not been publicly identified by authorities then stabbed himself in the chest and later died of his wounds.

The 28-year-old officer suffered a punctured lung and underwent surgery overnight.

"Initial investigations indicate that this is a lone wolf-style act of domestic terrorism," Chris Tang, a former police chief, told reporters outside the hospital where the officer was taken.

Mr. Tang said officers later searched the attacker's home and found materials on his computer that showed he had been "radi calised".

Pandemic increased vulnerability to human trafficking: U.S. report

Chinese government engaged in 'widespread forced labour'

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN

The pandemic resulted in an increase in vulnerability to human trafficking and interrupted existing anti-traffic efforts, according to the Trafficking in Persons report, an annual study released by the U.S. State Department. The U.S. has determined that governments of twelve countries, including China, had a policy of trafficking in the reporting period (year ending March 31). On India, the report says that while it did not meet the minimum standards to eliminate traffick-

came to bonded labour. "The concurrence of the increased number of individuals at risk, traffickers' ability to capitalise on competing crises, and the diversion of resources to pandemic response efforts has resulted in an ideal environment for human trafficking to flourish and evolve," Kari Johnstone, the official with oversight of the report wrote in it its

ing, the government was

making significant efforts,

although these were inadeq-

uate, especially when it

introduction.



Antony Blinken delivering remarks on the release of the TIP report. ■ REUTERS

State Department, to have a "policy or pattern" of human trafficking resulting in their countries being assigned a 'Tier 3' rating. Afghanistan, Burma, China, Cuba, Eritrea, North Korea, Iran, Russia, South Sudan, Syria and Turkmenistan were on this list. The report said that the

Chinese government engaged in "widespread forced labor, including through the continued mass arbitrary detention of more than one million Uighurs, ethnic Kazakhs, ethnic Kyrgyz, and other Muslims" in Xinjiang. For India, the report said

the government is not meeting the minimum standards to eliminate trafficking "but is making significant efforts to do so." The government had increased efforts in the latest reporting period relagovernments tive to the previous one, takwere determined, by the ing into account the impact said.

of the pandemic on anti-trafficking efforts, resulting in India retaining a Tier 2 classification. It said the efforts included identifying more victims of trafficking and prosecuting more cases.

"Overall anti-trafficking efforts, especially against bonded labor, remained inadequate. The government achieved fewer convictions, and the acquittal rate for traffickers remained high at 73 percent," the report said. On the chapter on the

U.S., the report said that although the government met the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, it had policies in place that limited immigration options for trafficking victims, before repealing those policies. There is also a reference to unaccompanied minors being expelled from the U.S.

While U.S. law "requires the government to screen unaccompanied children and follow certain procedures to place the children in the least restrictive setting in the best interest of the child to combat child trafficking, unaccompanied children were processed and expelled," the report

रिक्तियों की आरक्षण ब्योरे

01

01

Male responds to India's letter on media 'attacks'

Refrain from publishing false news: govt.

MEERA SRINIVASAN

The Maldivian government on Friday urged the country's media to refrain from publishing "false news and accusations" against resident diplomats, apparently responding to concerns raised by the High Commission of India last week over "malicious" media reports.

In a press release issued on Friday, the Maldivian Foreign Ministry said it took note of articles published repeatedly in some local media, levelling "false accusations" at foreign ambassadors, missions and diplomats in the Maldives.

It comes a week after the Indian High Commission sent a letter, dated June 24, to the Ministry, seeking action on persons behind "repeated attacks" in the media on its diplomats, and enhanced security in the wake of such coverage.

While some Maldivians, in their social media posts. termed India's request as an attack on the country's media freedom, the Foreign Ministry echoed India's concerns aired in the letter, and said: "These actions affect the decades long friendly relations Maldives has maintained with friendly nations, sources."

and create hatred among the local population towards these friendly nations. This also puts the diplomats' lives in danger and hinder their diplomatic work." The Ministry referenced the host state's obligations to provide security to resident diplomats under the Vienna Convention, which the Indian High Commission had also cited in its

The Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) - of President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, and former President and Speaker Mohamed Nasheed – which leads the Maldives's ruling alliance said it was "deeply concerned" over the recent reports in published in local news portal Dhiyares, "expressing disparaging and illfounded remarks about Indian diplomats in the Maldives." Responding in a tweet on

Friday, the website's cofounder Ahmed Azaan said: "I condemn the ruling DPSecretariat's attempts to curb freedom of speech by its cowardly attempts to bully journalists such as myself into silence. Dhivares' reporting of India is based on verified

U.S. issues moratorium on death penalty at federal level

Biden had pledged to pass law to end capital punishment

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN

The U.S. Department of Justice (DoJ) has issued a moratorium on federal executions while it reviews policies and procedures, the Department said in a statement. U.S. President Joe Biden had said on his campaign website that he would legislate the end of capital punishment at the federal level and incentivise states to follow suit. "The Department of Jus-

tice must ensure that everyone in the federal criminal justice system is not only af-

U.S. sanctions

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

The U.S. on Friday slapped

fresh sanctions on four

Mvanmar Ministers and

other officials and business

entities in response to the

February military coup

and attacks against the

country's pro-democracy

three members of the State

Administrative Council,

four business entities and

spouses and children of

several officials, in an ex-

The sanctions targeted

Myanmar

Ministers

WASHINGTON

movement.

forded the rights guaranteed by the Constitution and laws of the United States, but is also treated fairly and humanely. That obligation has special force in capital cases." Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a statement released on Thursday.

Apart from the moral case against the death penalty, the data show that in its application, it is biased against racial minorities, especially African Americans.

Under former President Donald Trump, the federal government carried out 13 executions. This is the highest number of executions under any presidency since the 19th Century, Reuters reported.

The review, ordered by Mr. Garland, will include an assessment of the "risk of pain and suffering" caused by pentobarbital – a lethal injection drug. The Trump administration's DoJ had adopted a single drug, instead of a three drug protocol. The review will also look into a November 2020 expansion of federal execution methods beyond lethal in-

jection and policy changes

to expedite executions.

After engine trouble, cargo plane lands in Pacific Ocean

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A cargo plane made an emergency landing in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Hawaii early on Friday and both people on board have been rescued.

The pilots of the Transair Flight 810 had reported engine trouble and were attempting to return to Honolulu when they were forced to land the Boeing 737 cargo aircraft in the water, the Federal Aviation Adminis-

tration said in a statement. U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Commander Karin Evelyn said in an email that they received a

report around 1.40 a.m. of a downed inter-island transport plane. About an hour later, rescuers in a Coast Guard helicopter spotted the debris field and two people in the water, she said.

One person was hoisted into the helicopter and taken to Queens Medical Center in good condition, Lt. Commander Evelyn said. The Honolulu Fire Department rescued the other person, who was also in a good condition, she said.

The FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board will investigate the crash.

राष्ट्रीय समुद्र प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OCEAN TECHNOLOGY (पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)

(Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India) एन आई ओ टी केप्पस, वेलच्चेरी-तांबरम रोड, चेलैं-600 100. NIOT Campus, Velachery - Tambaram Road, Chennai - 600 100. Phone: 91-44-66783300 Mail: recruitment@niot.res.in

ADVERTISEMENT No. NIOT/E&P/01/2021(Regular)

National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) invites applications from Indian Nationals for recruitme of the following posts. The detailed requirements for these posts and the procedure for submitting $applications \ have \ been \ uploaded \ on \ website \ link \ https://www.niot.res.in/index.php/recruitment$ Mode of Pay Level in the

the Post	Discipline	Recruitment	(as per VII CPC)	Category					
Scientist-F	Life Science	Direct Recruitment	Pay Level 13A	1 post; UR (place of posting at Port Blair, A&N Islands)					
Scientist-D	Electrical / Electronics / Mechanical / Physics	On Deputation basis	Pay Level 12	1 post; UR					
Scientist-C	Mechanical Engg.	Direct Recruitment	Pay Level 11	1 post; UR					
Senior Executive		On Deputation basis	Pay Level 06	1 post; UR					
Director									

NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY ODISHA, CUTTACK **Advertisement for Faculty Positions**

Advt No.: NLUO/TR-001/20-06-2021 National Law University Odisha, a premier Law University in India inviting applications in the prescribed format for the following faculty positions on regular basis. The qualification is as per the UGC Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and measures for the maintenan of Standards in Higher Education, 2018.

No of Reservation Pay Level Posts Professor (Law) 02 UR 02 Academic Level 14 Regular with rationalized entry Associate 03 02 UR Academic Level 13A Regular Professor (Law with rationalized entry Assistant 04 UR Academic Level 10 with rationalized entry pay of Rs.57, 700/-) Assistant with rationalized entr pay of Rs.57, 700/-) (English)

Last Date of receiving application by Speed/registered Post : 24.07.2021 The prescribed application form, instructions and other details about minimum ar desired qualifications may be downloaded from University website: www.nluo.ac.in

. Filled in application form should be sent to the Registrar, National Law University Odisha with a Demand Draft of Rs. 1,000/- drawn from any scheduled bank in favour of Registrar, National Law University, Odisha payable at Cuttack

. Only short-listed candidates will be called for Interview. Persons in service shall apply only through proper channel 4. No TA/DA will be given for attending the Interview

5. For any updates please visit University website regularly, no separate communication will be made to the candidates. Sd/- Registrar



भारत सरकार / Government of India अंतरिक्ष विभाग / Department of Space भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंघान संगठन/Indian Space Research Organisation द्रव नोदन प्रणाली केंद्र / LIQUID PROPULSION SYSTEMS CENTRE वलियमला पी.ओ., तिरुवनंतपुरम / Valiamala P.O., Thiruvananthapuram-695 547



विज्ञापन सं / Advertisement No. एलपीएससी / LPSC/01/2021 तिरुवनंतपुरम के निकट वलियमला में स्थित एलपीएससी यूनिट में निम्नांकित पदों की मर्ती हेतू आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं Applications are invited for the following posts for LPSC Unit located at Valiamala near Thiruvananthapuram:

पद का नाम : वैज्ञानिक सहायक [स्तर 7 (वेतन मेट्रिक्स : ₹ 44,900 - ₹ 1,42,400/-)] Name of Post : SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANT [Level 7 (Pay Matrix : ₹ 44,900 - ₹ 1,42,400/-)]

Poct	संख्या	Reservati	ion details	अनिवार्य अपेक्षाएं Essential Requirements						
Post No.	No. of Vacancies	अना. अ.पि.व. UR OBC		on 1414 Statify Essential Requirements						
743	01	-	01	कृषि / बागबानी में प्रथम श्रेणी बीएससी डिग्री First Class B.Sc Degree in Agriculture/Horticulture						
पद का नामः किन. अनुवादक अधिकारी [स्तर 6 (वेतन मेट्रिक्स : ₹ 35,400 - ₹ 1,12, Name of Post : JUNIOR TRANSLATION OFFICER [Level 6 (Pay Matrix : ₹ 35,400 - ₹ 1,1										
				जनातक में शनिवार्य मा नमनिव विषय के क्या में मा प्रतिथा के माध्यम के क्या						

स्नातक में अनिवार्य या चयनित विषय के रूप में या परीक्षा के माध्यम के रूप में हिंदी विषय के साथ मान्यता प्राप्त विश्वविद्यालय से अंग्रेजी विषय में स्नातकोत्तर डिग्री Masters degree from a recognized University in English with Hindi as a compulsory of elective subject or as the medium of examination at the degree level.

विषय के साथ मान्यता प्राप्त विश्वविद्यालय से हिंदी विषय में स्नातकोत्तर डिग्री

Masters degree from a recognized University in Hindi with English as a compulsory

elective subject or as the medium of examination at the degree level

या OR स्नातक में हिंदी माध्यम या अनिवार्य या चयनित विषय या परीक्षा के माध्यम के रूप मे अंग्रेजी विषय के साथ, हिंदी या अंग्रेजी के अलावा किसी भी विषय में मान्यता प्राप्त विश्वविद्यालय से स्नातकोत्तर डिग्री ; Masters degree from a recognized University in any subject other than Hindi or English, with Hindi medium and English as a compulsory of elective subject or as the medium of examination at the degree level

स्नातक अंग्रेजी माध्यम और अनिवार्य या चयनित विषय या परीक्षा के माध्यम के रूप मे हिंदी विषय के साथ, हिंदी या अंग्रेजी के अलावा किसी भी विषय में मान्यता प्राप्त विश्वविद्यालय से स्नातकोत्तर डिग्री ; Masters degree from a recognized University in any subject other than Hindi or English, with English medium and Hindi as a compulsory of elective subject or as the medium of examination at the degree level

रनातक में अनिवार्य या चयनित विषयों या परीक्षा के माध्यम के रूप में दोनों विषयों में किसी एक विषय और दूसरे अनिवार्य या चयनित विषय के रूप में हिंदी और अंग्रेजी वं साथ, हिंदी या अंग्रेजी के अलावा किसी मान्यता प्राप्त विश्वविद्यालय से स्नातकोत्तर डिग्री ; Masters degree from a recognized University in any subject other than Hindi o English, with Hindi and English as compulsory or elective subjects or either of the two as a medium of examination and the other as a compulsory or elective subject at degree level.

और AND हिंदी से अंग्रेजी और विपरीततः अनुवाद में मान्यता प्राप्त डिप्लोमा या प्रमाणपट्र पाठ्यक्रम या भारत सरकार के उपक्रमों सहित केंद्रीय या राज्य सरकार कार्यालय मे हिंदी से अंग्रेजी और विपरीततः अनुवाद कार्य में दो वर्षों का अनुभव। Recognize Diploma or Certificate course in Translation from Hindi to English and vice-versa or two years experience of translation work from Hindi to English and vice-versa in Central or State Government Office, including Government of India Undertakings.

अना./UR: अनारक्षित Un-Reserved, अ.पि.व./OBC: अन्य पिछडे वर्ग Other Backward Class! . 22.07.2021 को पद सं 743 के लिए आयु सीमा 38 वर्ष और पद सं 744 के लिए 35 वर्ष है। पूर्व सैनिक तथा निर्देशित (बेंचमार्क अपंगता व्यक्ति (पीडब्ल्यूबीडी) भारत सरकार के नियमानुसार ऊपरी आयु की सीमा में ढील के पात्र हैं। इच्छुक अभ्यर्थी विस्तृत जानकारी एवं ऑनलाइन आवेदन प्रपत्र भरने हेतु वैबसाइट **www.lpsc.gov.in** देखें। ऑनलाइन भर्ती पोर्टल दिनांक 09.07.2021 को 1400 बजे से 22.07.2021 को 1400 बजे तक उपलब्ध होगी।Maximum Age limit as on 22.07.2021 is 38 years for post no. 743 and 35 years for post no. 744. Relaxation in maximum age limit is applicable for Ex-servicemen and Persons Wit Benchmark Disabilities (PWBDs) as per Govt. of India orders. Interested candidates may visit the website www.lpsc.gov.ir for detailed information and filling-up online application form. The online recruitment portal will be available from 1400 hrs of 09.07.2021 to 1400 hrs on 22.07.2021.

pansion of actions taken in May following the coup.



Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on July 02									
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL							
US Dollar	74.54	74.86							
Euro	88.20	88.58							
British Pound	.102.51	102.97							
Japanese Yen (100)	66.91	67.21							
Chinese Yuan	11.50	11.55							
Swiss Franc	80.56	80.93							
Singapore Dollar	55.17	55.43							
Canadian Dollar	60.08	60.35							
Malaysian Ringitt	17.90	18.00							

Laurus gets DRDO nod for COVID-19 drug

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Drugmaker Laurus Labs has received licence from the Defence Research and **Development Organisation** (DRDO) to manufacture and market 2-Deoxy-D-Glucose (2DG), an oral drug indicated as an adjunct thefor hospitalised COVID-19 patients.

Announcing this, the company said it has already applied for emergencyuse authorisation for the product with the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation. The Drugs Controller General of India had, on May 1, gave emergency approval for use of 2DG in COVID-19 patients.

Laurus Labs is among a clutch of firms being issued a licence to make and market 2-DG, sources said.

Last month, the DRDO invited expressions of interest from pharmaceutical companies, offering transfer of technology for manufacturing 2-DG.

India sees 'consensus' by Oct. on OECD-G20 global tax deal

Share of profit allocation, subject-to-tax rules' scope yet to be addressed: FinMin

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

A day after joining the OECD-G20 framework for a global minimum tax, the Finance Ministry on Friday said significant issues including share of profit allocation and scope of subject-to-tax rules were yet to be addressed, and a 'consensus agreement' was expected by October.

A total of 130 countries on Thursday agreed to an overhaul of global tax norms to ensure multinationals pay taxes wherever they operate and at a minimum 15% rate.

The solution should result in allocation of meaningful and sustainable revenue to

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Idea (VIL) said it is in active

talks with potential investors

for fund raising, and assert-

ed that 'floor price' remains

the 'best and most pre-

ferred' fix for industry's

woes arising from tariff-re-

approached the government

to extend moratorium on

spectrum instalments. It

highlighted that the sector's

biggest pain point comes

from pricing issues, and con-

ceded that tariff hike is 'ab-

solutely' essential to revive

the sector now under stress.

post Q4 earnings announce-

Speaking at analyst call

VIL confirmed that it has

Vodafone

NEW DELHI

lated issues.

Cash-strapped



Closing ranks: The pact outlines a solution to address tax challenges from digitalisation of the economy. ■R. V. MOORTHY

market jurisdictions, particularly for developing and emerging economies, the Ministry said in a statement. A majority of the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on

moots 'floor price' for tariff woes

Telco's loss narrows to ₹7.023 crore in quarter ended March

ment, Ravinder Takkar, CEO

VIL said, "On fund raising,

we are currently in active

discussion with potential in-

vestors." Mr. Takkar did not

give a firm timeline for fund

raising - which has been sig-

nificantly delayed – but em-

phasised that the company

is fully engaged with inves-

tors and 'interest' continues.

VIL dials investors for funds,

Base Erosion and Profit Shifting members (including Instatement containing an outline of a consensus solution

On whether VIL had an al-

ternate plan ready if it was

unable to raise funds, he in-

sisted, "I don't think there is

any reason to start creating

Plan B. We are confident that

funding will take place in the

than it needs to be, whereas

the consumption that cus-

tomers and overall citizens

enjoy is significantly higher

than what it used to be sever-

al years go," Mr. Takkar said.

narrowed to about ₹7,023

crore for the quarter ended

March, mainly on the

strength of cost optimisa-

tion. The loss stood at

₹11,643.5 crore in the year-

earlier period.

VIL's consolidated loss

"Pricing is much lower

coming weeks."

arising from digitalisation of the economy, it added.

REUTERS

Plans by Big Tech to foray

further into India's financial

sector pose risks for tradi-

tional banks as the tech

firms have the potential to

become dominant players in

financial services, the Re-

The plans would also

create governance-related

challenges for regulators,

the RBI wrote in its Financial

Major technology firms

"straddle many different

lines of business with some-

times opaque overarching

governance structures," the

'Opaque governance'

Stability Report.

serve Bank of India said.

It comprises Pillar One reallocation of additional share of profit to the market jurisdictions, and Pillar Two regarding minimum tax and subject-to-tax rules.

Deloitte India Partner Sumit Singhania said the consensus would quicken ongoing efforts to reset the almost century-old international tax rules. It provides an objective definition for "largest (sales more than €20 billion) and most profitable (more than 10% global profitability) MNEs to be subject to new nexus and profit allocation rules," he added

Retailers, wholesalers get MSME tag

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Friday announced the inclusion of retail and wholesale trade under MSMEs as per which they will also now get the benefit of priority sector lending under RBI guidelines.

He said the retail and wholesale trade sector was left out of the ambit of MSMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises).

"Now, under the revised guidelines, retail and wholesale trade will also benefit from priority sector lending under RBI guidelines," the MSME Minister added.

The revised guidelines will benefit 2.5 crore retail and wholesale traders.

NMDC logs record iron ore output, sales in June

PSU may exceed FY22 target: CMD

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Public sector miner NMDC has reported an 18% yearon-vear increase in iron ore output in June to 2.98 million tonne (MT) and a 28% jump in sales to 3.18 MT.

The firm said it was the best performance in June. In June 2020, it had produced 2.52 MT and sold 2.48 MT.

For the quarter ended June, the iron ore production and sales stood at 8.89 MT and 9.57 MT respectively, a rise of 34% and 49%. The June quarter performance is a new record for Q1, the company said.

The first quarter sets the tone for what we expect to be one of our best years," said CMD Sumit Deb. "This



Big Tech's push into financial

'Firms could become dominant players undermining banks'

sector poses risks, says RBI

central bank said.

The RBI said concerns in-

cluded operational risks,

too-big-to fail issues, chal-

lenges for antitrust rules, cy-

bersecurity and data priva-

cy. But it added that positive

outcomes could include effi-

ciency gains and more ac-

cess to financial services.

sales targets for FY22. That such a strong performance is being achieved in such testing times is particularly gratifying," he added. NMDC said June also saw

Kirandul complex deliver its best performance to date -10.36 lakh tonne (LT) produced and 11.36 LT sold from the Chhattisgarh unit.

Amazon and Google currently provide basic payment services in India. Both companies as well Facebook and others have applied for licences to operate broader retail payment and settlement systems in partnership with Indian companies such as Reliance and lenders.

The RBI's warnings come at a time of much tension between the Indian government and U.S. tech giants over issues that range from ecommerce rules to data privacy and content posted on their platforms. Amazon, Facebook, Facebook-owned WhatsApp and Twitter have all been caught up in disputes with New Delhi.

Forex reserves surge by \$5 bn to \$609 billion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

India's foreign exchange reserves surged by \$5.06 billion to touch a record high of \$608.99 billion in the week ended June 25, 2021, RBI data showed.

In the previous week ended June 18, the reserves had declined by \$4.41 billion to \$603.93 billion.

During the week under review, the increase in the reserves was on account of a rise in foreign currency assets (FCA), a major component of the overall reserves. FCA rose by \$4.7 billion to \$566.24 billion. Gold reserves rose by \$365 million to \$36.296 billion. The special drawing rights with the IMF remained unchanged at \$1.49 billion.

Switch Mobility bags orders for 2,000 e-LCVs

It signs pacts with leading logistics firms

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Hinduia Group's electric vehicle firm Switch Mobility Ltd. said it has secured or ders for 2,000 e-LCVs.

Switch had signed agreements with leading logistic operators to supply the e-LCVs. Customer trials would start this month, it said.

With the combined expertise of its teams in the U.K and India, Switch will build on its experience of having more than 280 EVs in service with over 26 million miles covered, it said.

On Friday, Switch announced a new leadership team headed by Andy Palmer as executive vice-chairman and CEO, Nitin Seth as COO, Sarwant Singh Saini as chief planning officer and Roger Blakey as CTO.

Switch Mobility is an arm

SAT stays ban on Franklin



of Ashok Leyland. Switch Mobility's Indian subsidiary is Switch Mobility Automo-

Recently Siemens Ltd. and Switch Mobility Automotive Ltd. signed an MoU under which the latter would bring in its e-CVs into India. Siemens would provide charging-infrastructure technology and management software solutions to enhance the energy-efficiency of the chargers.

Edelweiss Financial to exit insurance broking JV for ₹308 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Edelweiss Financial Services said it will exit the insurance broking business by selling its 70% stake in Edelweiss Gallagher Insurance Brokers Ltd. for ₹307.60 crore.

"The company has en-

divest its entire shareholding (currently 70%) in Edelweiss Gallagher Insurance Brokers Ltd., a subsidiary, engaged in the business of insurance broking to Arthur J Gallagher & Co.," Edelweiss Financial Services said in a regulatory

held 30% in the business, will now be acquiring the balance shares, taking its stake to 100%, as per the filing.

The company said as per the agreement, 37 lakh equity shares of ₹10 each, representing 70% of the paid up share capital of Edelweiss held by the company, is to be sold for a consideration of ₹307.60 crore.

In addition to the sale consideration, Edelweiss Financial Services will also be entitled to receive a deferred contingent consideration based on the future revenue rance Broker. Rashesh Shah, chairman,

Edelweiss Group, said the sale will provide the firm "with the flexibility to reallocate capital and invest in scaling up our fast-growing life and non-life insurance businesses, making this a

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS:TIRUPATI **NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

e-Tender is invited for entrusting the work of Packing & Shipping of Calendars and Diaries - 2022. For Tender Notice & details - e-tender; log on the web site http://www.tirumala.org and http://tender.ap.eprocurement.gov.in.

For further details contact: 0877-2264209, Cell No.9963955585, email:swpttd@gmail.com

Roc.No.PR4/13932/Adv.No.57/PR0/2021/Dated:02-07-2021 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

नगर निगम हैरिटेज जयपुर

(जलेबी चौंक, बडी चौपड) <u>-: : ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या ०९ से 12/2021-22 : :-</u>

नगर निगम जयपुर हैरिटेज की ओर से विद्युत कार्य हेतु नगर निगम जयपुर में व अन्य विभागों में नये नियमों के अनुसार श्रेणीवार EWSD श्रेणी में पंजीकृत संवेदकों से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई—टेन्डरिंग प्रक्रिया में ऑन लाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

निविदा से सम्बन्धित समस्त विवरण वेब साईट http;//sppp.rajathan.gov.in vw.jaipurmcheritage.org पर निम्न UBN No. JMC2122WSOB00342 to JMC2122WSOB00345 प

इच्छुक संवेदकों को ई—निविदा में भाग लेने हेतु वेबसाईट <u>http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in</u> प अधिशाषी अभियन्ता (विद्यत) राज सवाद / सी / 21 / 3066

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY ANANTAPUR ANANTHAPURAMU - 515 002 (A.P.) INDIA

e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE Tenders are hereby invited from reputed Companies / Agencies / Firms for

the Supply / Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Food Testing Laboratory Equipment and Furniture for the JNTUA College of Engineering. Kalikiri. Chittoor Dist., through e-procurement portal https://tender. apeprocurement.gov.in. with Tender ID No.421257. Tender schedule from $03\text{-}07\text{-}2021\,\&\,Last\,Date\,of\,Tender\,submission\,is\,17\text{-}07\text{-}2021\,by\,04.00\,p.m.$ The schedule & other details of the tender can be downloaded from eprocurement portal https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in or http://www.intua.ac.in. Sd/- Registrar, JNTUA.

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Telefax No: 080-2207 2010, e-mail : purchase@cpri.in

web site : http://www.cpri.in

CORRIGENDUM - 05 Dated : 02-07-2021 TENDER NOTIFICATION: CPRIBLR21NIT03 DATED 24-03-2021 PURCHASE DIVISION, CPRI, BENGALURU - 560 080 Due date & time | Date & time of

SI. No.	Description / Tender Specification No.	for submission of bid extended up to	opening of bid extended up to	Extension No.						
01	Outsourcing security services in CRTL- Bengaluru, UHVRL - Hyderabad, STDS -Bhopal and RTL - Noida CPRIBLR21SECU01M745	23/07/2021 14:00 hrs	26/07/2021 11:00 hrs Onwards	5 th						
Tender documents with detailed specifications, terms & conditions,										

instructions, and other details be kindly availed / downloaded from CPRI website: http://www.cpri.in and CPRI e-procurement portal www.tenderwizard.com/CPRI from 03-07-2021 onwards Purchase Authority-CPRI CPRI/ADVT/14 /2021

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD (A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road Bengaluru - 560 001. website: www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-12/3225/2021-22

Date: 02.07.2021 NOTICE INVITING TENDER

(Through GOK e – Procurement Portal Only)

Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the works mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors holding valid Super Grade Electrical License issued from KCEI & Class-I (Civil) issued from KPWD Government of Karnataka who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work as per the schedule given below:

Name of the work: (1) Establishment of 2x10 MVA, 110/11kV Substation including Construction of 110kV LILO Line on D/C towers from existing 110kV Allipura-Munirabad line to proposed Substation at Kuduthini Industrial Area, Ballari Taluk & District on Total Turnkey basis. (2) Establishment of 1x20 MVA, 1x10MVA, 110/11kV Substation including Construction of 110kV D/C Line from Ring Main Line to Chikkasugur with Terminal bay at Chikkasugur and 110kV LILO Line with Lynx ACSR conductor from existing 110kV Chikkasuguru-Vadavatti S/C Line for the proposed Substation at KIADB Housing Layout in Raichur Taluk & District on Total Turnkey basis. (3) Establishment of 2x8 MVA, 66/11kV Substation at Immavu Industrial Area on Total Turnkey basis including Construction of proposed 66kV S/C line from proposed Adakanahalli 220/66/11kV receiving station to existing 66/11kV Ayarahalli Substation with LILO at proposed Immavu substation and Providing 66 kV Terminal bay at the existing 66/11kV Ayarahalli Substation at Nanjanagudu tq, Mysuru District on Total Turnkey basis. (4) Establishment of Substations at Narasapura 2nd Phase and Mastenahalli Industrial Areas on Total Turnkey basis Part-A:- Establishment of 2x100 MVA, 220/66/11kV & 2x20 MVA 66/11 kV Substation at Narasapura Industrial Area 2nd Phase (Jakkasandra) including Construction of 220kV LILO line with Drake ACSR conductor from existing 220kV Hoody-Malur-Kolar SC line to proposed substation in Kolar District. Part-B: Establishment of 2x12.5 MVA, 66/11kV Substation at Masthenahalli Industrial Area including Construction of 66kV LILO line with Drake ACSR Conductor from existing 66kV Talagawara to Chintamani SC line to proposed substation at Chikkaballapui District on Total Turnkey basis.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is: 10.08.2021 upto 04:00 pm Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal

DIPR/DDU/R.O:724/2021-22

https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in. Sd/-

Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE. **Follow Physical**



Templeton's Kudva, wife SEBI had barred the duo for a year PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI The Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) has stayed a SE-BI order that barred Franklin Templeton's Asia Pacific (APAC) head Vivek Kudva and his wife Roopa from the securities market for a year. The charge against the

couple is that they redeemed their mutual fund units when the schemes were facing significant redemption pressure and eventually those schemes were wound up on April 23, Also, the regulator levied

a total penalty of ₹7 crore on the couple. Besides, they were asked to jointly and severally transfer ₹22.64 crore redeemed of Franklin Templeton MF schemes to an escrow account.

Pursuant to this, Kudvas filed an appeal in the tribu-



In an order on Thursday, the SAT said the SEBI order "shall remain stayed during the pendency of the appeal. In so far as the direction to the redemption amount in an escrow account, the said direction will continue".

With regard to the penalty, the tribunal directed them to deposit 50% of the penalty amount within

The tribunal has given four weeks to SEBI to file a reply and a rejoinder may be filed within four weeks thereafter. The matter has been listed for August 30,

raise \$200 mn

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD

billion.

Capital and new investors Sequoia Capital India, IIFL Alternate Asset Managers and a few others, is subject to insurance regulator IR-DAI's approval. Digit Insurance said it is raising the funds by diluting 5% equity, to maintain solvency.

This is one of the biggest funding rounds in the Indian insurance industry, bringing the total capital infused into Digit to \$442 million. In a smaller funding round in January, it was valued at \$1.9 billion, the company said.

Digit Insurance to

Digit Insurance is raising up to \$200 million from existing and new investors in a round that pegs the Fairfax-backed general insurer's valuation at \$3.5

The fund raising, from existing investor Faering

Pioneering Jabeur continues her dream run

Tunisian beats former champion Muguruza in a pulsating three-setter; Djokovic fends off Kudla's challenge

WIMBLEDON

AGENCIES LONDON

Trailblazing Ons Jabeur reached the last 16 at Wimbledon on Friday, coming back from a set down to beat 2017 champion Garbine Muguruza 5-7, 6-3, 6-2 in 2 hours and 26

The 26-year-old threw up even as she earned two match points, kneeling down in the corner of Centre Court. She later attributed this to a "stomach inflammation."

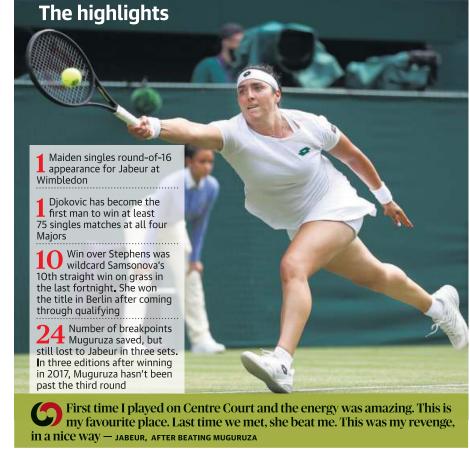
But such was her unwavering focus that even after Muguruza saved one match point, Jabeur made no mistake on the second, falling on her back in celebration and getting back up to a standing ovation.

She will next meet Poland's 2020 French Open champion Iga Swiatek, who was ruthless in her demolition of Romania's Irina-Camelia Begu 6-1, 6-0.

Landmark feat

It was another landmark performance by Jabeur, who only last month became the first Arab woman to win a WTA Tour title, triumphing on grass at Birmingham.

Jabeur, whose best Grand Slam finish is quarterfinals at the 2020 Australian Open,



said she was nervous at the outset against Muguruza but gradually settled into a rhythm.

Her Spanish opponent had taken a tight first set but Jabeur worked her way back

and by the third set, she clearly held the upper hand.

break points on her next ser-Muguruza's serve was convice game but Jabeur broke again for 4-1. From then on, tinually under pressure with Jabeur breaking in the first the Tunisian was never really service game of the deciding under pressure, save from herself, as she closed out the

Vaccine Slot on

Book COVID-19

Scan QR to Book Slot

match. On Court No.1, twotime defending champion Novak Djokovic survived a rocky third set to defeat American qualifier Denis Kudla to reach the last 16 for the 13th time.

The World No.1 triumphed over 114-ranked Kudla 6-4, 6-3, 7-6(7) to keep on track his chase of a record-equalling 20th Major.

After cruising through the first two sets, he had to fight back from 1-4 down in the third and also from 1-4 in the tiebreaker.

"It's the trademark of every pro athlete that you never give up," said Djokovic. "I am always trying to give my maximum out there.'

The five-time champion next takes on 17th-seeded Cristian Garin, who became the first Chilean to reach the Wimbledon fourth round in

THE RESULTS

Third round

Men: 1-Djokovic (Srb) bt Kudla (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 7-6(7); 5-Rublev (Rus) bt 26-Fognini (Ita) 6-3, 5-7, 6-4, 6-2; 8-Bautista Agut (Esp) bt Koepfer (Ger) 7-5, 6-1, 7-6(4); Fucsovics (Hun) bt 9-Schwartzman (Arg) 6-3, 6-3, 6-7(6), 6-4: 17-Garin (Chi) bt Martinez (Esp) 6-4, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4: Sebastian Korda (USA) bt 22-Evans (GBR) 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4; 25-Khachanov (Rus) bt Tiafoe (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.

Women: 21-Jabeur (Tun) bt 11-Muguruza (Esp) 5-7, 6-3, 6-2; 8-Karolina Pliskova (Cze) bt Martincova (Cze) 6-3, 6-3; Samsonova (Rus) bt Stephens (USA) 6-2, 2-6, 6-4; 7-Swiatek (Pol) bt Begu (Rou) 6-1, 6-0; 23-Keys (USA) bt 13-Mertens (Bel) 7-5, 6-3; 18-Rybakina (Kaz) bt Rogers (USA) 6-1, 6-4; 2-Sabalenka (Blr) bt Osorio Serrano (Col) 6-0, 6-3; Golubic (Sui) bt Brengle (USA) 6-2, 6-1.

Fallen seeds

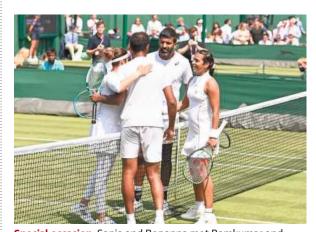
13-Mertens

- Men: 9-Schwartzman, 22-Evans, 26-Fognini
- Women: 11-Muguruza,

16 years.

Also on Friday, Nick Kyrgios and Venus Williams won their mixed doubles opener against the American pair of Austin Krajicek and Sabrina Santamaria 6-3, 3-6, 7-5.

Historic moment as four Indians share court



Special occasion: Sania and Bopanna met Ramkumar and Ankita in the first round of mixed doubles. • WIMBLEDON FB

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rohan Bopanna and Sania Mirza defeated Ramkumar Ramanathan and Ankita Raina 6-2, 7-6(5) in a historic all-Indian mixed doubles first-round match here on Friday.

It was the first time in the Open Era that two Indian teams competed against each other at a Grand Slam.

The contest finally brought a Slam debut for Ramkumar, who has made multiple attempts to qualify for the singles main draw of a Major but without success.

Putting up a fight

While the first set ended quickly in favour of Bopanna and Sania, Ramkumar and Ankita put up a good fight in the second, and even led for a brief period with a break of serve.

Bopanna was clearly the best player on view with his powerful serve and solid groundstrokes. However, Sania's serve didn't really

Ramkumar came up with some big serves, while Ankita gave it her all after growing in confidence as the

match wore on. In another mixed doubles first-round tie, Divij Sharan

and Samantha Murray Sharan (GBR) outlasted the Uruguay-Kazakhstan pair of Ariel Behar and Galina Voskoboeva 6-3, 5-7, 6-4 in a match that lasted two hours and 19 minutes.

Spain keeps its nerve to overcome a gutsy Switzerland

Simon excellent under the bar for the winner even as the rival penalty-takers fumble their lines

EURO 2020

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE ST. PETERSBURG

Goalkeeper Unai Simon was the hero as Spain edged past 10-man Switzerland 3-1 on penalties on Friday to set up Euro 2020 semifinal against Belgium or Italy.

After a 1-1 draw which saw

the Swiss play for 43 minutes a man down, Simon made two saves in the shoot-out to help keep Spain's bid for a record fourth European crown alive.

It was heartbreak for Switzerland, which was bidding to reach the semifinals of a major tournament for the first time in its history.

Spain forged ahead early

through his own net, but Switzerland was the better side for long periods and Xherdan Shaqiri, standing in for the suspended Granit Xhaka as captain, equalised in the 68th minute.

Reduced to 10

The Swiss were reduced to 10 men with 13 minutes remaining, though, when midfielder Remo Freuler was dismissed for a tackle on Gerard Moreno.

Switzerland goalkeeper Yann Sommer, the hero of the penalty shoot-out win over world champion France in the last 16, made a string of fine saves in extra time. But Simon saved from Fabian Schar and Manuel



Muguruza saved several

Simon the saviour: Schar's effort is thwarted by the Spanish goalkeeper. • GETTY IMAGES

blazed over in a tense finale as Spain snuck through, with its previous two matches, Mikel Oyarzabal smashing this was a return to the type

After scoring 10 goals in

which saw Spain draw its first two group games.

But the 2008 and 2012

start to this quarterfinal, taking the lead in fortunate circumstances in only the eighth minute.

A corner was cleared only as far as Jordi Alba, whose left-footed volley was diverted past Sommer by Switzerland midfielder Zakaria.

It was the 10th own goal of Euro 2020, more than the other 15 editions combined.

But the underdogs found the equaliser four minutes later, as Freuler latched onto a loose ball and squared for Shaqiri to slot into the far corner and score his third goal of the tournament.

The result: Switzerland 1 (Shagiri 68) drew with Spain 1 (Zakaria 8-og) in regulation time. After extra-time, Spain won 3-1

England the favourite but Ukraine has belief

Denmark takes on the Czech Republic

REUTERS MANCHESTER

Whereas Gareth Southgate's team went into its last-16 tie with Germany amid relentless reminders of historic failures, it is simply expected to beat Ukraine in Rome on Saturday.

Any objective analysis of the two teams would reach the same conclusion.

England is ranked third in the world while Ukraine is 24th.

In the group stage, England was unbeaten and finished top of its group while Ukraine lost twice and fin-

ished third. While Southgate's men go **TODAY'S MATCH**

QUARTER FINALS Czech Republic vs

Denmark, 9.30 p.m.

Ukraine vs England, 12.30 a.m. (Sunday) Live on Sony Ten 2, 3 & Sony Six (SD & HD)

Ukraine is also on a high after Artem Dovbyk's header at the end of extra-time gave

it a 2-1 win over Sweden. Meanwhile, Denmark and the Czech Republic both welcome back injured players for their quarterfinal in Baku after an extended rest since their last-16 victo-

'Select County XI' for India's warm-up game: ECB

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) is working on COVID-19 protocols to organise a warmup game for the touring Indian team against 'Combined Counties' side in the third week of July as a tuneup for the first Test in Nottingham starting on August

The three-day match, which might be accorded First Class status, will pit the Indian team against a 'Select County XI' which in earlier times was known as 'Combined Counties'. The tentative date could be between July 20-22.

India looks to stop an England sweep

Vice-captain Harmanpreet's form a cause for concern for visitors

INDIA IN ENGLAND

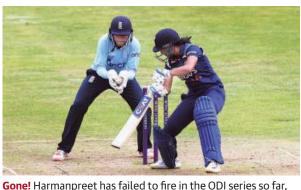
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

An under-fire Indian women's team would be desperate to address vice-captain Harmanpreet Kaur's prolonged lean patch as it seeks to stop a marauding England side from completing a 3-0 sweep in the final ODI here on Saturday.

Having lost six out of the last seven ODIs, the Mithali Raj-led side is finding it difficult to stem the rot as it faces the ignominy of another one-sided series defeat after being thrashed by the South Africans on home soil.

Mithali recovers

Mithali has recovered from the neck pain she felt during



falling for 1 and 19. • GETTY IMAGES

the second ODI and is set to lead the team.

While the bowlers came up with a much-improved game in the second ODI, the batting let the team down yet again with Mithali left to do all the heavy lifting, which is also affecting her game.

One of the primary issues that has been overlooked over the past four years has been Harmanpreet's poor performance. Harmanpreet, whose epic

171 against Australia in the

2017 World Cup became a

defining moment for the wo-

has since gone off the boil. With Mithali and the likes

men's game in the country,

of Jemimah Rodrigues, Punam Raut, Deepti Sharma and Taniya Bhatia not having the ability to play the power game, openers Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma are facing additional pressure.

In the first game itself, there were 181 dot balls against a bowling attack that has Katherine Brunt, Anya Shrubsole, Nat Sciver, Kate Cross and Sophie Ecclestone. It has been relentless with its tight lines.

Tammy Beaumont and Sciver are in good form and home team skipper Heather Knight will look to find her touch.

Match starts at 3.30 p.m.

Morgan's men seal series

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Captain Eoin Morgan and Joe Root hit unbeaten fifties as England cruised to a series-clinching win over Sri Lanka in the second ODI at the Oval on Thursday.

England finished on 244 for two with seven overs to spare, chasing 242 for victory. Morgan (75 n.o.) and Root (68 n.o.) shared an unbroken stand of 140.

Player-of-the-Match Sam Curran had set up the victory with a spell of five for 48.

Ionny Bairstow and Iason Roy ensured England made a brisk start to the chase. Even after losing the openers, England remained in command, with Morgan and Root in fine form.

"It was really special to get my first five-for and to be playing in front of fans as well," the 23-year-old Cur-



ran, playing on his Surrey home ground, told Sky

The scores: Sri Lanka 241/9 in 50 overs lost to England 244/2 in 43 overs (Jason Roy 60, Joe

Mohoric posts first stage win

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Matej Mohoric posted his first stage win in the Tour de France on Friday following a long breakaway in the race's longest stage.

The 249km hilly trek from Vierzon to Le Creusot was the longest in 21 years.

Mohoric was part of a group that formed more than 200km before the finish line. He went solo in the stage's finale, using a tough climb to drop his remaining breakaway companions and reach the finish line in Le Creusot alone.

Aronian stuns Carlsen

RAKESH RAO

Levon Aronian stunned Magnus Carlsen 2-0 in the blitz tie-breaker and will face Vladislav Artemiev in the final of the Goldmoney Asian Rapid online chess tournament.

Following the loss of the first set on Thursday, Aronian scripted a memorable comeback by winning the second set 3-1.

Meanwhile,

won twice with white pieces against Ding Liren after the first game ended as a draw for a 2.5-1.5 to force the tiebreaker, which Artemiev won 1.5-0.5 The results: Semifinals: Se-

Artemiev

cond set: Levon Aronian (Arm) bt Magnus Carlsen (Nor) 3-1 (Aronian won the blitz tiebreaker 2-0; Vladislav Artemiev (Rus) bt Ding Liren (Chn) 2.5-1.5 (Artemiev won the blitz tiebreak 1.5-0.5).

WI takes series to decider

Bravo and Pollard the architects

SA IN WINDIES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Dwayne Bravo's career-best T20I figures of four for 19 led the West Indies to a successful defence of a modest total as the home side pulled off a series-levelling 21-run victory over South Africa in the fourth of the five-game series on Thursday.

On fire Set a target of 168 after cap-

tain Kieron Pollard belted an unbeaten 51 off 25 balls with five sixes and two fours to lift the West Indies to 167 for six,

the consistent Quinton de Kock in their quest to clinch the contest ahead of the final match on Saturday at the same venue. However, his dismissal by Bravo for a top score of 60 at the start of the 18th over was the death knell for the visitors.

the Proteas relied heavily on

South Africa finished at 146 for nine.

The scores: West Indies 167/6 in 20 ov-

ers (Lendl Simmons 47, Kieron Pollard 51; George Linde 2/16, Tabraiz Shamsi 2/13) bt South Africa 146/9 in 20 overs (Quinton de Kock 60; Andre Russell 2/30, Dwayne Bravo 4/19).

Ranatunga slams SLC

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Sri Lanka's World Cup-winning skipper Arjuna Ranatunga on Friday slammed the island's sports leaders for agreeing to a tour by a second-string India side. He said the tour undermined the country's "dignity" as he attacked Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa and Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC).

"Out of the 20-member squad, 14 players have represented India and it is not a second-string team as claimed," the SLC said in its response.

Dhawan-led Indians start training

The series is India's last before the T20 WC in October-November



Shaping up: Shikhar Dhawan and teammates having a work-out in Colombo on Friday. ■TWITTER@BCCI

INDIA IN SL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Indian cricket team on Friday underwent its first training session ahead of the limited-overs series against host Sri Lanka from July 13.

India, which has picked a second-string squad for the series with the Test team currently in the UK, had arrived in Sri Lanka on Monday following which the players quarantined in their room for three days. The side is being led by senior batsman Shikhar Dhawan and coached by

NCA head Rahul Dravid. The series is India's last be-

fore the T20 World Cup in October-November. squad has as many as six uncapped players - Chetan Sakariya, K. Gowtham, Nitish Rana, Devdutt Padikkal, Varun Chakaravarthy and Ruturaj Gaikwad. It is also an important as-

signment for the likes of Prithvi Shaw, Ishan Kishan, Sanju Samson and Suryakumar Yadav who are looking to secure their place in the World Cup squad.

India plays three ODIs and as many T20Is.

TV PICKS

Wimbledon 2021: SS Select 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m. **England Women vs India** Women: 3rd ODI: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m. Tour de France: Eurosport (SD & HD), 4.30 p.m. F1: Austrian GP (Qualifying): SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 6.30

Euro 2020: Sony Ten 2, 3 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 9.30 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Sunday) **Copa America 2021**: Sony Ten 2 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 3.30 a.m. & 6.30 a.m.

NBA: SS Select 1 (SD & HD).

6 a.m. (Sunday)

COPA AMERICA

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

QUARTER FINALS Uruguay vs Colombia, 3.30 a.m. (Sunday) Argentina vs Ecuador,

Live on Sony Ten 2 and



Toni Kroos retiring from German national team

Toni Kroos said on Friday he was retiring from Germany's national squad. "I had already made the decision to retire after this tournament for some time. It had been clear to me for a while that I will not be available for the

PSG, Ramos agree on two-year deal: report

tweeted Kroos. AFP

World Cup 2022 in Qatar,"

Paris St. Germain has struck a deal to sign Spanish defender Sergio Ramos, French radio network RMC reported on Thursday. The report said Ramos had agreed a two-year contract with PSG. REUTERS

UEFA suffers setback in **Super League case**

A Spanish court on Thursday ordered European soccer's governing body UEFA to cancel all legal sanctions imposed on Real Madrid. Barcelona and Juventus for planning the creation of the breakaway European Super League. REUTERS

Lahiri in a tough spot; Thompson leads

Anirban Lahiri carded a one-under 71 in the opening round to lie tied 87th at the Rocket Mortgage Classic here on Thursday. Davis Thompson matched a Detroit Golf Club record with a nine-under 63 to take the early first-round

Aditi recovers from slump to be T-71

DALLAS Aditi recovered from a mid-round slump to card an even par 71 and lie tied-71st in the Volunteers of America Classic here on Thursday. Aditi, who dropped a bogey and a double bogey in her opening round, was just outside the projected cut line. Ko Jin-Young of South Korea was in the lead with a 63. PTI

Hurdler McNeal's ban upheld, to miss Games

LAUSANNE

American Olympic 100m hurdles champion Brianna McNeal will miss the Tokyo Games - and even the 2024 Paris Olympics — after the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) dismissed her appeal against a five-year ban for an anti-doping rule violation.

Wrestler Malik handed two-year ban

NEW DELHI His hopes of competing in the Olympics over, Indian wrestler Sumit Malik was on Friday banned for two years by the sport's world governing body UWW after his B sample also returned positive for a prohibited stimulant. The 28-year-old has one week to decide if he would accept the sanction or challenge it. PTI

Mixed fortunes for Bhullar, Shubhankar

Gaganjeet Bhullar shot a one-under 71 and was tied the Dubai Duty Free Irish Open. Shubhankar Sharma carded two-over 74 to be

Т-123. рті

liday had 25 points and 13 assists and Khris Middleton 73rd on the opening day of finished with 26 points and 13 rebounds for the Bucks, who grabbed a 3-2 series

CM YK

'I now know the art of running better'

Sprinter Dutee Chand says her first objective is to make it to the semifinals at Tokyo

ATHLETICS

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM HYDERABAD

At 25, Dutee Chand has every reason to feel proud. She is the first Indian athlete to make it to the Olympics for the second straight time in the 100m (she will also compete in the 200m), having made the cut for next month's Tokyo Games by virtue of her world rankings.

"I am delighted even though, honestly, I was a bit worried whether I would make it because there were not too many competitions for me to protect the world rankings," Dutee said in a chat with The Hindu.

"It will be great if I can realise my ultimate dream of an Olympic medal which is not that easy. To make it to the Olympics for the second straight time is itself a huge thing for me," said an elated



Optimistic: Dutee Chand's coach N. Ramesh says his ward is capable of pulling off a surprise at the Tokyo Olympics. • v.v. subrahmanyam

For the 'pocket dynamo', at 4 feet 11 inch, it has been a fairytale success story given the kind of adversities she has had to face both in the sport and in life.

"I owe everything to Ra-

mesh Sir (SAI athletics coach N. Ramesh), Gopi Sir (P. GopiChand) for being with me in 2014 when everyone had written me off.

"I am also grateful to the federation, Odisha Government and the Government of India.

life in athletics," said the two-time Asian Games silver

"In Rio, I was very ner-

vous, overwhelmed by the big names around. Now, I am more confident and know the art of running better," said Dutee.

No change in methods

"I don't think there is any need to be different in my training methods. What I need to produce the expected results is well taken care of by Ramesh Sir," added Dutee.

Asked about her prospects, the sprinter said "you need a little bit of luck and good weather to start with. My first objective is to make it to the semifinals and I know it is not going to be that

"I think Dutee is more mature as compared to Rio, better understands on how to run the race and how to stay "They gave me a second away from distractions before the Games. She is capable of pulling off a major surprise," said coach Ramesh.

Mariyappan to be the flagbearer at Paralympic Games

K. KEERTHIVASAN CHENNAI

T. Mariyappan, who will defend the men's high jump (T-42) gold at the Tokyo Paralympic Games, said he is thrilled to be the flagbearer of the Indian team. "I am very happy to be

nominated as the captain of the Indian Paralympics Team at Tokyo. I take this opportunity to thank my coach Satyanarayana and all my friends for their support. I am happy to have qualified for the Tokyo Games [with a jump of 1.86m at the selection trials in New Delhi] and promise that I would do my best and if possible win a gold with a world record. I also take this opportunity to thank the Tamil Nadu Government, Government of India, Sports Authority of India and the Paralympic Committee of



India for their continuous patronage," he said in a video message.

Speaking to The Hindu on Friday, Satyanarayana said Mariyappan has been training diligently since last October at the SAI Centre (Bengaluru). "There is still time for the Games which begins on Aug. 24. I feel he can still improve," he said.

Warholm sets 400m hurdles world record



On the fast track: Norway's Karsten Warholm blazes away to a new men's 400m hurdles mark. • AP

REUTERS

Norway's Karsten Warholm broke Kevin Young's 29year-old 400m hurdles world record when he completed the race in 46.70 seconds at the Diamond League meeting in Oslo on Thursday.

Warholm beat 1992 Olympic champion Young's mark of 46.78secs, which was set

four years before the Norwegian was born and was the longest-standing record

Twice world champion

in men's track.

Warholm raced to an early lead and never let up as he was roared on all the way to the finishing line, which he crossed ahead of 2019 Pan American Games champion Alison dos Santos by more than six tenths of a second.

Richardson's 100m FINA confirms Maana's spot

SPORTS BUREAU

Backstroker Maana Patel's universality spot at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games was confirmed by FINA, the Swimming Federation of India announced on Friday.

The 21-year-old from Gujarat will compete in 100m backstroke and will be the third Indian swimmer in Tokyo alongside Sajan Prakash and Srihari Nataraj.

Best performance

Maana is the current National record holder in the women's 50m, 100m and 200m backstroke events and also has the best Indian performance across all three distances.

dreams upended REUTERS

American sprinter Sha'Carri Richardson has accepted a one-month suspension after testing positive for cannabis, the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) said on Friday, ruling her out of the 100 metres in Tokyo although she may yet be able to run in later relay events.

The positive test came at the U.S. Olympic trials last month where Richardson established herself as a gold medal contender by winning the 100m in 10.86 seconds.

Richardson said in an NBC Interview on the Today Show on Friday that her ac-



Sha'Carri Richardson. • AFP

tion came during the trials while she was dealing with the news of the death of her A 30-day ban backdated

to the time of the adverse result could leave Richardson clear to race in the 4x100m relay at the Olympics in the first week of August, if she is selected by USATF.

Hamilton on top after first day of practice

AUSTRIAN GP

REUTERS

on Friday.

SPIELBERG (AUSTRIA) Seven-time Formula One World champion Lewis Hamilton unlocked some pace and led a Mercedes one-two on the first day of practice for the Austrian Grand Prix

Red Bull's championship leader, Max Verstappen, had been quickest in the opening session at the Red Bull Ring, where he won the Styrian Grand Prix last Sunday, with a time of one minute 05.143 seconds.

Hamilton clocked a best lap of 1:04.523 in the afternoon, with teammate Valtteri Bottas second in 1:04.712



Hamilton. • GETTY IMAGES

and Verstappen third, but the Briton was not celebrating. "They've definitely got something extra in their bag, I already know that," he said of Red Bull.

Advanced equipment: Sindhu gets quick nod

BADMINTON

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD

World champion and 2016 Olympic Games silver medalist P.V. Sindhu's request to buy advanced recovery equipment was approved by the Government of India within 24 hours, according to a media release.

"I am happy that it did not take even a day for the Sports Authority of India to approve my request for the recovery system. The clearance was really quick, and I will be able to place an order and procure it in time to

Bucks take series lead

Hey guys, watch! The Hawks defenders are left mere

NBA

LOS ANGELES

AGANCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Milwaukee Bucks dominat-

ed Atlanta Hawks on way to

a 123-112 win in game five of

the NBA Eastern Conference

son-high 33 points, Jrue Ho-

lead and are one win away

Brook Lopez had a sea-

finals on Thursday.

spectators as Bucks' Brook Lopez goes for a basket. • AP

1974.

knee.

take it with me to the Olympic Games," Sindhu said on the administrative sanction to procure the Game Ready recovery system on Friday.

"It will help me immensely after each long training session or match as it is a portable cold and compression recovery system," Sindhu said of the system that is rated better than conventional Rest-Ice-Compression-Elevation methods of recovery.

"Sometimes one gets exhausted and experiences stiffness after matches. This will help in a quick and systematic recovery," she said.

from reaching the NBA fi-

nals for the first time since

playing without two-time

NBA Most Valuable Player

Giannis Antetokounmpo,

who is out with an injured

He watched the game

from the sidelines, standing

with his teammates almost

The result: Eastern Confe-

rence finals: Milwaukee Bucks

123 bt Atlanta Hawks 112

the entire game.

(Bucks lead series 3-2).

Milwaukee won despite

Harika in final

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

D. Harika reached the final of the Women's Speed chess championship, stunning the reigning World blitz champion Kateryna Lagno of Russia in the semifinals. The Indian, who came to the main draw through the qualifiers, won a thrilling match via the tie-breakers.

Harika won 14-13, after the scores were level 11.5-11.5 at the end of three seg-

Sandhu backs Rajound for Dronacharya

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Former national boxing coach Gurbax Singh Sandhu has recommended two-Commonwealth Games medal-winner Manoj Kumar's personal coach Rajesh Kumar Rajound for the Dronacharya award for a second successive year.

Being a former awardee, Sandhu is entitled to recommend names for the National sports awards.

Rajound has played a key role in shaping Manoj's ca-

2022 CWG events in India cancelled

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

The Commonwealth archery and shooting championships, which were scheduled to be held in Chandigarh before the 2022 Birmingham Games, have been cancelled due to the "uncertainty" posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The decision was taken by the Commonwealth Games India (CGI) Executive Board with the support of the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF).

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