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Lalu Prasad makes a comeback on RJD's 25th foundation day



12 BJP MLAs suspended from Maharashtra Assembly for a year







Over 1,000 Afghan

Barty beats Krejcikova, Jabeur stuns Swiatek; Djokovic advances Page 13

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troops flee Taliban into Tajikistan

NEARBY



Sonia Gandhi to meet **Amarinder Singh today**

Amid the ongoing political turmoil in Punjab, Chief Minister Amarinder Singh is likely to meet Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday to give a final shape to a compromise formula to end the bitter factionalism. **NEWS** ▶ PAGE 9

Delhi HC to hear U.P. govt. on conversion issue

NEW DELH The Delhi High Court on Monday extended the interim direction to Delhi Police to ensure the safety of a woman from Shahjahanpur in Uttar Pradesh, who had converted to Islam of her own accord. till July 22. Justice Rekha Palli said she could not pass any direction in the case without first hearing the U.P. police. **NEWS** ▶ PAGE 10

High Court refuses to

hear Gulfisha's plea NEW DELHI The Delhi High Court on Monday declined to hear student activist Gulfisha Fatima's plea against her alleged illegal detention in a north-east Delhi riots case after taking serious note of her advocate Mehmood Pracha's taking recourse to "heckling" during the hearing. CITY ▶ PAGE 2

Tribal rights activist Father Stan CBSE to cut syllabus, hold Swamy dies in Mumbai hospital

84-year-old priest was accused in Bhima-Koregaon violence case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Tribal rights activist Father Stan Swamy, 84, who was an accused in the Bhima-Koregaon caste violence case, passed away on Monday afternoon, the Bombay High Court was told.

Dr. Ian D'souza, medical director of the Holy Family Hospital where Fr. Swamy was admitted on May 29 after having contracted CO-VID-19 while in Taloja jail, told a division Bench of Justices S.S. Shinde and N.J. Jamadar that he had pulmonary infection, post COVID-19 complications in the lungs and pneumonia. Dr. D'Souza said the Jesuit priest suffered cardiac arrest at 4.30 a.m. on July 4 and was put on ventilator. He never regained consciousness.

Senior advocate Mihir Desai, representing Fr. Swamy, said, "We have no grievance against the hospital. However, we cannot say the same thing about the National Investigation Agency [NIA] and State authorities. I am seeking a judicial probe into this as there was a delay of 10 days in taking him to the hospital from jail."



Crusader for tribal rights: A file photo of civil rights activist Father Stan Swamy, who passed away on Monday. •PTI

The Bench said, "...this is shocking news. We passed that order ... to take him to the hospital of his choice. We have no words to express our condolences."

Mr. Desai said the NIA did not seek his custody even for a day and he was sent to Taloja jail as soon as he was arrested from Ranchi on October 9, 2020. He requested the court to pass an order to hand over the social worker's body to Father Frazer, his friend and former princi-

pal of Xavier's college. Mr. Desai sought the submission of all medical reports and the post-mortem

report to the court. Fr. Swamy was shifted to the private hospital from Taloja jail on May 29 after directions from the High Court. He tested positive for COVID-19 on May 30.

He also had lower back pain and bilateral hearing loss among other ailments, and was suffering from Parkinson's disease. His request for a sipper to drink water was turned down.

The Jesuit priest, through videoconferencing, told the court on May 21: "I am eating less and less and my co-accused are worried about me. I would prefer to suffer and die like this in Taloja jail than be admitted to J.J. Hospital. Only one thing that I would request the judiciary is to consider interim bail. That is the only request."

MORE REPORTS ▶ PAGE 9

Political leaders call for accountability

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Political leaders and activists on Monday called for accountability over the death in a Mumbai hospital of 84-year-old Jesuit priest and tribal rights activist Father Stan Swamy.

Father Swamy, who suffered from Parkinson's Disease, was arrested under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) in Ocotber 2020 from Ranchi in connection with the Elgar Parishad case and lodged in Taloja jail. His health had been deteriorating since.

Congress president Rahul Gandhi offered his condolences, saying "he deserved justice and humaneness", in a tweet.

Congress MP Jairam Ramesh said in a tweet, "Who in the apparatus of the Indian state will be held responsible for this tragedy? Make no mistake - it is the Indian state that killed Fr. Stan Swamy, who was such a passionate crusader for social justice."

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

board exams in Nov. & April

New assessment scheme for Classes 10 and 12 this year

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

With continuing school closures and examination disruptions due to COVID-19, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has issued a new assessment scheme for Class 10 and 12 students this year.

In 2021-22, it will reduce the syllabus, hold board examinations twice during the year in different formats, and ensure continuous recording of internal assessment scores in order to have a variety of options to calculate a final score at the end of the year, according to a notification issued on Monday

Result of uncertainty

The announcement comes after widespread uncertainty during the 2020-21 academic year, when the second wave of COVID-19 caused the postponement and then cancellation of year-end board examinations. The CBSE finally asked schools to use a combination of scores from Class 10, 11 and 12 and internal marks to calculate the final results.

"The syllabus for the Board examination 2021-22 will be rationalised similar to that of the last academic session," said the notification. Last year, the examination

Plan of action | The CBSE has divided the academic year into two terms with 50% syllabus for Class 10 and 12, and exams at the end of each term

held in November-December 2021 with a flexible schedule during a window of 4-8 weeks. It will be a 90-minute paper with multiple choice questions The second

■ The first term exam will be

term exam will be held in March-April 2022 and is likely to he a 2-hour

paper with

various ques-

■ The syllabus will be rationalised like last year, when it was reduced by 30% ■ Guidelines will be issued

tion of marks in internal assessments, practicals and project work. Schools must create a student profile for all assessment undertaken during the year and retain the evidence in digital format.

to ensure fair distribu-

with marks uploaded onto CBSE's IT

syllabus was reduced by

The CBSE has divided the 2021-22 academic year into two terms with 50% of the syllabus to be covered in each term, with board exams to be held at the end of each term, according to the notification.

The first term exam will be held on a flexible schedule between November-December 2021, with a window period of 4-8 weeks for schools situated in different parts of the country. It will be a 90-minute paper with multiple choice questions only, likely to be conducted in schools with the supervi-

superintendents.

The second term exam will be held in March-April 2022 in examination centres, and is likely to be a two-hour exam with various question formats. In case the pandemic situation is not conducive for such a long, descriptive exam to be held, the second term exam will also be conducted with a multiple choice question

format. The CBSE will issue guidelines to make internal assessments, practicals and project work more credible and valid to ensure fair distribution of marks.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

+ Job done



COVID Care Centre on Monday as positivity rate continues to decline in the Capital. • R.V. MOORTHY

SC aghast that Section 66A of IT Act is still used

Provision was struck down 6 years ago

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

The Supreme Court on Monday found it "distressing", "shocking" and "terrible" that people were still booked and tried under Section 66A of the Information Technology (IT) Act even six years after it struck down the provision as unconstitutional and a violation of free speech.

Section 66A had prescribed three years' imprisonment if a social media message caused noyance" or was found "grossly offensive".

The court, in the Shreya Singhal judgment authored by Justice Rohinton F. Nariman in March 2015, had concluded that the provision was vague and worded arbitrarily.

On Monday, senior advocate Sanjay Parikh and advocate Aparna Bhat, for the

People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL), said the number of cases registered under Section 66A had actually increased post the judgment.

"What is going on is terrible, distressing! We will issue notice," Justice Nariman, heading a three-judge Bench comprising Justices K.M. Joseph and B.R. Gavai, exclaimed.

'Only as a footnote'

Attorney General K.K. Venugopal pointed out that law books published post the verdict featured the non-existent Section 66A "in full". "The police officer, while registering a case, looks at only the Section in the main text... The fact that the Section has been struck down is given only as a footnote...." he submitted.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Disappointed with PM's meet: Gupkar alliance _ PAGD have expressed their

PEERZADA ASHIQ SRINAGAR

The People's Alliance for the Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), an amalgam of five political parties from Jammu and Kashmir, on Monday said it was disappointed with the outcome of the meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on June 24.

"All the members of the

disappointment, especially at the absence of any substantial confidence-building measures (CBMs), such as releasing political and other prisoners and taking concrete steps to end the atmosphere of suppression that has since 2019," alliance spokesman M.Y. Tarigami said.

"As far as the restoration of statehood is concerned, it has been BJP's commitment on the floor of Parliament and they must honour their word. So, any Assembly election must be held only after restoration of full statehood." Mr. Tarigami said.

ALLIANCE VOWS TO REVERSE



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ForumIAS Offline Guidance Centre:

Twitter failed to comply with IT rules: Centre Ministry files affidavit in Delhi HC

STAFF REPORTER formed the High Court that

NEW DELHI

The Centre on Monday informed the Delhi High Court that micro-blogging site Twitter had failed to comply with India's law regulating tech companies, losing its immunity 'intermediaries'.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), in an affidavit filed before the court, stated that despite three months time being granted to all Significant Social Media Intermediaries (SSMIs) to comply with the Information Technology (IT) Rules 2021, Twitter had failed to fully comply with the same.

Officer's resignation Twitter, last week, had in-

the interim Resident Grievance Officer and the interim Nodal Contact Person in India had resigned from their positions in June. The tech giant stated that

it was in the final stages of appointing replacements; meanwhile, "the grievances of Indian users are being addressed by the Grievance Officer".

The MeitY, however, pointed out that as per the details gleaned from Twitter's website, grievances from India were currently being handled by its personnel situated in the United States, "which amounts to non-compliance with the IT Rules 2021".

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Facial recognition used to verify jab beneficiaries: govt.

No legal order for use of the technology, says RTI response

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Even though the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) admitted in a recent RTI query response to the use of facial recognition technology (FRT) for online verification of beneficiaries at vaccination centres, it failed to provide any legislative or legal order that authorised the use of such technology.

The MoHFW also said no privacy impact assessment vaccination wherein facial of the use of FRT was contemplate is captured and ducted prior to its deploysent to UIDAI for verification ment. "Facial recognition of image of beneficiary," the authentication is used as Ministry said in response to one of the methods for Aadan RTI filed by the not-forhaar authentication for onprofit Internet Freedom line verification of benefici-Foundation (IFF).



tional procurement had been made for the implementation of FRT-based verification, and a pilot project for such authentication is still under way.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University has launched admissions for first batch

JAIDEEP DEO BHANJ

Established in August 2020 by the Delhi government, the Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University (DSEU) seeks to bring about a paradigm shift in vocational higher education by making skill education aspirational.

It plans to equip students with the skills to be job-ready by offering courses that are in sync with the needs of the industry.

It has also been set up with a mandate to support and nurture entrepreneurs and provide quality mentorship to steer the entrepreneurial journeys of those interested by providing incubation and constant support so that they can become job providers instead of job-seekers.

Need for the university

DSEU has been established to fill the gap between people, who graduate with degrees but do not find jobs and will have courses that provide the opportunity to students to earn a degree while learning a skill that Flagship courses of the university include e-commerce operations, data analytics, digital design and media.

provide will employment.

others

facilities among

Courses have been developed understanding the needs of the industry in the current scenario by keeping in mind the skills, attributes and need of those looking to hire students looking to enter the job market. Courses will be added and discontinued depending on demand from the industry and students will be given internships and on-the-job training during the course.

Courses on offer

The university, which has launched the admission process for its first batch of students, will offer courses to people from all walks of life. It will empower the margiand minority groups. It is accepting appli-

undergraduate and 2 postgraduate courses, to be offered across 13 campuses in

EXPLAINER

Flagship courses of the university include e-commerce operations, data analytics, digital design and media, facilities and hygiene management, and medical laboratory technology.

How to apply

The entire admissionprocess will be online through the centralised admission portal of the university www.dseuonline.in. Applicants can call a toll free number for admissions-related queries and a separate helpline number (01141169950) for technical assistance in filling the form.

Admission counselling rooms will also be set up in all institutes along with a virtual walk-in help desk.

Qualifications

Students enrolling for the UG programmes (except

cations for 15 diploma, 18 B.Tech.) are required to take an interest profiling test developed by the university called the Personality, Entrepreneurial Mindset and General Ability Test, to help them choose the course they are most suited for. The university shall also provide multiple entry /exit options as per NEP, 2019 in all the courses.

Scholarships

The university will support all deserving students through scholarships, freeships and financial assistance for getting loans and support from the Delhi government schemes for higher education. A total of 85% of the seats will be reserved for residents of Delhi.

Mergers with other existing institutes

The DSEU was merged with already existing government institutes and colleges such as GB Pant College of Engineering, 10 polytechnics of the Delhi government, six World Class Skill Centres and the Delhi Institute of Tool Engineering.

Ambedkar University Delhi to begin admissions from July 12

It will launch 6 new programmes; PG entrance exam in Aug.

For PG programme, the

new programme.

New programmes

registrations will start from

July end, the university said.

PG programmes will be

1,953, including seats in

The new programmes are

BA Hindi (Honours), Mas-

ters of Public Health, M

Voc Tourism and Hospitali-

ty Management, MA in Ar-

chaeology and Heritage

Management (MAHM), MA

in Conservation, Preserva-

tion and Heritage Manage-

ment (MCPHM), Integrated

MA-PhD (IPHD) in Human

measures, Ms. Lather said

that the university has

spent ₹4.73 crore on fee

waivers whereas expendi-

ture on other support

Talking about the safety

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Ambedkar University Delhi (AUD) on Monday announced that it was launching six new programmes while releasing the admission brochure for undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate (PG) programmes for the Academic session 2021-22.

The registration process for the UG programme of the university will begin on July 12.

For PG programme, the registrations will start from July end, it said.

The entrance test for the PG programme will be held in August while the UG admissions will be done on the basis of merit.

The first list of cutoffs will be released in tandem with when the CBSE and other boards release results of Class 12 examinations, the univeristy said.

V-C on total seats

Vice Chancellor of the University, Anu Singh Lather, said the total UG, PG programmes and PhD on offer this year is 57. She said total seats on offer in UG and

(Scholarship/Student welfund/Earn While Learn/Internet reimbursement/Learning Enhancement/Participation in National, International Conference) is ₹1.43 crore.

The university this year has also shortlisted 64 foreign students for admission for the BA/MA/Ph.D programmes through ICCR process. Student from SAARC countries and African Countries (Tanzania, Ghana, Malawi, South Sudan, Botswana, Somalia, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe & Zambia) have been shortlisted for admission for

BA/MA/Ph.D

the

programmes. AUD Registrar Nitin Malik said the Delhi Institute of Heritage and Management has been declared as a School of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi. programmes School of Heritage Research and Management in MA in Archaeology and Heritage Management (MAHM) and MA in Conservation, Preservation and Heritage Management

(MCPHM) will be offered

from AUD.

Withdraw action against AUD student, says Sisodia

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Monday directed the Principal Secretary of Higher Education to ensure that no disciplinary action is taken against the Ambedkar University student, on whom a fine of ₹5,000 was also imposed by the varsity.

Mr. Sisodia said the fine, imposed on the student by the university for allegedly disrupting a convocation ceremony, be cancelled.

Mr. Sisodia said: "Firstly, no action should be taken against any student for expressing a viewpoint that is different from the government or the university unless the statement damages the social fabric of our country or is against our constitutional values. Secondly, since the student was expressing her viewpoint against the government, as being reported in the media, the matter should have first be brought to our notice before initiating any action against her." AISA welcomed his intervention in the matter.

Monsoon likely to reach city by July 10

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The monsoon, which has currently stalled and is at the borders of Northwest India, is expected to revive over the weekend in Delhi, said the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on "The southwest mon-

soon is likely to advance over remaining parts of western Uttar Pradesh, some more parts of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan, and Delhi around Iuly 10. The weather system is likely to cause increased rainfall activity over northwest and central India from July 10," said a notice.

This is predicated on a low-pressure area that is likely to form over the northwest Bay of Bengal off the north Andhra Pradesh-south Odisha coasts around July 11 in preparation of which rain-bearing winds are expected to establish from later this week.

Delayed by over a week The normal date for the arrival of the monsoon over Delhi is June 30 with an er-

ror window of two weeks. However, the IMD had in early June said the monsoon could reach Delhi earlier by June 15 but this didn't happen.

Typically the monsoon covers the entire stretch of India by July 8.

Meteorologists said the ongoing weak spell of monsoon started on June 19. Till then, the monsoon had made rapid progress since its advent over Kerala and progressed quickly, bringing in rain that was over 40% more than what is normal for the first fortnight of June. So far, India has got 20.7 cm of rainfall, slightly less than the 20.8 cm that is expected until the first week of July.

HC declines to interfere with DU's exam decision

Matter pertains to Faculty of Law

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI The Delhi High Court on Monday declined to interfere with DU's decision to conduct online open book exam for intermediate semesters of its law course, which could not be held last year due to COVID-19.

Justice Prateek Jalan said he was not going to allow students to dictate terms of examination of a professional course while hearing four petitions by students of second and final-year of Faculty of Law, Delhi University.

Mode of exam

The Law Faculty Dean said the examination was likely to be conducted in July and another round of exams

who are unable to sit in the first round. DU's counsel said the mode of examination - whether online, offline, blended or assignment-based – was left to the discretion of the institute concerned by the Bar Council of India.

One of the final-year students had argued that online open book examination for last year's intermediate semesters semester II and IV was not in the interest of

The plea pressed for an assignment-based examination. The plea argued that the dates for the online open book examination might clash with the other entrance examinations that the final-year students would be held in September might take for further

Registration for UG admissions will begin in late July, says DU

Senior official says they are awaiting Class 12 Board results

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Delhi University on Monday said the registration process for undergraduate admissions will begin from late July instead of July 15 as stated earlier as Class 12 board results are still awaited.

Rajeev Gupta, Chairperson of DU's admissions, told The Hindu: "The registration process for the undergraduate admissions is likely to begin from the third or fourth week of July. It will not begin on July 15 as the results will not be out by then. The Supreme Court has given a deadline of July 31 for the results to be declared so the process will also begin a few days before the results



"It will be started a few days before the results are declared so that aspirants can fill up basic details and then update other details once the results are declared," said Mr. Gupta.

Reacting to concerns from DU aspirants regarding the sions, Mr. Gupta said no de-

cision was taken regarding the entrance test as it was to be decided by the Ministry of Education. Several students had earlier, taken to social media expressing concerns about the possibility of an entrance test this year.

'Merit-based admissions' "For now, we are going

ahead with the merit-based admissions, and we are preparing accordingly like previous years. As for the CU-CET, it is the Ministry's call, and the decision will come from there. If they give the nod then DU will decide accordingly," said Mr. Gupta.

First-year classes for the new batch are likely to begin criteria to be used for admis- in November, the university

Plea alleges inordinate delay in reopening spas

High Court issues notice to city govt.

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The High Court on Monday asked the city government to respond to a plea claiming delay in issuing guidelines to reopen spa centres, which were closed in April due to the second COVID wave while salons, gymnasiums and yoga institutions have been allowed to be open.

Justice Rekha Palli also issued notice to the Centre on the petition filed by owners of two spa centres here while posting the case for hearing on July 22.

The court also remarked: 'We are not living in ivory towers, we are aware of the situation. Hotels have opened in some States, we know. But I can't direct them today to open spa centres. I

have to hear them also". The petition argued that

even though the Delhi government has permitted gyms, ayurvedic centres and salons to open in Delhi in June, they have not passed similar orders regarding spa

Delhi government addistanding counsel Naushad Ahmed Khan said more than four lakh people died and the issue has to be holistically examined by experts of the field.

The plea sought quashing of the June 26 order of Delhi Disaster Management Authority in relation to spa centres and urged the high court to direct for reopening spa centres in Delhi and per mit their re-functioning in a

HC refuses to hear Gulfisha's plea against 'illegal detention'

Court unhappy with her counsel's conduct during hearing

STAFF REPORTER

Monday declined to hear student activist Gulfisha Fatima's plea against her alleged illegal detention in a Delhi riots case after taking serious note to her advocate Mehmood Pracha's taking recourse to "heckling" during the hearing.

The Delhi High Court on

A Bench of Justice Siddharth Mridul and Justice Anup Jairam Bhambhani ordered that Ms. Fatima's petition be placed before another Bench on Friday.

"Instead of addressing us on merits, Mehmood Pracha is taking recourse to heckling and seeking to take recourse to facts not in the petition. List before another Bench..," the court said.

"We refuse to be addressed by someone who does not know the basics of law," the HC remarked.

Delhi riots case

The court was hearing a plea by Ms. Fatima seeking for a direction to release her in an Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) case relating to alleged larger conspiracy that led to north-east Delhi riots in February last year. In the habeas corpus petition, Ms. Fatima claimed that her detention in judicial custody was illegal and

Mr. Pracha argued that Ms. Fatima was in continued illegal detention and as per a Supreme Court decision, only a special court under the NIA Act, and not a Sessions court, had the power to extend remand. Mr. Pracha also claimed that as of date, there was no remand order in the present case.

As the HC said that the remand order was not part of the pleadings in the case, Mr. Pracha urged the Bench to take his statement on record. To this, the Bench said, "You are not addressing a rally. You are addressing a court. Show us from your pleadings... File an affidavit to say there is no remand order today. You can't argue statement of facts at

Lajpat Nagar market closed

Authorities cite 'gross violations' of COVID-19 guidelines

The Delhi government has closed the popular Lajpat Nagar market in south Delhi till further orders for violation of COVID-19 norms, officials said on Monday.

Sub-Divisional Magistrate, South East District, Padmakar Ram Tripathi said an inspection was carried out by the COVID-19 appropriate enforcement behaviour teams at the Lajpat Nagar market wherein "gross violations" of guidelines were observed. "It is, hereby, directed that Lajpat Nagar Central Market is closed with immediate effect until further orders," the DDMA order said.

Representatives of various trader bodies claimed that crowding is mainly due to the presence of street vendors and it is up to the admi-



Security personnel patrol Lajpat Nagar Central Market on Monday. It is closed until further orders. •PTI

nistration to prevent it.

The DDMA directed the market association to show cause on Monday as to why action as per the DDMA Act and other applicable laws should not be taken against them. The order also asked municipal officials and the Delhi Police to ensure no street vendors or unauthorised shops are functional within the market area.

The Capital on Monday recorded 54 new COVID-19 cases, the lowest since April 15 last year. The tally now stands at 14,34,608. Two more fatalities pushed the death toll to 24,997. The test positivity rate is 0.9% and there are 912 active cases in Delhi. On Sunday, 9,503 people were vaccinated.

labels to check duty evasion

High-security

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Special excise adhesive labels, inspection teams and a state-of-the-art lab are some of the steps planned by the Delhi government to regulate the conduct of retail liquor vends and check tax evasion and sale of spurious

The new excise policy 2021-22, which was approved in June, was uploaded on the excise dept.'s website on Monday. According to the policy, the excise department has introduced Excise Adhesive Labels with high-end security features manufactured by Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited to avoid tax evasion and plug leakages in the supply chain.

'BJP is seeking revenge on farmers in agitation-related cases'

they wish to get new lawyers

as they want the farmers

punished; that they wish to

teach these farmers a les-

son," he also alleged.

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THE MARK HINDU India's National Newspaper

Central govt. is trying to replace Delhi-appointed lawyers: AAP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Terming it "vengeful", the AAP on Monday accused the BIP of "attempting to replace" Delhi governmentappointed lawyers with "its own" to allegedly harass and defame innocent farmers in criminal cases filed in relation to the ongoing farmers' agitation. AAP national spokesper-

son Raghav Chadha alleged the BIP wanted to replace the Delhi government's lawyers not with the intention of bringing justice to the farmers but to "seek revenge". "A few days ago, a virtual meeting took place between the L-G and the Delhi Home Minister, wherein BJP's intentions became crystal clear," he alleged.

"The BJP's appointee, the

Lieutenant-Governor, said

they will remove Delhi go-

vernment's lawyers and that

Valid request

Senior officers present in the meeting between the L-G and the Delhi Home Minister said that apart from the earlier disagreement on file, the L-G on July 1 expressed his disagreement at the Home Minister's turning down of the "valid request" of the Delhi police for the

appointment of special pu-

blic prosecutors. Mr. Baijal, according to

the officers concerned, then wrote to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on the issue on July 2. The cases in question related to incidents on January 26 in which as many as 394 police officers were injured.

"Keeping in view the enormity and sensitivity of the matter, I had called the relevant file from the Home Department on March 24. The police have already given a detailed justification for the appointment of 11 special public prosecutors in these matters," Mr. Baijal stated. "These cases require

careful handling in a timebound manner in view of the gravity of the offences and implications for law and order. Therefore, I see no reason why the proposal of the police should not be agreed to," Mr. Baijal stated. There was, he also stated, "no reason to suspect" that special public prosecutors wouldn't perform their duty fearlessly and impartially as officers of the court.

over 'forced conversion' STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Bar Council of Delhi (BCD) on Monday temporarily suspended a lawyer's licence for allegedly forcibly converting a Hindu girl to Islam and performing *nikah* from his chamber at Karkardooma Court here.

The council said, "The alleged activities are not permissible nor are part of the professional activities of an advocate and his conduct in performing a *nikah* and is-

suance of certificate of conversion and Nikahnama/ Marriage certificate is disgraceful and negates the dignity of the legal profession". Taking serious note of the

gravity of the allegations, se-

nior advocate and Bar Coun-

cil of Delhi chairman Ra-

mesh Gupta ordered the

constitution of a Special Dis-

Lawyer's licence suspended

ciplinary Committee to investigate the matter. The BCD has asked the lawyer to appear before it on July 16.

A ND-NDE

THE HINDU DELHI TUESDAY, JULY 6, 2021



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its prowess in teaching and research and has emerged as a leading centre

of learning, truly living up to its

motto 'Globalising Indian thought'. I am confident that IIMK will

continue to produce new generations

of management thinkers and leaders, good corporate and social citizens

and establishing innovative

professionals. I extend my warm

wishes on the occasion of Silver

Shri Ram Nath Kovind President of India

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Prof. Debashis Chatterjee, Director, IIM Kozhikode

Timings DELHI

TUESDAY, JUL. 06 RISE 05:30 SET 19:23

RISE 02:27 SET 16:20 WEDNESDAY, JUL. 07 RISE 05:30 SET 19:23 RISE 03:05 SET 17:16

THURSDAY, JUL. 08 RISE 05:31 SET 19:23 RISE 03:47 SET 18:10

Delhi Weather max min Delhi City Safdarjang 40 28

Delhi Palam Today 41°C Morning and evening would remain warm. A very hot day with partly cloudy sky. Thunderstorm may be a

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 42°C Day remain hot with partly cloudy sky and light winds. Thunderclouds development at some places

THEMAHINDU

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SP workers held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Five Samajwadi Party workers were on Monday arrested for allegedly indulging in indecent sloganeering against Uttar Pradesh Sports Minister Upendra Tiwari, police said.

Mr. Tiwari's family has demanded that the accused be booked under POCSO Act as the slogans targeted the Minister's two minor daughters.

'Kejriwal making false promises on free power'

Punjab Chief Minister accuses the AAP government of failing the people of Delhi on all counts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Punjab Chief Minister Captain (Retd.) Amarinder Singh on Monday accused Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal of failing to provide free power to the farmers in the national capital.

He also accused the AAP supremo of making false promises on "free power" in Punjab with an eye on the 2022 Assembly polls.

"The Kejriwal government has completely failed the people of Delhi on all counts, with no free power to the farmers in the villages located in the national capital and charging excessively highpower tariffs for the industry," said Captain Amarinder, asserting that the people of Punjab have already rejected



Punjab CM Amarinder Singh

the pathetic Delhi model of governance on all counts.

The Punjab Chief Minister termed the Delhi power tariff structure a case of organised loot by the AAP government, which was openly allowing private power distribution companies in Delhi, including the Reliance Group, to fill their pockets at the cost of the common man.

"While Delhi is charging



Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal

₹9.80 per unit for industrial power, the Congress government in Punjab is levying a subsidised tariff of ₹5 per unit to attract industry, and the State has witnessed more than ₹85,000 crore worth of investment visible on the ground in the last 4 years. Subsidised power is being given to 1,43,812 industrial units with an annual subsidy of

"In sharp contrast to Pun-

jab, where my government was giving free power worth ₹6,735 crore to 13,79,217 farmers, the AAP government in Delhi had made no effort whatsoever to extend similar support to the agricultural community there," the Chief Minister said.

Capt. Amarinder said the Delhi government was befooling the people by putting a small amount into one pocket, by way of 200 units of free domestic power, and taking away a higher amount from the other pocket by way of high tariffs being paid by the shopkeepers, industry and farmers for commercial and agriculture power.

Meanwhile, Aam Aadmi Paty (AAP) Lok Sabha MP and Punjab president Bhagwant Mann blamed the ruling Congress government for ongoing power crises in the State.

'Faulty power pacts' He said the faulty Power Purchase Agreements implemented by previous Shiromani Akali Dal-BJP government with the private power companies and continued by the present Congress government has led to the power crises. "AAP, if elected to power will cancel these agreements," he

said here at a press

Mr. Mann said that ahead of the 2022 elections, the AAP will come up with a road map for the people of Punjab so that the people would be economically prosperous and

conference.

Police foil BJYM march to Amarinder's residence

Teas gas used to disperse the protesters

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHANDIGARH

Police used tear gas and water canon on Tuesday to disperse the agitating workers and leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) youth wing of the BJP – here, as they marched to 'gherao' the official residence of Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh against alleged 'failure' of the Congress government in curbing drug menace.

Led by State BJYM chief Bhanu Pratap Rana, the activists started their march from the parade ground at Sector 17 raising slogans against the government, accusing it of failing to rein in the drug menace. As protesters marched towards the Chief Minister's residence,

they were stopped at the barricades by the police. The police said tear gas and water cannons were used after the protesters attempted to break the barricades. Many of them were detained and released later.

'Drug trade flourishing' Mr. Rana said the illegal drug trade was flourishing under the Congress regime and the youth were at the receiving

"In the run up to the 2017 Assembly polls, Amarinder Singh had promised to eradicate the menace within four weeks of assuming power. However, it's been four and half years and yet the illegal drug trade continues unabat ed," alleged Mr. Rana.

'Unsolicited sale' of his biography upsets Governor

He orders action against the 'guilty'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra on Monday ordered legal action against those involved in an alleged incident of "unsolicited sale" of his biography to Vice-Chancellors of universities on the Raj Bhawan premises.

The book, Nimitt Maatra Hoon Main, was released at a function in the Raj Bhawan here on July 1.

Mr. Mishra took cognisance of the reports about 19 copies of the biography and their bills being given to the Vice-Chancellors after the launch ceremony and expressed "deep displeasure" over the controversy.

A statement from the Raj Bhawan said the Governor had directed the officials to seek an explanation from those involved and take action against them.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Vice-Chancellors of all the 27 State universities had attended the function marking the unveiling of Mr. Mishra's biography.

Farmers start for Delhi protest site

₹2,226 crore," he said in state-

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Another batch of farmers under the banner of Kisan Mazdoor Sangarsh Committee (KMSC) started its march from Punjab to the Delhi border to participate in the ongoing agitation

against Centre's farm laws. The farmers, in around 300 vehicles, started from Amritsar and will reach the Delhi border by July 6.

"Since the agitation started this is our 19th batch that is going for the protest," said Sarvan Singh Pandher, general secretary of KMSC.

Bhagwat's outreach evokes mixed response

Thinkers see attempt at an image makeover amid changing global politics

ANUJ KUMAR

Rashtriya Swyamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat's outreach to Muslims evoked a mixed response from Muslim academics and activists. While some found it unprecedented, others termed it an old book in a new cover. However, most of them saw it as an attempt to reshape the RSS's image according to changing global politics.

"The fact that he accepted that lynching is an Indian reality and that Muslims are at its receiving end is something new," said Mirza Asmer Baig, professor of Political

Science at Aligarh Muslim University. He also pointed to Mr. Bhagwat's acknowledgement of the need to appreciate the differences in worship and lifestyle of different communities. "Acknowledging the differences is the first step towards accepting the multiculturalism that has defined Indian society for cen-

He said more than Muslims, Mr. Bhagwat seemed to be addressing the moderate/ liberal Hindu voter who was shifting away from the BJP because of its relentless pursuit of hate politics.

"Also, the global realpoli-

tik has changed after the Democrats came to power in the U.S. and the Taliban got into ascendency in Afghanistan," he said.

Reminding that RSS leaders often spoke with a forked tongue, Prof. Mohammad Sajjad, professor of History at AMU, underlined that Mr. Bhagwat's remarks will remain mere rhetoric unless the impact is seen on the ground

'Nothing new'

Requesting anonymity, a senior faculty from Darul Uloom, Deoband, said, except for the call for starting nothing new in what Mr. Bhagwat said. "RSS has been reiterating that all Indians have the same

negotiation between the two

communities, there was

DNA. It is their way to call everybody a Hindu. I want to know if they believe that the DNA of the Aryans and the Dravidians is the same," he

On the negotiation part, he said Darul Uloom would soon come up with a response.

Md. Zaheeruddin, a senior social activist from Dasna in Ghaziabad, said the speech has come as a relief in the tense environment.

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é	GO	VERNMENT OF	HARYANA	ORRIGEN	DUM 💝				
	NAME OF BOARD CORP/ AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./ AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/ EMAIL				
1	UHBVN	35/PROJECTS/SCADA/2020	AMENDMENTS & DATE EXTENDED UPTO 20.07.2021	www.uhbvn.org.in	9317554907 seprojects@ uhbvn.org.in				
2		NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO. 06/ UH/MM/XEN/P- IV/QH-II/2052 DATED 18.05.2021 2021_HBC_175181_1	DATE OF SUBMISSION EXTENDED UPTO 22.07.2021 (13.00 HRS.)	www.uhbvn.org.in	01723019133 cemm@ uhbvn.org.in				
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Ref: NUSRL/RNC/2021/110500

Date: 05/07/2021

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www.nusrlranchi.ac.in.

PR.NO.249126 Law(21-22):D

26/07/2021, 5 pm

Pay band is as per UGC norms.

BJP demands probe into '₹5,000-cr. DTC bus scam'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Delhi BJP on Monday called on Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal to urge him to order a probe by the Anti Corruption Branch into the alleged ₹5,000 crore DTC bus scam.

A delegation led by State party president Adesh Gupta and consisting of Leader of the Opposition Ramvir fluenced," Mr. Gupta said.

Singh Bidhuri and Rohini MLA Vijender Gupta called on Mr. Baijal regarding the

They submitted a memorandum demanding probe into ration, excise policy and home guard recruitment also. "Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot should resign before the probe is initiated so that it is not in-

Date: 05.07.2021

Delhi Cong. protests against rising fuel prices

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Delhi Congress on Monday protested outside the residence of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal against the rising petrol and diesel prices, and demanded a reduction in value added tax (VAT).

The Delhi police stopped the Congress workers from moving towards the Chief Minister's residence.

Delhi Congress chief Ch. Anil Kumar said that due to frequent hikes, a litre of petrol in Delhi costs ₹99.86 and diesel ₹89.36 per litre.

The people also have no energy left to even protest against such inhumane acts by the government in the

Centre as well as the State. "The Delhi government was getting 30% and 16.75% as VAT on a litre of petrol and diesel respectively. If the VAT is reduced, petroleum products can be sold at a much cheaper rate in the Capital. The Kejriwal government had collected over ₹25,000 crore in VAT in the last six years, and thousands of crores in GST. but when the COVID-19 pandemic hit the people, the Kejriwal government did nothing to help people out of their misery," Mr. Kumar said.

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY



General Public is hereby informed that one person Namely: Vinay Kumar, S/o:Vijay Kumar, Address: F-74, Street No. 10, Ground Floor, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi was found unconscious at D-372, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi and admitted in Dr. Hedgewar Hospital Delhi on 27.06.2021. During the treatment Doctors declared him dead. The body has been preserved in Sabzi Mandi Hospital's Mortuary, Delhi. In this regard a

case has been lodged vide DD No. 57A, dated 27.06.2021 U/s 174 Cr.P.C. at P.S. Laxmi Nagar, East Delhi. The description of the dead person is as under:- Age: About 50 years, Sex: Male, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Wearing: Brown colour full sleves T-shirt and dark grey colour pant. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned. SHO

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PR 249108 Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd (21-22)_D

Name of Work

Last Date / Time for receipt of bids

Date and Time for Opening of

Regd. Office: Engineering Building, H.E.C.

 $\underline{\bf 5}^{th} \, \underline{\bf Extension \ Notice}$ Tender extension notice for NIT No. 303/PR/JBVNL/20-21 the date

A revisesd Date and Time for Bid Submission and Technical Bio

DP/585/ED/2021

Opening is as follows:

Name of Work

Sl. No.

P.S. Laxmi Nagar, East Delhi Ph.: 011-22542992, 8750870622

Details

Supply, Installation, Operation and

FMS of AMI System for consumers

Estimated cost Rs. 20 Crores (Rs.

having load above 10 KW in JBVNL

13.07.2021 at 04:00 PM

13.07.2021 at 05:00 PM

General Manager (IT)

GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUNASI DAM DIVISION, PUNASI CAMP DEOGHAR

e-Procurement Short Tender Notice Re-Tender

e-Re- Tender Reference No.:- WRD/Punasi Dam Div., Punasi Camp Deoghar/SBD-IFB-01/2021-22 Dt: 02.07.2021

ı un	asi Camp Deughain	3DD-11 D-01/2021-22 Dt : 02:07:2021
1.	Name of the work	Construction of service road on the crest of Punasi dam, const. of parapet wall with lamp post and lighting arrangement on the crest of Punasi dam and const. of slope drain and berm drain in down stream of dam from chain 0.00 to 70.00
2.	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Rs. 10,18,24,992.22 (Rupees ten crore eighteen lakh twenty four thousand nine hundred ninety two and paise twenty two) only
3.	Time of Completion	360 days
4.	Last date & Time for receipt of bids	14.07.2021 Up to 5:00 P.M.
5.	Date of Publication of Tender on website	08.07.2021 11:00 A.M.
6.	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Executive Engineer Punasi Dam Division, Punasi Camp Deoghar
7.	Contact no. of Procurement officer	09162968480
8.	Helpline number of e- Procurement cell	06432-232477
Note	e:- Only E-Tender w	ill be accepted

Estimated cost may vary

Further details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in **Executive Engineer** PR.NO.249120 Water Resource(21-22):D Punasi Camp - Deoghar

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-13/3429/2021-22

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Through GOK e – Procurement Portal Only)

KIADB is inviting item rate tenders under two cover system as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from Class-I Contractors (Civil) registered in KPWD who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following work: Formation of Industrial Layout, Including formation of Asphalting, of 24m Wide Road, 18M Wide Road & 15M Wide Road along with Construction of RCC side Drains, Box Culverts & RCC duct Pipe chamber at Kapnoor 3rd Phase Industrial Area, 2nd Stage, Kalaburgi District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is: 03.08.2021 upto 04:00 pm Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in. Sd/-

DIPR/DDU/Zen/R.O:752/2021-22

General Public is hereby informed that

an unidentified dead body of a male

Namely Unknown S/o Unknown, R/o

Unknown Age: about 30-32 years,

Height: 5'4", Complexion: Wheatish,

Face: Round, Built: Thin, Hair: Black

with short Beard Moustache, ID: Tattoo

mark of OM and Trishul on right hand.

Wearing: Grey coloured t-shirt, blue

coloured jeans pant and grey coloured

shoes in feet, has been found dead on

been lodged at P.S. Pahar Ganj, Delhi.

DP/860/CD/2021

02.07.2021 at outside Gali No.10, in front of Radha Swami

Battery House, Shop No. 9744/10, Multani Dhanda, Pahar

Ganj, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved for 72 hours at

the Mortuary of LHMC and Smt. S.K. Hospital, Delhi. In this

regard a FIR No. 192/2021 U/S 304 IPC dated 02.07.2021 has

If any one having any clue about deceased male may kindly

inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers. SHO

Chief Engineer-2, KIADB Bengaluru STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.







P.S. Pahar Ganj, Delhi

Mob.: 8750870427

Ph.: 011-23524746, 23520787



Hand Hygiene

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

SEARCH FOR MISSING General Public is hereby informed that a

Naseem

male person namely Naseem, S/o Ramjani, R/o H. No. 4222, Gali Sahtara, Ajmeri Gate, Delhi, Age: 35 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, Built: Medium, Identification Mark: Cut Mark on upper side on right eye, Wearing: Blue Colour T-shirt, Blue colour Jeans and Slipper in his feet has been missing from the jurisdiction of P.S. Kamla Marker since 26.10.2020 at 7:00 pm. In this regard DD No. 62A, dated 11.06.2021 has been registered at PS. Kamla Market, New Delhi.

missing person but no clue has come to light so far. if any one having any information about this person please inform to the following: E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.nic.in

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

Ph.: 011-24368638,24368641 Fax: 011-24368639 DP/854/CD/2021

P.S. Kamla Market, New Delhi Ph.: 011-23230623, 23233743

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IN BRIEF



Swapna moves Kerala HC for bail in NIA case

Swapna Suresh, an accused in the diplomatic gold smuggling case, approached the Kerala High Court on Monday seeking bail in a case registered by the National Investigation Agency against her. Swapna Suresh, in her appeal filed against the dismissal of her bail plea by the NIA court, said the chargesheet did not disclose the involvement of transnational forces and financing of terrorism as alleged by the NIA.

Karnataka govt. sets out criteria for PU students

BENGALURU The Karnataka government on Monday told the High Court that it would promote students of second year pre-university (PU) courses by giving 45% weightage for their marks in SSLC or equivalent board exams, 45% for 1st PU marks and 10% for their internal assessment marks of IInd PU given by their respective colleges. All repeaters of IInd PU exam will be given minimum pass marks along with 5% grace marks in their respective subjects.

Three teens found dead in lake in Telangana

Three teenage girls were found dead in a lake on the outskirts of their village at Singangaon in Nirmal district, Telangana, on Monday. The victims were identified as Sunitha, 16, her sister Vaishali, 14, and their cousin Anjali, 15. Although evidence suggested it was a case of accidental drowning, the police would investigate all angles to rule out their suspicions, Ch. Praveen Kumar, Superintendent of Police, Nirmal district,

LDF leaders should face trial, says SC

Current Education Minister is among those facing charges for vandalism in Kerala Assembly in 2015

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

The Supreme Court on Monday said it will not condone the behaviour of Kerala's Left Democratic Front (LDF) leaders, including the current Education Minister V. Sivankutty, who created a ruckus and indulged in vandalism on the floor of the Legislative Assembly, disrupting the presentation of the budget in 2015.

The televised images from the day of the incident, during the United Democratic Front government's tenure, show legislators coming to blows in the House and hurling chairs, computers and other public property, soon after the then Finance Minister K.M. Mani began his budget speech. The LDF MLAs were protesting against Mr. Mani, citing the corruption allegations against him.

The MLAs are facing



Court rap: V. Sivankutty trying to break the cordon in the Kerala Assembly on March 13, 2015. ■FILE PHOTO

charges of criminal trespass, mischief and destruction of public property. The State government and the accused have separately appealed to the court for withdrawal of

A Bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and M.R. Shah, however, took a prima facie view against the conduct of the MLAs. Justice Chandrachud said legislators accused of destroying public property should face trial or there would be "absolutely no deterrent to this kind of behaviour".

During the hearing, the court disagreed with the Kerala government's view that the then Opposition MLAs were only acting in "public interest" and exercising their 'right to protest".

What is the larger 'public interest' in obstructing the presentation of the State's financial budget? Prima facie, we have to take a very strict view of such behaviour. We will not condone such behaviour by MLAs – throwing mics, chairs on the floor of the House," Justice Chandrachud told senior advocate Ranjit Kumar, who appeared for the State.

Justice Shah wanted to know what "message" the MLAs had intended to give the public with their beha-

"These are people's representatives. What will the people think seeing their leaders behave like this on the floor of the House?" Justice

Locus standi questioned When Mr. Kumar said prior

sanction of the Speaker was required before registration of criminal cases against the MLAs, Justice Shah questioned the State government's locus standi in seeking withdrawal of the case against the legislators.

"Why are you [the State] saying all this? It is for the accused to make the plea, and not for the State. The State cannot seek withdrawal of the case. That is the prerogative of the Public Prosecutor," Justice Shah repeatedly pointed out.

Justice Chandrachud said the case would be listed on

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Odisha, central Maharashtra, Karaikal and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MII
Agartala	5	34.4	26.2	Kozhikode		32.4	25.
Ahmedabad	–	37.9	28.1	Kurnool	23	31.5	24.
Aizawl	2	27.0	21.6	Lucknow		39.0	27.
Allahabad	–	39.3	28.5	Madurai	9	37.0	23.
Bengaluru	46.6	29.4	20.1	Mangaluru		29.0	24.
Bhopal	–	35.9	25.8	Mumbai		33.5	28.
Bhubaneswar	–	34.0	25.2	Mysuru	20	31.9	20.
Chandigarh	–	38.4	28.8	New Delhi		39.5	28.
Chennai	–	36.0	26.4	Patna		34.7	28.
Coimbatore	2.9	33.2	23.9	Port Blair	5	33.8	25.
Dehradun	65	34.5	20.5	Puducherry	0.1	34.1	22.
Gangtok	–	23.0	17.5	Pune		34.1	22.
Goa	51	30.6	24.4	Raipur	75.6	29.6	24.
Guwahati	0.2	34.4	26.0	Ranchi	8	32.6	23.
Hubballi	–	29.0	22.0	Shillong	8	24.1	17.
Hyderabad	–	33.4	25.6	Shimla	4	25.7	17.
mphal	–	31.8	22.3	Srinagar		28.0	18.
laipur	3	39.8	24.6	Thiruvananthapuram	2	32.9	24.
	0.6	30.8	24.6	Tiruchi	65	36.1	22.
Kohima	4	25.2	18.4	Vijayawada		35.8	26.
Kolkata	17	35.2	27.5	Visakhapatnam	22	35.0	24.

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing .37 .82 Hyderabad32 .29 .22 .21 ...63 ...59 .45 .59 .116 .124 Visakhapatnam .12 .52 .31 ... 50 ...85

4.00 p.m., Nandesari, Gujarat recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 231

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

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

A.P.-Telangana dispute over Krishna water intensifies

Both States write to Central Ministries seeking action

B. CHANDRASHEKHAR

Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have intensified the dispute of sharing of the Krishna waters - particularly in the wake of works on the Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Scheme (RLIS) taken up by Andhra Pradesh and power generation at three inter-State projects by Telangana – by shooting letters to the

Ministry of Jal Shakti, the Ministry of Environment and Forests and filing contempt plea in the National Green

Monday saw hectic activity with Andhra Pradesh

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy addressing separate letters to Union Ministers of Jal Shakti and Environment and Forests.

Contempt petition

It followed Telangana filing a contempt petition in the matter of RLIS works in the NGT Southern Zone Bench in Chennai and writing letters to the Member-Secretary of Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) of MoEF and the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB).

In his letter to Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Mr. Reddy

sought notifying the jurisdiction of the KRMB covering all off-takes of irrigation and power on common reservoirs to stop indiscriminate drawal solely for power generation by Telangana.

Meanwhile, a few senior engineers in the Irrigation Department of Telangana, who spoke to The Hindu, said Mr. Reddy's letter to the MoEF amounted to openly influencing an independent committee [EAC] for taking decision in favour of Andhra Pradesh by intervening in the proceedings of the panel and instruct it to clear the project [RLIS].

Row over Kumaraswamy's remark against Sumalatha

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Former Karnataka Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Monday waded into a controversy by suggesting that Mandva MP Sumalatha Ambareesh "sleep in front of the sluice gates of Krishna Raja Sagar [KRS] reservoir to prevent seepage", if any.

The remarks came in response to concerns expressed by the actor-turned MP earlier over illegal mining that threatens KRS and the seepage in the reservoir.

"She [Ms. Sumalatha] is speaking as if she is the only protector of KRS. If there is seepage, make her sleep in front of the gates and protect water from leaking. Mandya never had an MP



H.D. Kumaraswamy

like her nor will get one like her in future," he said. Continuing his tirade against the independent MP, Mr. Kumaraswamy said: "She has been elected on sympathy. Let her work properly."

In response, Ms. Sumalatha said the remark displayed the mindset of the former Chief Minister.

critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death

lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and prematur death in people with heart or lung disease



CM YK

An appeal to Hon'ble Prime Minister "Save Secondary Steel Units and Lacs of jobs"

Secondary Steel (MSME) contributes 40% to total production and 80% of total jobs in steel sector but its dying due to artificially created shortages & abnormal price of Iron Ore and pellets.

- Please restrict Export of Raw Material, High Grade Iron Ore Pellet. We request a ban or imposition of a Minimum 30% export duty on Iron ore Pellets to save "Secondary Steel Units".
- "Existing export duty in (+58% Fe category) like Iron Ore fines, Lumps, Sinter, Pyrites, Briquettes, Concentrate is 30% whereas on Iron Ore Pellets it's 'Nil'
 - Request for imposition of 30% Export duty on Pellets also.
- Request for auction of New Virgin Iron Ore Mines and allow consortium of small industries to participate in auction.
- Request for immediate auction of all closed Iron Ore Mines in Odisha and Jharkhand.
- "Maximum area of Iron Ore Mining Lease by any company to be restricted to maximum 10 sq.kms. in any state with no relaxation for private sector" for a fair distribution of resources.
- Request to frame a policy for unhindered supply of iron ore to units having no iron ore mines on annual rate contracts basis from PSUs like NMDC, OMC and SAIL.
- All Iron Ore Mines must compulsorily dispatch minimum 80% of their environment clearance or Mining plan granted with quarterly assessments.
- Request not to allow export of Iron ore from captive mines including iron ore pellets.

Hon'ble Sir! आपने कहा था ''ऐसा कोई देश देखा है जहाँ से गेहूँ निर्यात होता है, और चपाती आयात'' We believe in you and we sincerely appeal to "Kindly levy 30% export duty on iron ore pellets"

On Behalf of •

"Secondary Steel Units of: West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh" WBSIMA, CGSIMA, WBISMWA, SRMAI, IFA, IIF.



Heavy weight

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh is facing a crisis born out of his very success

The crisis in the Congress in Punjab has been smouldering beneath the surface for a long time, before the current eruption. Until a few months ago, Chief Minister Amarinder Singh had appeared invincible and poised to lead the party to a second consecutive victory in the Assembly election due early next year. Rebel leader Navjot Singh Sidhu's relentless open battle against the Chief Minister has now cast a long shadow on the party's prospects. Mr. Sidhu, a party hopper driven by personal ambition, has by default become the champion of the resentment among party MLAs and workers against the Chief Minister's unilateralism. Mr. Singh was the sole architect of the Congress victory in 2017. After winning 77 of the State's 117 Assembly seats then, its victory march continued through the 2019 Lok Sabha and local body elections. But a streak of arrogance probably disconnected him from some sections of the party. His very strength - he is head and shoulders above any alternative, including Mr. Sidhu, within the Congress – seems to have opened up a weakness: so sure of his own indispensability, he had little time or patience for some of those in the lower rungs of the party. Congress MLAs complain of humiliation at the hand of bureaucrats and found their lives overshadowed by the giant figure of Mr. Singh.

Also, the performance of the Government is coming under scrutiny too. High power tariffs, power cuts, a high unemployment rate and unchecked drug trafficking have exposed the chinks in the armour of the Chief Minister. Faced with bad options, the Congress central leadership appointed a committee headed by Mallikarjun Kharge. It met with around 150 party leaders and submitted a report but that has only opened a Pandora's box. The Chief Minister took the committee deliberations as a slight, and his detractors, as an open season. Meanwhile, the unmistakable, though oblique, endorsement of Mr. Sidhu by the Gandhi family has complicated the scene further. The former cricketer is a recent entrant in Congress, after a cushy stopover in the BJP as Member of Parliament and contemplating a detour to the Aam Aadmi Party. As a life-long careerist with a reputation for a short temper, he is hardly the leader that critics of the Chief Minister yearn for. Punjab politics is in a churn due to the farmer agitation and an ongoing realignment of political forces. The SAD and BSP have formed a new alliance, and the BJP is left alone. Agitating farmers may have political plans in the coming months. The Congress central leadership and Mr. Singh must work together than at cross purposes to bring order within the party, so that the Government can steer the State's progress without the dramatic distractions.

Trump again

The fraud charges are an opportunity for the GOP to find new leadership

The Trump Organization, the company owned by former U.S. President Donald Trump, has been charged by authorities in New York state on 15 felony counts including for committing a scheme to defraud, conspiracy, grand larceny, criminal tax fraud and falsifying business records. Prosecutors have also brought charges against a "sweeping and audacious" fraudulent scheme involving the firm's CFO taking more than \$1.7 million in undeclared remuneration from the company for personal expenses. While Mr. Trump has not been charged in this legal salvo, it is possible that that might happen in the future, should the investigation determine that he engaged in criminal conduct. Already, Mr. Trump's name was mentioned at several points in the indictment and the evidence at hand appeared to show that as the former CEO of the company, the 45th President of the U.S. had signed some of the illegal compensation cheques in the 15-year tax fraud scheme. There are also indications that the indictment might be the tip of the iceberg in relation to the extent of the New York District Attorney's investigation of the corporate practices of Mr. Trump and the Trump Organization. In May 2021, legal filings in New York revealed that the office of the DA, Cyrus Vance, was arguing in court that Mr. Trump's accountants were required to produce eight years of his personal and corporate tax returns in compliance with a grand jury subpoena. This hinted that what was originally suspected to be an inquiry into illicit payments made by Mr. Trump's associates, prior to the 2016 presidential election, to two women who said they had affairs with Mr. Trump, had expanded into a far-reaching investigation relating to bank and insurance fraud.

While Mr. Trump has characteristically attacked the ongoing indictment and broader case as a "political Witch Hunt by the Radical Left Democrats," there is no escaping the reality that if the charges stick and the investigation continues to broaden its scope, he will be hobbled by a political distraction should he attempt a second presidential run in 2024. There have been troubling questions about his business activities ever since he entered office, including, given that his real estate holdings were used for U.S. government activities, whether he was in violation of the Emoluments Clause of the U.S. Constitution. The larger question, however, is the one facing the Republican Party as such: when the next presidential election rolls around, will it continue to place its faith in a man who despite claiming to be an outsider to Washington politics is evidently no different from any run-of-the-mill plutocrat or any networked member of corporate elite bent on maximising personal gain no matter the social cost? Should they do so for want of real leadership within their ranks, that would be a sad commentary on the state of and prospects for the conservative movement in the country.

A virus, theories of origin, and a place for science

Polarisation on political lines will only create more hurdles in finding clear answers to the source of SARS-CoV-2



THOMAS ABRAHAM

magine a town with a nuclear power plant close by. If its residents displayed signs of radiation sickness, the finger of suspicion will point towards the plant, however much the plant's operator might swear to its safety.

Mirroring a scenario

Suppose the town was also home to a research centre where radioactive material was stored and used in experiments. The finger of suspicion would now waver between the nuclear plant and the research centre. To complicate matters, if nuclear waste from both the plant and the research centre was buried in an underground dump a fair distance away from the town, a third focus of suspicion would arise.

Public opinion would be divided. Those suspicious of the nuclear power industry would be convinced that the plant was the source of their pollution. Little bits of circumstantial evidence would begin to circulate on social media as well as in the opinion columns of newspapers pointing to the power plant.

The nuclear industry would fight back and accuse the research institute of causing a radiation leak. The scientific establishment would close ranks around the research lab and testify to safety standards in the laboratory as well as the quality of the researchers.

A third group of people would probably accuse both the power plant as well as the research institute of poisoning the world by using and storing toxic nuclear

Each of these groups would believe they had the truth and others were wrong. They would be critical of any investigation that did not agree with their beliefs.

Hypothesis and evidence

The debate over the origins of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that has caused the COVID-19 pandemic. mirrors this scenario. One school of thought is convinced that the Wuhan Institute of Virology, a leading coronavirus research centre, is responsible for introducing a new coronavirus that it was secretly creating laboratories.

This hypothesis is driven by evidence ranging from reports of documents missing from the website of the Wuhan Institute, to the renaming or re-numbering of a virus originally discovered in a mine in 2012 that is the closest known ancestor to SARS-CoV-2, to reports of researchers mysteriously falling ill at the Wuhan Institute in late 2019, and other reports of a researcher who has reportedly gone missing. The fact that the outbreak occurred in Wuhan, home to the institute, is seen as additional evidence of where the virus emerged from. This hypothesis is greatly favoured by those who believe China is responsible for the pandemic, but lacks evidence that would stand up to rigorous scientific scrutiny.

The second hypothesis is that the virus emerged through a natural "spillover" event, where a bat coronavirus jumped species and infected humans either directly or through intermediary animals that in turn passed it to humans. SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome), the predecessor of this current pandemic, started similarly in late 2002 when a bat coronavirus probably infected animals and then humans in the markets of



Guangdong province in southern China. New viral infectious diseases, whether it is HIV/AIDS, Ebola. Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) or Nipah, have all arisen from spillovers of animal viruses to humans.

As with SARS, many of the early cases of COVID-19 were associated with animal markets, particularly the Huanan market in Wuhan, which sold a variety of live and frozen animal meat. This could be one route the SARS-CoV-2 virus took. But no evidence has been found so far to support this hypothesis either.

To find scientific proof of either hypothesis is a task as challenging as an archaeologist painstakingly digging through hundreds of metres of tightly packed layers of mud and stone and debris in the hope of recovering tiny clues to the existence of an ancient civilization.

For virologists and molecular epidemiologists, the challenge is not sifting through earth, but finding virus samples from the earliest stages of the outbreak in Wuhan. reconstructing their genetic sequences, and then fitting them to a family tree that will hopefully lead to the common ancestor of the diverse strains and variants of SARS-CoV-2 that have spread globally. This could also provide clues as to whether this ancestor emerged in wildlife, in farms and markets, or from a laboratory.

While this viral archaeology sounds simple, it is not straightfor-

ward. The earliest detected cases and the earliest viral samples came from those who were hospitalised in Wuhan in December 2019. But none of them is likely to have been patient zero, the first person to have been infected by the virus. Most people with CO-VID-19 display very mild or no symptoms, so for every hospitalised case, there are likely to have been many earlier cases that were not detected.

It is known that two strains, an A strain and a B strain, were circulating in Wuhan in the early stages of the outbreak. But most of the samples and cases were of the B strain, which caused the first recognised disease cluster in people associated with the Huanan market, while the A strain could have been an earlier strain. These earlier viral samples would have helped build a clearer picture of how the virus emerged. But these cases were never identified or sampled, and they will forever re-

The other source of evidence are samples from the live animals sold in all the markets in Wuhan in the last months of 2019; this too is also not available, since the animals have long been sold and slaughtered, and the markets more often than not sanitised. The samples that were collected in late December from the Huanan market did have the virus, but it is not clear whether the market was a source of the virus, or merely a place where it was amplified.

The entry of politics

So where does one go from here? The scientific unearthing and classification of viral samples in humans and animals to see where they lead is the only way ahead. But science is being elbowed aside by politics. Those who believe in a Chinese conspiracy are convinced that the truth will only come out

after an investigation of the Wuhan laboratory and its staff by international investigators with a wide mandate to search the lab and question staff. This is not going to happen. China will no more allow this than India would allow international investigators to march through the National Institute of Virology in Pune or any other national laboratory in search of evidence of supposed wrongdoing.

Chinese cooperation crucial

The only solution is to work with China. The World Health Organization investigation into the origins of the virus, though rightly criticised for dismissing the laboratory leak theory with little explanation, did unearth evidence on the early stages of the pandemic and suggested a number of studies for the next phase. One important step would be widespread sampling of animals in farms across China that supplied the markets in Wuhan in the search of ancestor viruses to SARS-CoV-2. Workers in farms need to be tested as well for exposure to SARS-CoV-2 or related

viruses. Another suggested step is for blood banks across China to test blood samples from 2019 to see whether they carried antibodies for SARS-CoV-2. This could provide a clue to how early the virus was circulating in human populations. None of this can happen without Chinese cooperation.

For this to happen, polarisation on political lines needs to be put aside, and space needs to be created for science to do its work.

Thomas Abraham is adjunct associate professor at the University of Hong Kong, and the author of 'Twenty-First Century Plague, the Story of SARS' and Polio: The Odyssey of Eradication'. He has been a communications adviser to the World

Gauging pandemic mortality with civil registration data

Underestimation is likely as the CRS is still an imperfect system, with potential sources of error



RUKMINI S.

ver the last month, Indian journalists from across the country have accessed and reported on State-level all-cause mortality from the Civil Registra tion System (CRS), currently confidential and closed to the public. While India's official death toll from COVID-19 has been suspect from the very beginning – for reasons that are partly institutional and partly new and specific to the pandemic - it was the second wave that made the scale of devastation hard to ignore.

States and data Using the example set by those attempting to capture missed CO-VID-19 deaths in the United Kingdom, South Africa and Peru. journalists from a range of news organisations accessed all-cause mortality data from the CRS for Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, parts of Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, and other States as well as for several Indian cities. This data has been able to show a large rise in excess mortality in the surge months of the second wave of April and May 2021 in particular, far in excess of the official CO-VID-19 toll for the same period. The increase in mortality ranges from reported deaths climbing to five times the usual monthly data in Madhya Pradesh and Andhra

Undeniable undercounting Even with the most conservative estimates, there was significant excess

mortality in 2021, far in excess of the official COVID-19 toll

Modelled estimate for 2021*	Reported deaths in 2021	Excess	Official COVID-19 toll
2,30,628	3,48,708	1,18,080	4,461
1,46,046	2,72,910	1,26,864	3,822
2,05,327	3,18,425	1,13,098	12,110
1,01,160	1,15,471	14,312	5,743
	estimate for 2021* 2,30,628 1,46,046 2,05,327	estimate for 2021* deaths in 2021 2,30,628 3,48,708 1,46,046 2,72,910 2,05,327 3,18,425	estimate for 2021* deaths in 2021 2,30,628 3,48,708 1,18,080 1,46,046 2,72,910 1,26,864 2,05,327 3,18,425 1,13,098

*Estimated deaths as of 2019 recalculated for five months Note: Bihar is excluded from this analysis as its level of registration is only 51%

Pradesh (between 30-40 times the official COVID-19 toll for the same period), to more modest increases in Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Sources of error

While this data has added an important dimension to the question of undercounting of COVID-19 deaths in India and remains the best source of data on all-cause mortality, its continued use will require careful work on account of some known sources of error that exist with the data.

The first is that these numbers are underestimates of total mortality. The Union government last published annual Civil Registration System data for 2019. This data shows that India registered 92 of every 100 deaths as of 2019, but there was large variation between States. Bihar, for instance, registered just half of all deaths. Additionally, the data currently available on State-level CRS portals (behind a login) miss even more deaths. The CRS moved online relatively recently (between five and three years ago in most States), and State-level portals now display data for every day from January 1, 2018 to the present day. For all States for which data is available except Kerala, the online portals show lower numbers than what was published by the Union government for 2018 and 2019. What this implies is that the data currently being used for analyses are an underestimate of total deaths, but should not by itself cause an inflation of the excess mortality estimates for the pandemic (since the online portal's data was used for past and current years).

What could, however, alter the magnitude of calculated excess mortality would be a second possible source of error – if mortality was either naturally increasing over time, or if registration was getting better, or if both were taking place. If any of these three phenomena were taking place, the magnitude of excess mortality in 2020 and 2021 could be moderated by these processes.

On the first count, total estimated mortality (registered deaths plus those that are not registered) has actually been declining since 2013 (although there was an uptick in some States in 2019) according to the CRS. So, in the normal course of events (if there had not been a pandemic) we would not expect an increase in mortality

Registered deaths, on the other hand, have been steadily increasing in four of the five States that we have detailed mortality data for (but fluctuating in Kerala). While this will mean that some of the excess mortality in 2020-21 will be accounted for by improved registration, this is not a complete explanation. The increase in registered deaths will not continue at the same pace in all States – once States begin to achieve full registration, increases should be more modest. In Madhya Pradesh, for instance, the level of death registration improved by over 21 percentage points between 2017 and 2019 to reach 89% in 2019. It is simply not mathematically possible for the level of registered deaths to continue to increase at the same pace for the years after

For the most conservative estimate, let us assume that Madhya Pradesh achieved 100% registration by May 2021 (although we know from State level data that this was far from the case). Given the flattening of mortality in the State, let us assume that the total mortality in 2021 in 'normal' times would have been about the same as the total estimated deaths for 2019 - 5.53 lakh deaths. Even Rukmini S. is an independent journalist

then, the numbers for Madhya Pradesh show over 1.18 lakh excess deaths in 2021, which is over 26 times the official COVID-19 death \rightarrow toll for the same period. The other States too show excess mortality in 2021 assuming even registration. Moreover, single-month spikes

in months like the one seen in May 2021 cannot be explained away by the gradual increase in registrations alone. Nor are these deaths that occurred months before. From Andhra Pradesh, for instance, we know that 98% of the deaths registered in May 2021 took place within the previous 30 days.

An imperfect resource

Taken together, these potential sources of error indicate that while the total number of deaths in India during the pandemic reported using Civil Registration System data might be an underestimate, a part of the increase in mortality can be explained by improved registration. However, the scale of excess mortality during the second wave in particular is undeniable, especially compared to the low number of COVID-19 deaths officially recorded in the same period.

The Civil Registration System is an imperfect system, yet one that journalists are having to turn to in the face of the continuing refusal of the Union government to engage with the issue of the true extent of mortality. Acknowledging the gaps in the system will help journalists, but does not minimise the magnitude of the crisis.

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.

Afghan's descent

Afghanistan seems to be, ominously, on the brink of a dreadful civil war (Page 1, "Taliban capture several districts in Afghanistan", July 5). What is appalling is that in the ensuing power struggle between the Afghan security forces and the Taliban, the extremist, war-happy Taliban seems to be gaining an upper hand. With the embers of militancy and extremism flaring up, the beleaguered Afghan government is naturally feeling let down by the United States and its allies. Apparently, the remedy of the U.S. and its allies for peace in Afghanistan is worse than

Unfortunately for India, which has contributed immensely in rebuilding the war-torn nation, the rise of the anti-India

the malady.

Taliban bodes ill, especially when China has been making inroads into Afghanistan. However, the biggest lesson the Afghan imbroglio has is interference in Vietnam. Iraq or now Afghanistan, it seems to have received a bloody nose by playing the global policeman. It should now realise that maintaining global peace is

the prerogative of the UN.

NALINI VIJAYARAGHAVAN,

Thiruvananthapuram

The Rafale deal With the war of words

between the Bharativa Janata Party and the Congress getting uglier by the day over an investigation into the Rafale deal, citizens are not getting any wiser in the absence of any official response from the Government on the issue. The details of why the French agency is now reasonably satisfied about the need for a judicial investigation into the deal cannot be brushed aside. The Indian government can no longer be disdainful about allegations of wrong-doing. The Opposition, and the Congress in particular, has

demand to have a joint parliamentary committee to probe various questionable aspects of the

been vociferous in its

deal including pricing; and this cannot be ignored (Page 1, "Cong. calls for probe into Rafale deal". July 5). S.K. CHOUDHURY,

■ There is still a lingering suspicion that the deal was not entirely free from the taint of kickbacks or the underhand payment of 'hidden commission'. Sometimes 'influence peddlers', 'money launderers' and 'middlemen'

masquerade as 'facilitators'

of the sale of defence equipment. And the Government, if it is really committed to ensuring transparency and accountability, cannot run away. There is a need for a credible investigation. Opacity still surrounds the role a leading Indian business group played and the gain it made using its political clout despite possessing no funds and technical know-how for the

'ioint venture'.

If France can hold an investigation into an inter-governmental agreement, there is no reason why India should not follow suit. To say that information related to defence (and the defence deal) was classified is a weak argument. G. DAVID MILTON.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

In the report titled "NIA allows ED to record Gautam Navlakha's statement in case against website" (July 1, 2021, some editions), a sentence that read "The ED contends that the said amount - over ₹30 crore - was given as salary to Mr. Navlakha ... " should be corrected to say a part of the said amount.

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300;



THE HINDU DELHI TUESDAY, JULY 6, 2021

Crafting a unique partnership with Africa | Will a national judiciary work?

The future of India-Africa cooperation is agriculture, even as the China factor looms large



VEDA VAIDYANATHAN

"A historical solidarity is today a modern partnership," tweeted External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar during his recent trip to Kenya. Critical to its foreign policy matrix, New Delhi's engagement with the African continent has been multifaceted, with projects implemented under Indian lines of credit, capacity-building initiatives, and cooperation in a range of sectors. As an importer of fruits, nuts, grains and pulses from the continent, Indian congruence with African countries in the agriculture sector is expanding. With 65% of the world's uncultivated arable land, employing over 60% of the workforce, and accounting for almost 20% of Sub-Saharan Africa's GDP, agriculture is critical to Africa's economy. The African Continental Free Trade Area agreement is expected to improve cost competitiveness by removing tariffs. As this relationship enters the post-pandemic world, it is vital to prioritise and channel resources into augmenting partnership in agriculture. This is crucial given its unexplored potential, centrality to global food security, business prospects and to provide credible alternatives to the increasing involvement of Chinese stakeholders in the sector.

Analysing Chinese engagement Over the past few years, I have led and worked with different teams of experts from various African countries, conducting evidence-based studies at the grassroots level to demystify Chinese engagement in the region. Evaluating the approaches that Chinese corporations, small and medium-sized enterprises and entrepreneurs adopt has provided a layered perspective of the sociopolitical, economic and environmental

impact of Chinese engagement. Today, China is among Africa's largest trading partners. It is also Africa's single biggest creditor. Its corporations dominate the region's infrastructure market and are now entering the agri-infra sector. Increasingly critical to China's global aspirations, its engagement in African agriculture is taking on a strateg-



ic quality. Therefore, dismissing Beijengagement in African agriculture as inconsequential for New Delhi would be unwise.

While access to Africa's natural resources, its untapped markets and support for 'One China Policy' are primary drivers of Chinese engagement with the region, there are other factors at play. Chinese-built industrial parks and economic zones in Africa are attracting low-cost, labourintensive manufacturing units that are relocating from China. Chinese engineers interviewed spoke of how their operations in Africa are important to accumulate global experience in management, risk and capital investments. Not only are they willing to overlook short-term profits in order to build 'brand China', but they want to dominate the market in the long term, which includes pushing Chinese standards in host countries. Chinese tech companies are laying critical telecommunications infrastructure, venture capital funds are investing in African fintech firms, while other smaller enterprises are expanding across the region.

While many Chinese entities have been active in Africa's agricultural landscape for decades now, the nature, form and actors involved have undergone substantial change. In Zambia, Chinese firms are introducing agri-tech to combat traditional challenges, such as using drone technology to control the fall armyworm infestation. They have set up over 20 Agricultural Technology Demonstration Centers (ATDCS) in the continent where Chinese agronomists work on developing new crop varieties and increasing crop yields. These ATDCs partner with local universities, conduct workshops and classes for officials and provide training and lease equipment to small holder farmers. Chinese companies with no prior experience in agriculture are setting out to build futuristic

ecological parks while others are purchasing large-scale commercial farms. Furthermore, African agriculture experts, officials and farmers are provided opportunities to augment skills and be trained in China.

The exponential growth in the China-Africa economic ties and the emergence of Beijing as an alternate to traditional western powers has motivated change in perceptions across groups. Governments and heads of state are recalibrating approaches, media houses are investing more resources for on-theground-reporting and artists like Michael Soi in Kenya are using satirical paintings to start a dialogue. Simultaneously, Africa-China relations are becoming complex with a growing, insular diaspora, lopsided trade, looming debt, competition with local businesses and a negative perception accompanied by greater political and socioeconomic interlinkages.

Examining Chinese interactions also provides cues on what not to do. The Chinese and African experts working in ATDCs seemingly operate in silos. On occasion, there seems to be a gap between skills transferred in China and the ground realities in Africa. In some cases, the technology taught in China is not available locally and in others, there is inability to implement lessons learnt due to the absence of supporting resources. Larger commercial farms run by Mandarin-speaking managers and the presence of small-scale Chinese farmers in local markets aggravates

Takeaways for India

India-Africa agricultural cooperation currently includes institutional and individual capacity-building initiatives such as the India-Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural development in Malawi, extension of soft loans, supply of machinery, acquisition of farmlands and the presence of Indian entrepreneurs in the African agricultural ecosystem. Indian farmers have purchased over 6,00,000 hectares of land for commercial farming in Africa. Sub-national actors are providing another model of cooperation in agriculture. Consider the case of the Kerala government trying to meet its steep requirement for raw cashew nuts amounting to 8 lakh tonnes a year with imports from countries in Africa to complement its production capacity currently limited to 0.83 lakh tonnes. There are also proposals to create a jointly-owned brand of Africa-Kollam cashews. Similar ideas could encourage State governments and civil society organisations to identify opportunities and invest directly.

There is also promise in incentivising Indian industries to tap into African agri-business value chains and connecting Indian technology firms and startups with partners in Africa. The transformative power of innovative and disruptive technology has been evident in the African agri-tech sector as the startup ecosystem in the continent enjoyed a 110% growth between 2016 and 2018. In the past year, despite the pandemic, the sector witnessed a record increase in in-

A thorough impact assessment needs to be conducted of the existing capacity-building initiatives in agriculture for India to stand in good stead. This could include detailed surveys of participants who have returned to their home countries. Country-specific and localised curriculum can be drawn up, making skill development demand-led.

While India's Africa strategy exists independently, it is important to be cognisant of China's increasing footprint in the region. Beijing's model, if successful here, could be heralded as a replica for the larger global south.

It is important to note, however, that prominent African voices have emphasised that their own agency is often overlooked in global discourse on the subject. In that sense India has consistently chosen well to underline the development partnership to be in line with African priorities. It is pertinent, therefore, that we collectively craft a unique modern partnership with Africa.

Veda Vaidyanathan is a Visiting Associate Fellow at the Institute of Chinese Studies in New Delhi and is currently based in New York

In the current context, the feasibility of the All India Judicial Service requires to be studied



RAJNISH PATHIYIL

The Union government appears to be steadfast in its resolve to implement reforms in recruitment and appointment to the subordinate judicial services. In 2019, it spearheaded a consultative process for the creation of the All India Judicial Service (AIJS). Initially, only four States and two High Courts supported the proposal. Eight States rejected it, five suggested changes, and 11 are yet to respond. Recently, the Centre took the ordinance route to effect changes in the appointment of members to various tribunals. In a single stroke, it abolished several tribunals. The manner of appointment of members to the remaining tribunals underwent a sea change. It is likely that the ordinance may not pass judicial scrutiny in light of the Supreme Court's judgment in Rojer Mathew v. South Indian Bank (2019).

Constitutional perspective

Article 233(1) of the Constitution lays down that "appointments of persons to be, and the posting and promotion of, district judges in any State shall be made by the Governor of the State in consultation with the High Court exercising jurisdiction in relation to such State". The 42nd Constitutional amendment in 1976 amended Article 312 (1) empowering Parliament to make laws for the creation of one or more All-India Services, including an AIJS, common to the Union and the States. However, Clause 3 of Article 312 places a restriction that such a service shall not include a post inferior to that of a district judge. The amendment also brought about a significant change in the Seventh Schedule - Entry 3 of List II in its entirety was placed as Entry 11A in List III.

This paves the way for Parliament to enact laws with regard to 'Administration of Justice; constitution and organisation of all courts, except the Supreme Court and the High Courts'. Post-Emergency, amendment to Article 312 (1) has escaped parliamentary scrutiny. A dichotomy exists with regard to Articles 233 and 312. What was essentially intended to be the prerogative of the State will now be the prerogative of the Union. If the fundamental power of the States to make such rules and govern the appointment of district judges is taken away, it may be against the principle of federalism and the basic structure doctrine.

The First Law Commission deliberated upon this, but it was only in 1972 that the is-

sue gained momentum. The views of the Chief Justice of India and the Law Commission reports perhaps paved the way to bring in the 42nd constitutional amendment. It was only in 1986 that the Law Commission resurrected the issue and deliberated upon the objections. The primary fear was that promotional avenues of the subordinate judiciary would be severely curtailed. Fifty per cent of the posts of district judges are to be filled by promotion from the subordinate judicial service, thus leaving open the remaining for direct recruitment. Another fundamental concern was the language barrier.

The Union Law Minister has extolled AIJS to be an ideal solution for equal representation of the marginalised and deprived sections of society. Most States already have a reservation policy in force. Tamil Nadu provides for a roster-based reservation of 69%, of which 30% is for women. Uttar Pradesh merely provides 20% reservation for women and the AIJS may therefore benefit States like U.P. Arguments that the AIJS will reduce judicial delays do not hold water as the subordinate courts are the crucial point of delays owing to the existence of large vacancies.

In the early 1960s, the issue was debated during the Chief Justices Conference and was favoured by the eminent body, but many States and High Courts opposed it. The First National Judicial Pay Commission found that it would be in the interest and the health of the judiciary to form an AIJS. The report supported and reiterated the recommendations of the 14th Law Commission.

In the All-India Judges case in 1992 the apex court had opined that the recommendations of the Law Commission should be examined and implemented. The issue was again discussed in All India Judges Association Vs. Union of India (2002). The court accepted most recommendations of the Shetty Commission and directed the government to implement the judgment.

Any groundbreaking reform is bound to receive criticism. The National Commission constituted for review of the Constitution headed by luminaries including Justice H.R. Khanna, Justice B.P. Jeevan Reddy and K. Parasaran, the then Attorney General, had suggested a paradigm shift in the approach of the Union. The feasibility of the AIJS in the current context requires to be studied, especially when reliance is placed upon archaic reports of the Law Commission. It is for the Union to dispel doubts and at the same time give wings to the aspirations of all stakeholders when implementing the proposal. It, however, remains to be seen if the AIJS would be like the proverbial curate's egg.

Rajnish Pathiyil is an Advocate and a Special Public Prosecutor for the Enforcement Directorate, practising at the Madras High Court

Inadequate promises for Punjab

Kejriwal may have over-estimated the ability of doles to see the AAP through in the 2022 elections

TRIDIVESH SINGH MAINI

During his visit to Punjab on June 29, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced that if the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is voted to power in the 2022 Assembly elections, it would provide 300 units free electricity for each family and waive previous power bills. He did clarify that while the promise of providing 24-hour electricity would take time, waiver on power bills would be immediate.

Days earlier, he had also said that AAP would project a Sikh as the chief ministerial face of his party. Not projecting a local Punjabi face was cited as one of the reasons for the party being unable to form the government in 2017, in spite of a groundswell of support. While projecting a local face is imperative, Mr. Kejriwal may have over-estimated the ability of doles to see the AAP through in the 2022 elections. While populism has worked in the past, there are other issues which need to be addressed.

Issues that need to be addressed First, while many people look at the Delhi AAP government's focus on health and education with interest, there is a clear understanding that there are significant differences bet-

ween Punjab and Delhi in terms of

the economic landscape.

Second, there is a growing clamour for a government which gives primacy to the State's long-term interests. Over the past two decades, when it was in an alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) had kept mum on important issues related to Centre-State relations. There has thus been a clear void as far as effective articulation of Punjab's regional aspirations and a number of Sikh issues is concerned. The Chief Minister, Captain Amarinder Singh, in spite of his proximity to the Congress high command, was perceived to be vocal in safeguarding the State's in-

current tenure he has failed to live up to that reputation. It is true that after breaking its alliance with the BJP after the passage

terests. His triumph in 2017 can be at-

tributed to the same, though in his

of three farms bills, SAD has been making the right noises on issues pertaining to federalism and also attempted to find common cause with other regional parties. But a large section of what comprised its core support base is still disenchanted due to the incidents of sacrilege of the Guru Granth Sahib and the killing of peaceful protesters during the tenure of the SAD government. While SAD has allied with the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) for the upcoming Assembly elections, there are murmurs that it could return to the BJP.

Making inroads into Punjab

If one were to look at the AAP, there is some interest in its governance model in Punjab. But there are concerns about its sidetracking of local leaders during the earlier election and its ambiguity on issues concerning Punjab, specifically on the river water issue. Apart from this, the high command culture of the party, like in other national parties, is not likely to go down well with voters.

Third, from a political standpoint, the AAP has little support in the Malwa region, but no support in Doaba or Majha. It may be able to make some inroads into these regions if it ties up with a breakaway group of the SAD, the SAD (Sanyukt). Also, if the AAP can draw a sizeable chunk of urban votes, which generally go to the BJP or Congress, it could be in a pole position. Finally, there is a growing awareness about the pitfalls of populism. While there has been opposition to the farm laws, the detrimental impact of the current wheat-paddy cycle which has caused the water levels to drop and impacted the environment has not gone unnoticed.

Punjab's political landscape is witnessing an interesting churn. There is a general consensus that a futuristic vision for Punjab which gives precedence to the State's interests is imperative. Unlike West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, the regional party of the State which is best placed to do that, the SAD, has failed in recent decades.

Tridivesh Singh Maini is faculty member, Jindal School of International Affairs, O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat

DATA POINT

data were available, 49 CMs

ruled for less than 120 days

for less than 120 days, the

highest among the States

such CMs, respectively

considered. Madhya Pradesh

and Haryana had five and four

Goa had six CMs who served

between 1962 and 2021

Short stints at the top

Just 114 days after taking charge as the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Tirath Singh Rawat resigned on July 2, as the six-month deadline for him to get elected to the Assembly was fast approaching. Due to the pandemic, the Election Commission has not yet decided to hold byelections to various Rajya Sabha and Assembly seats vacant across the country. In at least 44 instances, Chief Ministers held the office for less than 114 days, an analysis of those who came to power between 1962 and 2021 across 20 States, shows. The graph depicts all the CMs who lasted less than 120 days. The smaller and darker the circle, the shorter the tenure. By **The Hindu Data Team**

Chandrabhanu Gupta 1962 19 days from March 14, 1967 🔸 1967 **Bhagwat Dayal** Prakash Chandra Sethi Sharma 1969 53 days from January 29, 1972 12 days from 1972 March 11, 1967 John Bosco Jasokie 10 days from March 10, 1975 1975 K. Karunakaran 1976 31 days from C. H. Mohammed Koya March 25, 1977 50 days from October 12, 1979 1977 1979 Bhim Bahadur 1980 Gurung Heera Lal 14 days from 1981 May 11, 1984 Devpura 1982 15 days from February 23, 1983 N.Bhaskara Rao 1985 31 days from 1984 August 16, 1984 Arjun Singh **B.B. Lyngdoh** 29 days from 1985 1 day from Janaki March 11, 1985 1988 Ramachandran March 2, 1983 23 days from 1989 January 7, 1988 Ravi Naik 1990 Om Parkash 6 days from K.L. Chishi April 2, 1994 1991 Chautala 34 days from May 16, 1990 1994 July 12, 1990 1996 1998 1999 2005 **Harish Rawat** Pratapsingh 1 day from 2007 Rane 29 days April 21, 2016 from February 2009 B.S. Yeddyurappa 3, 2005 2 days from May 2016 17, 2018 2018 2021 In the 20 States for which Two CMs, Arjun Singh Seven CMs have Source:

had a tenure of

less than 10 days

In 1990, in both

Goa and Haryana,

than 120 days. The

same happened in

Tripura in 1977

two CMs each

Trivedi

Centre for

Political

Data

Tirath Singh Rawat

114 days from March 10, 2021

(Madhya Pradesh) and

served for just one day

Madhavsinh Solakni

(Gujarat) served as CM for

less than 120 days thrice.

Five others from different

States held the post for a

similar duration twice

Harish Rawat (Uttarakhand),

The Man Prindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO 1ULY 6, 1971

Details on West Pakistanis

India is prepared to consider Pakistan's request for information on West Pakistanis who have taken shelter in India from East Bengal "on humanitarian grounds" if Pakistan will also act according to the norms of international law and procedure in regard to more than 250 Indians languishing in Pakistani jails, official sources said to-day [New Delhi, July 5]. The sources were commenting on the Pakistan Foreign Office statement on Friday alleging that India was holding back several Pakistani Government officials, businessmen and tea-estate owners who had sought shelter in India during the "disturbances in East Pakistan". The Pakistani newspapers, television and radio had played up this allegation and Mr. Aftab Ahmed Khan, Director-General in the Pakistani Foreign Office, had also spoken about this to India's acting High Commissioner in Islamabad. The Pakistani press had also reported that the Pakistan Government had approached the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, and "friendly governments to arrange relief and repatriation of the "East Pakistani nationals"."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 6, 1921

How to boycott foreign goods

Mr. M.K. Gandhi writes in the "Bombay Chronicle":- It is needless to say at this time of the day that the proposed boycott of foreign cloth is not a vindictive process, but is as necessary for national existence as breath is to life. The quicker therefore it can be brought about the better for the country. Without it Swaraj cannot be established or retained after establishment. It is of the highest importance to know how it can be brought about even before the 1st day of August next. To arrive at the boycott quickly, it is necessary for (1) the mill-owners to regularise their profits and to manufacture principally for the Indian market; (2) for importers to cease to buy foreign goods. A beginning has already been made by three principal merchants; (3) for the consumers to refuse to buy any foreign cloth and to buy Khadi whereever possible; (4) for the consumers to wear only Khadi cloth, mill cloth being retained for the poor who do not know the distinction between Swadeshi and Pardesi; (5) for the consumers to use, till Swaraj is established and Khadi manufcture increased, Khadi just enough for covering the body...

FROM PAGE ONE

Political leaders call for accountability

General secretary of the Communist Party of India D. Raja said Fr. Swamy's death was an institutional murder. "Both the State machinery and the judiciary are responsible for his death. The State was not ready to give him even a straw... The judiciary's conduct is also questionable. On what grounds did they deny bail to a 84year-old person who was suffering from multiple

Kavita Krishnan, member of the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) politburo, hit out at the Central government as well as the judiciary over Fr. Swamy's death. "Modi & Shah have accomplished the custodial killing of the gentle Jesuit social worker Fr Stan Swamy,

who spent his life serving the oppressed. I hope the judges who denied him bail never get to sleep at night: they have blood on their hands," she said in a tweet.

CPI (Marxist) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said he was "deeply pained and outraged" at the death of Fr. Stan. "... A Jesuit priest & social activist he tirelessly helped the marginalised. Draconian UAPA custody, inhuman treatment since October 2020 with no charge established," he said in a tweet.

Dr. Stanislaus D'Souza S.J. of the Jesuit Provincial of India, said: "I express my deepest condolences to the family members, friends, lawyers, well-wishers and all those who stood by Stan."

CBSE to cut syllabus, hold board exams in Nov., April

Schools must create a student profile for all assessment undertaken over the year and retain the evidence in digital format, with marks uploaded onto CBSE's IT platform, notification.

The CBSE has made provisions for different assessment scenarios depending on the pandemic situation.

If both term exams are held, the final theory marks will be equally split between the two. If the pandemic forces complete school closures in November and December, the first term exams will be conducted online or in homes, and reduced would carry weightage in the final

cannot be held, the final results would be based on an increased weightage for the first term exam scores and internal assessment marks. If schools are completely

If the second term exams

closed, and both the first and second term exams have to be conducted at home, the final results will include weightage for the scores in internal assessment, projects and practical work, as well as both termend examinations. "In all the above cases, data analysis of marks of students will be undertaken to ensure the integrity of internal assessments and home based exams," said the notification issued by CBSE academic director Joseph Emmanuel.

+ SC aghast that Section 66A of IT Act is still used

"And not being Mr. Venugopal, he [police officer] does not read the footnote..." Jus-Nariman said light-heartedly.

Nariman But Justice agreed with Mr. Parikh that the "state of affairs is shocking". He said the court had to intervene and work out a mechanism to disseminate the Shreya Singhal judgment to every police station and trial court in the country.

"Yes, we will work out something," Justice Nariman assured. The government was given two weeks to file its reply and the PUCL was given a week to file its rejoin-

The case would be listed for hearing after this.

The NGO wanted the Supreme Court to direct the government, through the National Crime Records Bureau or any other agency, to collect all the data/information regarding FIRs/investigations under Section 66A and pending cases in district and High Courts.

Twitter failed to comply with IT Rules: Centre

In India, Section 79 of the IT Act shields social media platforms or intermediaries such as Twitter from liability for any third party information, data, or communication link made available or hosted by it in certain

The Ministry said when an intermediary fails to observe the IT Rules, the intermediary could be liable for any punishment under any law for the time being in force in respect of the offending content.

The Ministry stated that

tional immunity" subject to the intermediary satisfying the various conditions.

intermediaries is a "condi-

"The IT Rules, 2021 are the law of the land and Respondent No. 2 (Twitter) is mandatorily required to comply with the same," it added.

The Ministry's affidavit came in response to a petition by advocate Amit Acharya, seeking to appoint a Resident Grievance Officer under Rule 4 of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Ethics Code) Rules 2021.

the immunity conferred on

specify any legislative or le-

to verify jab beneficiaries' "However, MoHFW failed to manual was not available on

'Facial recognition used

gal order that authorised open source webpage. the use of FRT nor could The IFF said the governthey provide copies of any ment was also unable to provide any information related to the accuracy of the FRT used, any third party that use of FRT for verificaassessments that may have tion of the beneficiaries' dabeen conducted and the exta would be according to the haustive list of databases with which the facial recognition technology will be linked in order to identify individuals.

the CoWin portal or any

12 MLAs suspended for a year from Maharashtra Assembly

BJP MLAs were 'abusing' the presiding officer

STAFF REPORTER

Twelve BJP MLAs have been suspended from the Maharashtra Assembly for one year for "abusing" and "misbehaving" with the presiding officer in chair, both inside and outside the Assembly. The Assembly also passed two resolutions asking the Union government to intervene in the issue of reservation to Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and the Maratha community.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Anil Parab presented a resolution to suspend the MLAs and the House passed it on a majority vote. The BJP, while boycotting the House, termed it an act to suppress its voice and an at-



on the first day of the monsoon session on Monday. • PTI

tempt to bring down the number of the Opposition.

The MLAs – Sanjay Kute, Ashish Shelar, Abhimanyu Pawar, Girish Mahajan, Atul Bhatkhalkar, Harish Pimple, Jaikumar Rawal, Yogesh Sagar, Narayan Kuche, Bunty Bhangdiya, Parag Alvani and Ram Satpute – will be barred from entering the Assembly premises for the next 12 months.

The ruckus inside the As-

sembly took place as the tripartite Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government brought a resolution seeking empirical data on OBCs from the Union government.

Leader of the Opposition Devendra Fadnavis raised a point of objection before senior Minister Chhagan Bhujbal presented the resolution, claiming that the State government did not follow the Supreme Court's directions

After allowing Mr. Fadnavis to speak, Shiv Sena MLA Bhaskar Jadhav, who was the presiding officer in the Speakers' chair, directed Mr. Bhujbal to read out the reply and present the resolution. As he denied Mr. Fadnavis an opportunity to reply to Mr. Bhujbal, agitated BJP MLAs rushed in front of his chair and smacked the mike.

They also tried to lift the sceptre in front of the Speaker's chair.

The House was adjourned for 10 minutes after the resolution was passed. It was then adjourned three times for 15 minutes and once for 30 minutes.

The Assembly and Council also passed a resolution to ease the 50% limit on reservation to ensure Socially and Economically Backward Class (SEBC) be given reser-

Delhi HC extends interim protection to Purkayastha

Court also seeks response from ED

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday extended the interim protection granted to news portal NewsClick and its editor, Prabir Purkayastha, from coercive action in connection with a money laundering case lodged by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). Justice Mukta Gupta also

sought a response from the ED on Mr. Purkayastha, who is also the founder of NewsClick, seeking anticipatory bail in the money laundering case. The court noted that a copy of the Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR), registered by the ED in the case, had not been provided to the petitioners yet.

The High Court will hear the case again on July 29. The agency, represented

by advocate Amit Mahajan, submitted that Mr. Pur-

kayastha had appeared before the agency for investigation once and had sought 10 days' time to bring certain documents. However, he did not appear again, Mr. Mahajan said.

When the court asked why the ED had not yet supplied the ECIR copy to the petitioners, counsel said the agency was waiting for him to appear before it and then it would provide the ECIR copy. Counsel also said the agency would issue fresh summons to Mr. Purkayastha to join the investigation.

To this, the judge orally said, "So, when you issue summons, also give the copy of the ECIR to him".

NewsClick has sought the quashing of the First Information Report (FIR) lodged by the Delhi Police on its allegations of foreign funding on the ground that it did not disclose any cognisable offences as alleged.

Pranab Mukherjee's son

Abhijit Mukherjee, Congress

President Pranab Mukherjee

Trinamool Congress in the

presence of the party's leader

Partha Chatterjee, in Kolkata

leader and son of former

on Monday joined the

in the Lok Sabha, Sudip

Bandyopadhyay, and the

party's secretary general,

'Mamata Banerjee has

successfully resisted the

communal BJP in West

Bengal and it has been

appreciated across the

political spectrum," Mr.

Provide uninterrupted

Punjab to provide affordable

electricity to people round

politicising the issue of fixed

mismanagement surrounding

the sector. Mr. Badal said the

being politicised by both the

Congress and the Aam Aadmi

Party (AAP) even though they

was applicable to private and

government thermal plants as

well as power purchased from

were aware that this charge

issue of fixed charges was

power paid to all thermal

the clock instead of

plants to cover up its

power supply: Badal

Mukherjee said.

CHANDIGARH

'My regime was not jungle raj, it was rule of the poor'

Lalu addresses workers virtually on RJD's foundation day

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

For the first time after over three-and-a-half years of incarceration, ailing Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad inaugurated the party's 25th foundation day virtually from Delhi on Monday, and asserted that "his regime was not jungle raj, as is being projected by political rivals".

In his nearly 30-minute address to party workers and leaders, a frail Mr. Prasad regretted that he was unable to be physically present among them because of his ill health.

'My regime was not jungle raj, as is projected by rivals. It was the rule of the poor. During the last Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, I wanted to come out [of jail], but could not," he said as workers and party leaders, including Tejashwi Yaday and Tej Pratap Yaday (his sons), watched him on a large screen at the party

headquarters in Patna. He hailed the party workers and commended both his sons for their oratory skills. "I want to assure the people that we're not going to step back and will not be

Antony slams

Rafale probe

to the Rafale deal.

gate the

'Corruption apparent'

"French Public Prosecu-

tion Services has now ap-

pointed a judge to investi-

influence peddling and

brazen favouritism in the

36 aircraft Rafale deal. The

prima facie corruption in

the Rafale deal is now ap-

parent. The intriguing si-

lence of the Modi govern-

ment points towards

mal-intent to hush up the

government to probe and

punish the guilty is even

more astonishing, pointing

towards a concerted effort

to bury the scam," Mr. An-

tony added.

"The refusal of the BJP

corruption," he said.

corruption,

NEW DELHI

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

govt. silence on



Lalu Prasad

cowed down by the pressure and conspiracies of our political rivals. Tejashwi should not be discouraged, as the future of RJD is very bright and we'll take the country ahead," Mr. Prasad said.

Out on bail The ailing RJD chief, who

was convicted in several fodder scam cases, came out on bail recently and has been recuperating at the residence of his elder daughter and party Rajya Sabha member, Misa Bharti, in New Delhi. He was sent to the Ranchi Central Jail, but served most his sentence at a government hospital in Ranchi for multiple ailments. Recently, he was shifted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Del-

"If Tejashwi and Rabri Devi [his wife] had not taken me to AIIMS in Delhi, I would have died in Ranchi. But I'll come to Patna soon and tour the State to meet everyone," he said.

'Regular training' He said farmers, youth and

students associated with the party should undergo "regular training". "People believe that only the RJD can end the current problems."

He accused the Nitish Kumar government in Bihar of corruption and mismanagement of the COVID-19 crisis. "Every day, at least four murders take place in Bihar. Lakhs of people have been rendered jobless and reduced to being migrant labourers," Mr. Prasad said.

Hitting out at the BJP government at the Centre, Mr. Prasad said, "Inflation and unemployment has broken the backs of the people. After GST and demonetisation. there is an economic crisis in the country and there is an attempt to create a rift in the social fabric. After Ayodhya, some people are talking about Mathura. For power, they are ruining the

Mamata urges PM to cut taxes on petrol, diesel relief to the common people

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday said she was shocked that the retail prices of petrol had crossed ₹100 a litre across many States

In a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, she urged him to substantially reduce the taxes charged by the Central government on petrol and diesel. "It is my earnest request that the taxes charged by the Central government on petrol and diesel be substantially reduced to give much-needed

and also to check the overall inflationary trend in the country today," she wrote. In the two-page commu-

nication, Ms. Banerjee pointed out that the petrol and diesel prices had been hiked eight times since May 4. Out of these, prices were hiked six times in June and four times in one week.

She said the Central government had collected a "staggering" revenue of ₹3,71,725 crore from oil and petroleum products in the financial year 2020-21, in the midst of the pandemic.

DoT mulls stiffer fines for pesky calls, SMS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Department of Telecom (DoT) has proposed to further crackdown on pesky callers by imposing a ₹10,000 penalty for every call and SMS made by telemarketers after 50 violations, according to an official source.

The DoT has proposed to make the norms more stringent by reducing the slabs for levying penalty to ₹1,000 per violation for up to 10 breaches, ₹5,000 each for 10-50 violations and 50 violations.

The DoT's Digital Intellisystem generated message to suspected numbers for verification. "In case of non re-verification, those numbers will be disconnected and associated IMEIs will be put under suspected list. No lowed for the IMEIs in sus-

which is a BJP-ruled State.

"In the case of Chhattis-

garh, process for procure-

ment of ePOS [electronic

Point of Sale] has begun. Al-

most 4000 devices are ex-

pected to be delivered in Ju-

ly, and the remaining in

August," said Mr. Pandey.

"Delhi and West Bengal will

be coming on board very

soon as their ePOS machines

have been installed and test-

ing trials are happening.

Central and State teams are

working together in close

coordination on this."

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) ₹10,000 each for more than president Sukhbir Singh Badal on Monday asked the Congress government in

gence Unit (DIU) will check violations at the device-level as well. The DIU will send a calls, SMS or data will be alpected list for a period of 30 days," the source said.

Shakti Bhog Foods' CMD arrested on graft charge

outside the State.

NEW DELHI The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested the chairman-cum-managing director (CMD) of Shakti Bhog Foods Limited, Kewal Krishan Kumar, on money laundering charges in connection with a bank fraud case involving ₹3,269.42 crore. It also conducted searches at nine locations in Delhi and Haryana. "He was produced

before a special court that sent him to ED custody till July 9," said an official. The ED probe is based on an FIR registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on December 31 last year, against the company and its directors.

Violence during protest against proposed plant AHMEDABAD More than 50 rounds of tear

gas shells were fired by police when protests by hundreds of local tribal people turned violent during a public hearing of a smelter project being set up by Hindustan Zinc Ltd., an arm of the Vendata group, in Tapi district, Gujarat, on Monday. The Guiarat State Pollution Control Board had fixed July 5 for a public hearing on the proposed plant. The local tribal people, under the banner of Adivasi Panch, have been contending that they would lose their livelihood, and lead, cadmium, arsenic and sulphur dioxide from the factory would pose a great

threat to public health.

'ONORC scheme in Delhi, Bengal soon'

Low Aadhaar seeding delaying 'One Nation One Ration Card' in Assam: govt.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT Delhi and West Bengal are

expected to roll out the 'One Former Defence Minister Nation One Ration Card' A.K. Antony on Monday said the "intriguing si-(ONORC) scheme by the end of the month, while Chhatlence" of the Narendra Modi government on the tisgarh is still in the process French public prosecution of acquiring the necessary service ordering a probe devices, according to Food into the Rafale fighter jets Secretary Sudhanshu Pandeal pointed to a "concert-However, the low penetraed effort to bury the scam".

In a statement, the formtion of Aadhaar in Assam er Defence Minister said due to concerns linked to the the Modi government did National Population Register not have any option but to (NPR) is hampering the imorder a joint parliamentary plementation of ONORC committee (JPC) probe inthere, he told presspersons on Monday.

"In Assam, the basic reason is that the Aadhaar penetration is still low and we are working with UIDAI on that. As Aadhaar seeding improves, then Assam should



Women carrying a bag of rice during the distribution of rations in Guwahati last year. • RITU RAJ KONWAR

also follow. We are pushing hard," he said. "There are issues related to the National Population Register, so Aadhaar seeding [of ration cards] itself is only 36-38% in comparison to the national rate of 92%," he said.

However, he declined to elaborate on how Aadhaar

central Kolkata. Among

for ration purposes is linked to the NPR, or the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

political battles with the non-BJP governments in Delhi and West Bengal regarding their failure to roll out ONORC, but has taken a different tack so far on Assam,

The Centre is engaged in

These are the only four

States that are not implementing the ration card portability scheme that the Centre has been pushing as the solution for migrant workers' difficulty to access subsidised food, especially during the pandemic.

Police arrest protesting BJP leaders in West Bengal

SHIV SAHAY SINGH

Several workers and leaders of the BJP were taken into custody during a march to the Kolkata Municipal Corporation headquarters here on Monday to protest against

the fake vaccination racket. Hundreds of BJP workers took part in the protest and clashed with the police in

those taken into custody were BJP MLA and head of the party's women wing, Agnimitra Paul, and BJP general secretary Sayantan Basu. There was a huge deployment of police to control the first major law violation event organised after the Trinamool Congress govern-

ment came to power for the

third consecutive time in May 2021. The State BJP leadership

said more than 50 leaders State BJP president Dilip

Ghosh said the police restored to unprovoked use of force. "What has the Trinamool Congress government to fear that they are preventing a peaceful protest?" Mr.

Ghosh asked. The State BJP president said administering fake vaccines to hundreds of people was a serious issue and could not be brushed under the carpet.

The fake vaccination scam came to the fore last month, when hundreds of people were administered fake vaccines by an impostor claiming to be an IAS officer.

CoWin portal. However, the

relevant privacy impact assessment," the IFF said, adding that the reply stated

terms furnished in the 'Verifier & Vaccinator Module User Manual' included in the

Fr. Swamy had a long list of ailments

He told Bombay High Court that his health completely deteriorated after being sent to Taloja prison

SONAM SAIGAL

MUMBAI Father Stan Swamy had told the Bombay High Court that he preferred to die in prison rather than get treated in any

hospital. On May 21, a committee of doctors, led by the dean of J.J. Hospital, examined Father Swamy. Their report said, "He has bilateral upper limb tremors, bilateral hearing loss, generalised weakness, occasional loose stools, and occasional lower back pain. He had tremors in both upper limbs and these tremors increased in action and in different postures. He had sluggish reflexes in lower limbs and normal reflexes in upper limbs. He had an imbalance of gait. His audiogram showed that he had moderately severe sensorineural hearing loss in the right ear and severe sensorineural hearing loss in the left." The committee advised that he should be provided with physical assistance, physical support in the form of a walking stick and a wheelchair

A Division Bench of Justic-

requirement.

Legal battle of an activist-priest

2021

March 22:

Special NIA

court rejects

medical bail

April 26:

Fr. Swamy

appeal

moves HC in

The long battle of Jesuit priest Stan Swamy ever since he was made an accused in the Bhima Koregaon violence that broke out on December 31, 2017:

August 22: Pune police name Fr. Swamy as an accused in the FIR

October 26: HC grants protection against arrest **December 14:** HC rejects

his plea to quash FIR October 8: NIA arrests Fr. Swamy and takes him

to Taloja Central Jail October 23: Special NIA court rejects his interim medical bail

November 6: He moves court seeking permission to allow a straw and a sipper

es S.J. Kathawalla and S.P. Tavade noted, "We have observed that he has severe hearing problems and he is physically very weak. He has categorically stated that he does not want to be treated at any hospital and he will prefer to die in jail rather than get admitted to any hospital." Father Swamy had told the court that his generNovember 26: NIA says it does May 4: HC orders not have a straw and a sipper

al health completely deterio-

rated after he was sent to Ta-

loja prison and that "there is

a lot of give and take in the

prison". He insisted that he

While rejecting Father

Swamy's medical bail, the

special NIA court said, "Pri-

ma facie it can be gathered

that Fr. Stan, along with oth-

should get interim bail.

Maharashtra government to file his medical report December 4: Fr. Swamy receives straw and sipper May 21: Fr. Swamy tells HC

that he can't walk or eat May 28: Court directs that

Fr. Swamy be shifted to a private hospital May 30: Fr. Swamy tests

positive for COVID-19 June 17: HC says he has critical medical issues and will remain in private hospital

July 4: Fr. Swamy suffers cardiac arrest and is put on ventilator

July 5: Fr. Swamy passes way at 1.24 p.m.

organisation, hatched a serious conspiracy to create unrest in the entire country and to overpower the government, politically and by using muscle power.'

On March 22, 2021, judge D.E. Kothalikar said, "There are reasonable grounds for believing that the accusation of commission of the offences punishable under chap-

Jailed on false charges, says **UN official**

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Father Stan Swamy was imprisoned on "false charges of terrorism", a top UN official said.

The concerns of Mary Lawlor, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, were shared by Eamon Gilmore, EU Special Representative for Human Rights, who said the EU had been "repeatedly" raising his case

with India.

ters IV [punishment for terrorist activities and VI [terrorist organisations] of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act against the applicant is prima facie true. Considering the express bar imposed by Section 43D(5) [no person accused with chapters IV and VI shall be released on bail], he cannot be released on bail."

He fought tirelessly for *jal*, jungle and *zameen* for tribals

A caged bird can still sing, he had said in prison

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Father Stanislaus Lourdus-

wamy, who was popularly known as Father Stan Swamy, was born in Tiruchirappalli in the then Madras Presidency on April 26, 1937. He had been a priest for 51 years and fought tirelessly for jal (water), jungle (forest) and zameen (land) for the tribal people.

Father Swamy, who passed away at 1.24 p.m. on Monday, was arrested on October 8, 2020, by the National Investigation Agency from Bagaicha in Ranchi, where he lived.

Father Tony, who lived with Father Swamy at Bagaicha for several years, said, "His life was very inspiring to me personally. He always stood up for those who were denied justice, especially the Adivasis. He was moved by how they were denied the fundamental rights and always tried to work for them. He always stood up for those displaced and constantly always inspired me."

Advocate Peter Martin, who filed the public interest litigation petition on behalf of Father Swamy before the Iharkhand High Court, said, "The irony is that he was so engaged in the work for the under-trial people implicated in false cases and he died as an under-trial."

Activist Siraj Datta, who worked with him on several issues for close to a decade, said, "He was a wonderful human being. He was extremely committed to working for the voiceless people and helped them get their

N. Ram, former Editor-in-Chief of The Hindu and Director, THG Publishing Private Ltd.; former Supreme Court Judge Justice Madan Lokur, and writer Nayantara Sahgal spoke at an online condolence meeting for Father Swamy.

Very courageous: N. Ram Mr. Ram recollected his time with Jesuits in college and their commitment towards

the marginalised and the poor. He said, "Father Stan was very courageous and stoic and was on a mission to work for the tribals. I would like to call attention to the authoritarian and communal trends that we see around us with a number of injustices, human rights violations, violations of law."

Mr. Ram also spoke about co-accused Sudha Bharadwaj in the case.

"Let us not forget Sudha Bharadwaj, who has been languishing in Byculla jail for two-and-a-half years. This just shows a very poor commentary on courts for not acting in time. The way institutions are being manipulated to obey the diktats coming from above. We have to bring more solidarity in our polity," he said.

Mr. Lokur observed, "I am disappointed with the courts and prosecution in this case. This is 'inhuman.'"

While in prison, Father Swamy had said, "We will still sing in chorus. A caged

Union Cabinet likely to be expanded this week

24 slots vacant, with Ministers holding multiple portfolios

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The long-anticipated reshuffle and expansion of the Union Cabinet is likely to take place this week, according to highly placed sources.

The expansion, with 24 slots to fill and multiple Ministries held by single Ministers to be decoupled, has been talked about for a while now. The possibility of it happening either on July 7 or 9 is now being talked about with more certainty.

Several shoo-ins in the Union Cabinet, including a leader from north-central India who is owed a ministerial berth as a political *quid* pro quo and a leader from eastern India, have cancelled their travel plans and have been asked to be in Delhi on those dates.

Party appointments

Sources in the BJP said the Cabinet expansion will also affect the organisational appointments in the party as a senior general secretary of the BJP is expected to get a Cabinet berth.



Jyotiraditya Scindia is likely

sources Government were largely mum but did say that the inductions would take into account the needs of the States going to the polls next year, including Uttar Pradesh, from where Anupriva Patel of NDA ally Apna Dal is likely to be inducted. "Multiple Ministries are currently being handled by one Minister or other – there are four such clusters of Ministries that need to be redistributed and the Cabinet reshuffle exercise is likely to address that issue," said

According to the Constitu-

tion, the number of Ministers in the Union council of Ministers cannot exceed more than 15% of the total Lok Sabha members. This puts the number of ministerial slots vacant as of now at 24 – a sizeable number.

Sonowal's chance

Whether Prime Minister Narendra Modi will fill the slots in one go or just restrict it to necessary inclusions - such as that of Jyotiraditya Scindia who joined the BJP last year and helped topple the Kamal Nath-led Madhya Pradesh government – is yet to be seen. The names of Ashwini Vaishnaw, MP from Odisha and an aide to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpavee, and Rakesh Singh MP from Madhya Pradesh, are also doing the rounds.

As of now Mr. Scindia and former Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, who gracefully gave way to Himanta Biswa Sarma after his government was voted back to power in Assam, seem to be the strongest candidates in the list of inclusions.



Show of strength: LJP leader Chirag Paswan being welcomed by his supporters at the airport in Patna on Monday. • PTI

Amid rousing welcome, Chirag begins his yatra

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Chirag Paswan, who is locked in a fierce tussle with his uncle and rebel party MP Pashupati Kumar Paras to gain control of the Lok Janshakti Party, received a rousing welcome on Monday in Patna and Hajipur from where he embarked on his Aashirwad Yatra across the State on the occasion of the birth anniversary of his late father and founder of the party Ram Vilas Paswan.

The rival group led by Mr. Paras also celebrated Ram Vilas Paswan's birth anniversary at the State party headquarters in Patna.

A large number of LJP leaders and supporters welcomed Mr. Chirag Paswan at

the Patna airport with slogans attacking his uncle for his "betrayal". Hundreds of cars and motorbikes followed Mr. Paswan's motorcade which, after a brief stopover at his house in Patna, moved to the statue of B R Ambedkar near the High Court. Mr. Paswan wanted to offer floral tribute at the statue before embarking on his Yatra, but the gate of the premises was locked. He and his supporters then proceeded to sit on a dharna for some time.

Later Mr. Paswan and his supporters left for Hajipur in Vaishali district, from where his father Ram Vilas Paswan had won elections several times, to embark on his Aashirwad Yatra.

Trinamool MPs urge Kovind to remove Mehta

wrote about their rights. It

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A delegation of Trinamool Congress MPs met President Ram Nath Kovind and sought the removal of Tushar Mehta as the Solicitor-General of India, on the grounds of "criminal misconduct" and "gross impropriety" following his meeting with BJP MLA Suvendu Adhikari.

Mr. Adhikari is an accused in the 2016 Narada tapes case, and Mr. Mehta is representing the CBI in the Supreme Court and the Calcutta High Court in the agency's probe against senior Trinamool leaders in the matter.

After the meeting, Trinamool MP Mahua Moitra told presspersons, "We will not let this matter be swept under the carpet."

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No information on Cong. reshuffle: Adhir Ranjan

'I will follow leadership's instructions'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Breaking his silence over reports of his removal as the leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on Monday said none from the party had informed him about any such change. Mr. Chowdhury, however, said he was a foot soldier of the party and would follow the leadership's instructions.

"I have no information about it as none from the party has informed me so far," Mr. Chowdhury, a fivetime Lok Sabha member, told *The Hindu* over phone from his constituency, Berhampur in West Bengal.

"Whatever responsibility is given to me by leadership, it becomes my dharma [duty] to carry on," he added.

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Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury

On Sunday, reacting to a report that Mr. Chowdhury was being removed as the Lok Sabha leader, official sources of the party called it "premature and unfounded". However, there was no categorical denial as Mr. Chowdhury is likely to lose one of his posts: either his position as the West Bengal Congress chief or Lok Sabha leader. And it will be timed with other changes in the All India Congress Committee.

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Sonia to meet Amarinder today

Formula likely to end tussle with Sidhu

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Amid the ongoing political turmoil in Punjab, Chief Minister Amarinder Singh is likely to meet Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday to give a final shape to a compromise formula to end the bitter factionalism.

The party had announced that by the first week of July, it hoped to put the infighting behind it.

For the past several weeks now, the State has witnessed a very public feud between the Chief Minister and cricketer-turned-politician Navjot Singh Sidhu. Last week, Mr. Sidhu had an hour-long meeting with former party chief Rahul Gandhi and general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra where his role in the Punjab Congress is said to have been discussed.

Prior to that, Mr Sidhu and Captain Amarinder had separately met the threemember All India Congress Committee (AICC) that had been set up to resolve the issue.

The AICC panel - comprising Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha Malli-



general

karjun Kharge,

secretary (Punjab) Harish Rawat and J.P. Aggarwal - is learnt to have recommended that Mr. Sidhu needs to be suitably accommodated apart from suggesting a 18point programme. While the Chief Minister has been open to suggestions on cracking down on sand and transport mafia, improving the power situation and visible action in the 2015 sacrilege issue, he is opposed to making Mr. Sidhu the Pradesh Congress Committee president.

The Chief Minister wants meone from the Hindu com-

the PCC to be headed by somunity and not a Jat Sikh since the government is headed by one.

Alliance vows to reverse changes of Aug. 2019

Parties to decide on delimitation panel

PEERZADA ASHIQ

The five-party People's Alliance for the Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) in Jammu and Kashmir, which held a series of meetings on Sunday, reiterated that all parties would "fight together to reverse the unconstitutional and unacceptable changes foisted on the people of J&K on August 5, 2019 using all constitutional, legal and political means at its disposal".

undoing these changes will continue as long as it takes while striving to achieve this objective as early as possible," it said. The alliance's stand as-

"The PAGD's struggle for

sumes significance as it comes a day ahead of the visit of the J&K Delimitation Commission to hold meetings with political parties, civil society groups and the officials.

PAGD vice-chairperson Mehbooba Mufti of the Peoples Democratic Party, M.Y. Tarigami of the CPI(M), Justice Hasnain Masoodi (retd.) of the National Conference, Javed Mustafa Mir of the J&K Peoples Movement and Muzaffar Ahmed Shah of the Awami National Conference The struggle for undoing these changes will continue as long as it takes while striving to achieve this objective as

met on Sunday under the chairmanship of Farooq Abdullah at his residence in Srinagar.

early as possible

"It was called to discuss the recent meeting chaired by the Prime Minister in Delhi on June 24," Mr. Tarigami, who is the alliance spokesman, said.

Party-level decision He said the political parties

associated with the alliance "will take a decision about meeting the delimitation panel at the party level".

The Commission, which is arriving on July 6 for a four-day visit, has invited the political parties in the Union Territory, besides the five members - two MPs from the BJP and three from

It has sought suggestions before redrawing the boundaries of seven new constituencies.

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1	RWF/PCEE/EL/ TD/2021-22/01 Dtd:01/07/2021	Core Lifting & Overhauling of 11 KV/415 V, 3 Phase, 400 KVA, Distribution Transformer of Colony and Admin Block Sub-stations at RWF, Yelahanka, Bangalore-64.		03/08/2021 at 11.00 hours			
2	RWF/PCEE/EL/ TD/2021-22/03 Dtd:01/07/2021	Replacement of Damaged & missing Earth Pits, Reconditioning of Earth Pits and Repair of Earth Pit Station in Admin area at RWF, Yelahanka, Bangalore-64.		27/07/2021 at 11.00 hours			
This	This tender notice can be viewed on our website "www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in". Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer						

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SOUTHERN RAILWAY

enior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Southerr Railway, Madurai Division for and on behalf of The President of India nvites E-Tender for the following work as per detailed tender notice giver in our e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in** The tenderer(s) intending to apply need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal "www.ireps.gov.in" and only online tenders will be accepted. **The cost of tender form & EMD can** be made only on online gateway payment through multiple banks net banking, debit card & credit card. The date of closing is 27.07.2021 at 11.00 hrs All relevant credentials & supporting documents are to be scanned and uploaded along with the offer.

Sl. No. 1. Name of the work: Proposed Interlocking of LC 349A between SER-SDN section in MDU-DG Double line section Signal & Telecom world in connection with Engineering work [Madurai Division - Proposed Increasing Sleeper Density for a length of 55.30 kms. (Umbrella Work 2020 -21) (ISD - 2.00kms in MG/MDU, 12.90kms in MNM, 15.55kms in SVGA & 24.85kms in MMM P.Way sections) 55.300 km (Madurai Manamadurai - 14.9 km & Manamadurai - Rameswaram - 40.4 km), TPJ MNM section- Proposed Through Fittings Renewal from Km - 457 483.000 for a length of 26.00 Kms between stations KRMG & PDKT in SSE / P.Way PDKT Section, TPJ-MNM sec-Proposed Increasing Sleeper Density from 1540 to 1660 Nos per km from km 505.700 to 511.500 for a length of 5.80 Kms in between stations KKDI & KAL in SSE/P.Way/SVGA section, Dindigul - Pollachi section- Proposed Through Rail Renewa (Secondary) for a length of 2.170km in SSE/P.Way PLNI section (PPTR Road 3 = 0.715km MVRD Road 3:0.730km & UDT Road 3 = 0.725km]

Divisional Railway Manager (S&T)

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Educational institutions to open in Bihar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Bihar government announced on Monday that all educational institutions and offices in the State will reopen on July 6.

Classes XI and Class XII in schools, colleges, universities and technical institution will open with 50% attendance, it said after a meeting of the crisis management group to review the COVID-19 situation. All government and private offices will be open during the normal working

"After a review of CO-VID-19 situation, a decision has been taken to reopen all government and private offices normally. Only vaccinated people can enter the offices," tweeted Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. "Special arrangements will be made to vaccinate all adult students, teachers and employees of educational institutions," he said.

"Restaurants and other eateries will function with 50% seating capacity," Mr. Kumar said. The overall recovery rate in Bihar from COVID-19 is 98.47%

CoWin made open source: PM

The tech-enabled platform will be available as a free public good to all countries

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The CoWin platform is being made open source and it will be available to all countries, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said at the CoWin Global Conclave here on Monday.

He said that with nearly 200 million users, the Aarogya Setu app was a readily available package developers.

"There is no parallel to such a pandemic in hundred years and no nation, however powerful, can solve a challenge like this in isolation," Mr. Modi said, and added that all had to work together.

"Guided by the approach of 'One Earth, One Health', humanity will certainly overcome this pandemic," he

Trustworthy proof

Stating that India has adopted a completely digital approach while planning its vaccination strategy, the Prime Minister said a secure and trustworthy helped people establish when, where and by whom they had been vaccinated.

"Digital approach also



Winding down: Bedding and equipment being removed from the COVID Care Centre at the Yamuna Sports Complex in New Delhi on Monday as cases are on the decline. • R.V. MOORTHY

helps in tracking the usage of vaccination and minimises wastage," he said.

"Furthermore, vaccinated people do not need to carry around fragile pieces of paper to prove anything. It is all available in digital format," the Prime Minister said. He also highlighted the customisability of the software to the local requirements of the countries interested in it.

Speaking about the Co-WIN Global Outreach Programme, R.S. Sharma, CEO of the National Health Authority, said India endeavoured to share this tech-enabled vaccination platform as a free public good with the

"It is a known fact that nations across the world are endeavouring for universal vaccination amidst the steepest timelines," said Dr. Sharma, adding that "it's clear that as we thrive in the age of digital in the 21st century, we can't rely on methodologies from a century ago

of achieving herd immunity by letting a pandemic leave the society devastated, like the Spanish Flu did."

"Persistent immunisation is going to be, by far, the most effective means to keep our people safe, globally," he said. Dr. Sharma said that CoWIN has become the fastest tech platform in the world to amass over 200 million registrations in a record four months, and then 300 million registrations in a mere five months.

Cities along rivers urged to include conservation plans

Policy document from Clean Ganga mission sets out norms

ЈАСОВ КОЅНҮ

Cities situated on river banks will have to incorporate river conservation plans when they prepare their Master Plans, says a policy document from the National Mission for Clean Ganga.

The guide document, while spelling out provisions in the National Water Policy that emphasise the need for such plans, also says that these "river-sensitive" plans must be practical and consider questions of encroachment and land ownership.

"There is a need for a systematic rehabilitation plan for such encroaching entities that emphasises on alternative livelihood options in addition to a relocation strategy. Planners should make every attempt to engage with such entities during the preparation of the Master Plan in order to develop empathetic and humane solutions," the document notes.

recommendations are currently for towns that are on the main stem of the



Towns along the main stem of the Ganga are in focus.

the Ganga. There are, as per the estimate of the policy document, 97 of them encompassing five States - Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal.

The plan must also clarify on land ownership. A key aspect of conserving and protecting river and riverine resources involves increasing green cover in the vicinity of the river by creating green buffers, removing concrete structures and employing "green infrastructure."

However, implementing such solutions will require restrictions on the Floor Area Ratio, ground coverage and setting limits on the

maximum permissible heights of buildings. "Ascertaining the land ownership in these areas is, therefore, important to avoid legal complications while the Plan is being implemented," says the document.

The Master Plan should n0t mandate specific technologies, but it can "create an environment" for facilitating the use of state-of-theart technologies for river management. These include satellite-based monitoring of water quality; artificial intelligence for riverine biodiversity mapping; big data and citizen science for riverhealth monitoring; and unmanned aerial vehicles for floodplain mapping. These were being used across the world successfully.

Cities with an ongoing Master Plan tenure ought to be conducting an "immediate analysis" of the extent to which these the river guidelines could have been adopted and this "will help" in incorporating the appropriate revisions when the current plan is reviewed.

Gomti project: **CBI** searches

40 locations

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The CBI on Monday

searched over 40 locations

in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan

and West Bengal in a cor-

ruption case against 17 offi-

cials of Uttar Pradesh Irri-

gation Department and 172

others, including compa-

Survey of Class 3 students to set baseline for literacy goals

Mission calls for use of mother tongue in early education

or 9 years should be able to

write grammatically correct

sentences, and converse

with clarity using suitable

vocabulary in the home or

school languages. Together

with simple number pro-

blems and the ability to

identify shapes, time and

date, fractions, and mea-

surements in real-life situa-

tions, these goals are collec-

tively being called the

foundational literacy and

numeracy skills every child

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Centre's NIPUN Bharat Mission has set a goal that by 2026-27, every Class 3 child should be able to read with understanding at the rate of at least 60 words per minute, be able to read and write numbers up to 9,999 and solve simple multiplication problems.

For this purpose, ₹2,688 crore has been set aside under the existing Samagra Shiksha scheme for 2021-22. said Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank at the launch of the mission on

A National Achievement Survey of Class 3 students to be conducted this November will set a baseline to track future progress. "Until grade 3, children are expected to 'learn to read' and acquire basic skills. After grade 3 children are expected to be able to 'read to learn'. If this does not happen, the learning gap continues to widen from that point, as the texts in the language textbooks and mathematical concepts become more complex and abstract in later grades," said the NIPUN Bharat guidelines. "Thus, grade 3 is the inflection point and this is where children who have not made it, get left behind."

Apart from reading with

should possess. **Stage-wise targets**

Similar stage-wise targets are being set in a continuum from the pre-primary or balvatika classes. The NIPUN Bharat strategy includes changes in curriculum and teaching methods to include more activity, art and storytelling, creation of print-rich

comprehension, a child of 8 materials and resources, teacher training, and stressfree assessment methods in order to reach these goals.

Solid foundation: The NIPUN Bharat Mission aims to improve

competency in basic reading and math skills. • FILE РНОТО

NIPUN Bharat also emphasises the importance of using a child's mother tongue in teaching, a principle of the National Education Policy 2020, which received some criticism. "The mother tongue of the child must be the language of communication [if not the medium of instruction] with the child in school in the formative years, so that the child does not suffer any confusion in understanding the transactions and is able to grow with free expression," said

the guidelines. It noted that most children, given sufficient instruction, can learn to read in their own home language within 4-6 months if there is oral comprehension.

HC to hear U.P. govt. on conversion issue

Delhi Police directed to ensure safety of woman

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH

The Delhi High Court on Monday extended the interim direction to the Delhi Police to ensure the safety of a woman from Shahjahanpur in Uttar Pradesh, who had converted from Hinduism to Islam on her own accord, till July 22. The next hearing has been scheduled for that day.

Justice Rekha Palli said she could not pass any direction in relation to the case without first hearing the Uttar Pradesh police. As no counsel for the pol-

ice was present during the videoconferencing hearing, Justice Palli ordered that a copy of the woman's petition sel of Uttar Pradesh in the Supreme Court.

"Before any orders are passed, against Respondents 4 [U.P. police] and 5 [U.P. government], which is situated beyond the territorial jurisdiction of this court, it is deemed appropriate to hear Respondents 4 and 5," the High Court said. On July 1, the court direct-

ed the Delhi Police to take adequate steps to protect the life and safety of the 29-yearold woman. Renu Gangwar, in her pe-

tition, said she converted from Hinduism to Islam on May 27 of her "own free will and without any threat or coercion from anyone". Following this, she changed her name to Ayesha Alvi, which published newspapers.

Ms. Alvi, who is a resident of Tilhar, Shahjahanpur, and working in Delhi, allegedly



ferent reporters requesting a meeting.

However, even after her refusal, a reporter allegedly came to her place in Tilhar and took photographs and videos without her permission, she said.

"The petitioner [Ms. Alvi] is facing extreme threat to her life and that of her immediate family members who are being witch-hunted by the officials of the Uttar Pragroups," she stated in her plea. One reporter allegedly de-

media and the vigilante

manded money while threatening to publish the news of her conversion. "When she refused, he

made threats again. Thereafter, he took ₹20,000 from her," the petition, filed through advocate Kamlesh Kumar Mishra and Nitin Kumar Nayak, said. Ms. Alvi said she was "an

adult and protected by the Constitution to choose her own faith and she cannot be targeted and harassed for the choice she makes with regard to the religion she follows".

She urged the Delhi High Court to protect her from being taken away from its jurisdiction "by force or coercion and or by way of any other illegal means by the agencies of the State or any other per-

nies and their owners, for alleged irregularities in the execution of the Gomti River Front Project during 2014-17.

Samajwadi Party chief

Chief Minister when the

Akhilesh Yadav was the

project was implemented. The accused in the ranks of junior assistant, principal assistant, assistant engineer, executive engineer, superintending engineer and chief engineer had employed three methods to

In many cases, the notices inviting tenders were not published in newspapers as required.

indulge in corruption.

Tenders were awarded by officials on the recommendation of tender committees headed by themselves.

minary inquiry instituted on November 30, 2017.

SC describes plea on 'toolkit' as frivolous

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Monday reminded a person who took offence to a "Congress toolkit" that India is a democracy where he can choose to ignore something he does not like or agree

The petitioner, Shashank Shekhar Jha, wanted a National Investigation Agency

probe into the toolkit which allegedly dealt with the government's handling of CO-VID. Mr. Jha said the Congress party's registration should be suspended if the "anti-national acts" were proved.

A Bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and M.R. Shah found the petition frivolous.

"Mr. Jha, if you don't like the toolkit, you can ignore

the toolkit," Justice Chandrachud advised the petitioner. Justice Chandrachud said parties engage in political propaganda, and it was left

> Mr. Jha, however, referred to how Singapore had objected to "propaganda".

> "Oh... India is a democracy, you know," Justice Chandrachud replied.

the toolkit to see if any offences under sedition law or the Unlawful Activities (Preto each individual to engage vention) Act were made out. with or ignore them. "The time of the Supreme

Court is taken up by such frivolous petitions," Justice Chandrachud said.

Mr. Jha had even suggest-

ed a preliminary inquiry into

The court allowed the petitioner to withdraw his peti-

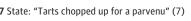
To establish that procedures were followed in awarding the tenders to the lowest bidders, forged documents were submitted to show some companies as competitive bidders. fThe FIR is an offshoot of a preli-

THE CROSSWORD + 13292 Display keystrokes of genius. Type your answers into our online grids. (set by Incognito) https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

17 State: "Tarts chopped up for a parvenu" (7)



SCAN TO PLAY



19 Incinerate bovine creature with current... dies violently (7) 22 Tar is melted by Indian saint and painter, perhaps (6)

Display keystrokes of genius.

24 Rival's quiet about ward after small operation (8) 26 Crimea devastated around 5 by King, an unconventional person

28 Curie's sailing for coast (6)

30 Mountain in Vietnam (4) 31 6 with every adder (5)

32 Have food after end of spoon is clean (4)

DOWN

1 Last letter about returning ring results in nothing (4)

2 John (one in home) is the most crazy (8)

3 Stones entrance in Arabian souk initially (6)

4 Cock in kangaroo's territory (7) **5** Deary, this is a type of concrete (5-3)

6 Jets flying gueen and clown (6) 7 Knight, that is, Victor in the City of Domes (4)

14 Great and extraordinary purse (5) 16 Author breaking nibs around beginning of essay (5)

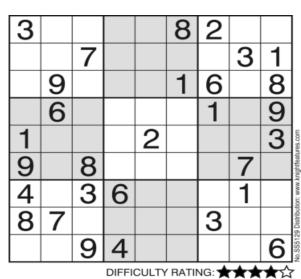
18 Get back ere rivet is broken (8)

20 Ann's judo training for Lotharios (3,5) 21 Models, um, Spock designed (4-3)

23 He may bring rocks for your whiskey, Ötzi! (6) 25 Rogue's good vehicle is near roundabout (6)

27 Cast plays parts of play (4)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 13291 Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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FAITH

Avoid attachment

Many philosophical and psychological insights pertinent to an individual's worldly existence can be drawn from the skilful depiction of the Jadabharata episode by Vyasa in the Bhagavata Purana, pointed out Sri R. Krishnamurthy Sastrigal in a discourse. King Bharata had been a righteous ruler and duly fulfilled all the duties devolved on him. At one stage in his life, he gave up all this and chose to lead an austere life in the Himalayas to seek liberation. His life as a hermit is described as exemplary in the Bhagavata Purana. Yet, he slipped from his aim of salvation at the end of his life owing to the attachment and concern he developed towards a motherless young deer. He began to believe that the deer too endeared itself to him and derived much comfort from this thought.

Once, when the deer was missing, he became greatly agitated and worried. His mind imagined all the likely dangers that the deer might have met with. The more he thought of all these, the more he longed for its presence as he believed that it will be safe only in the ashram. He would ruminate thus: Will the deer come back before the sun sets and sit on my lap once again and remove my distress? He even forgot the austerities he had been practising all these years and

concentrated only on the deer. Sastras advocate practice of compassion as a virtue and also warn against show of dvesha towards any object or being. But when concern turns into possessiveness, it ties one to samsara. Rama worried about all the sufferings that Sita would be undergoing and was inconsolable. Lakshmana tried to calm Him by pointing out that all human contacts and relationships are very temporary and one should accept that parting from all these is inevitable. It is attachment that makes separation unbearable.

A ND-NDE

ACROSS

- 8 That lady has love for champion (4) 9 Bird goes awkwardly carrying egg (5)
- 10 Way-out alien abducts team (4) 11 Musical instrument and Roman insect (6)
- 12 Deviates badly producing a tranquilliser (8) 13 Idiots notice tax-payer? (8)

15 Magician appears in gossamer lingerie (6)

29 In absence of model, Rob gets animal (4)

Over 1,000 Afghan troops flee to Tajikistan

With supply lines strained, Afghan forces have been crumbling in the face of the Taliban onslaught

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

More than 1,000 Afghan troops fled into neighbouring Tajikistan on Monday following clashes with the Taliban, as the insurgents amassed momentum on the battlefield.

The exodus of troops followed another weekend of fighting across much of the northern countryside where the Taliban have overrun dozens of districts, spurring fears that Afghan forces are

"They did not want to surrender. They had asked for reinforcements but their call was ignored," said Abdul Basir, a soldier based with a battalion in Badakhshan province that had members flee over the border.

The U.S. announced on Friday that it had handed over Bagram Air Base - the centre of its operations – to Afghan security forces, effectively wrapping up operations in the country following nearly two decades of

Tajikistan's national se-



Tight spot: Afghan commandos arriving in Faizabad, the capital of Badakhshan province, on Sunday. • REUTERS

curity committee said 1,037 Afghan government troops had fled into the ex-Soviet country "to save their lives" after clashes with the Taliban during the night.

Counter-attack

"Taking into account the principle of good neighbourliness and adhering to the position of non-interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, the military personnel of the Afghan government forces were allowed to

enter Tajik territory," said the statement, published by Tajikistan's state information

Afghan troops had already crossed into Tajikistan following earlier clashes that saw the Taliban take control of a major border crossing between the countries.

The Afghan government has vowed to launch a counteroffensive in the north.

Hamdullah Mohib, the country's National Security Advisor, told Russia's RIA

news agency that an operation was "absolutely" in the Already stretched with supply lines strained, Afghan security to the Afghan government. forces have been crumbling in the face of the Taliban onslaught, with several bases and outposts surrendering

analyst Atta Noori in Kabul. "They are confused – in almost every district that the Taliban capture, they send a team of elders to talk to the soldiers and get them to surrender."

to the insurgents without fir-

ing a shot. "Afghan forces

have lost their morale," said

"It is an emergency situation for the Afghan government. They need to step up their counteroffensive as soon as possible," he added.

With vital air cover from the Americans massively curtailed by the closure of the Bagram base, the Taliban pressed on with their offensive across the north over the weekend, seizing most of Badakhshan and Takhar provinces with government forces holding little more than the provincial capitals.

The speed and ease of the Taliban's effective takeover of the provinces represent a massive psychological blow

Both provinces had once served as the strongholds for the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance during the gruesome civil war in the 1990s and were never routed by the militants.

The dire situation in the

north was accompanied by reports that the Taliban were also inching closer to the provincial capitals in their southern strongholds of Kandahar and Helmand, with key districts on the outskirts of both cities taken by the group. "We are so tired of this war. At least today the right thing was done, and one side should take control," said Shir Mohammad Barekzai, a resident of Helmand's Nawa district that was seized by the Taliban early on Monday. Since May 1 when the U.S. military began its final withdrawal, Afghan troops and the Taliban have clashed fiercely across the rugged countryside.

Armed men kidnap 140 school students in Nigeria

Police say they rescued 26 people, including a woman

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Heavily-armed men kidnapped 140 students from a boarding school in northwestern Nigeria on Monday, a school official said, the latest in a wave of mass abductions targeting schoolchildren and students.

Criminal gangs often at tack villages to loot, steal cattle and abduct for ransom in northwest and central Nigeria, but since the start of the year they have increasingly targeted schools and colleges

The attackers opened fire and overpowered security guards after storming the Bethel Baptist High School in Kaduna state in the early hours of Monday, abducting most of the 165 pupils boarding there overnight.

"The kidnappers took away 140 students, only 25 students escaped. We still have no idea where the students were taken," Emmanuel Paul, a teacher at the



Prime targets: Schoolboys being escorted after their release by abductors in Katsina, Nigeria, in this file photo. • AP

school, said.

"Tactical police teams went after the kidnappers," he said. "We are still on the rescue mission."

Police said they had safely rescued 26 people, including a woman.

Around 1,000 students and pupils have been abducted in Nigeria since December. Most have been released after negotiations with local officials, although some are still being held.

Often, gangs target rural schools and colleges, where

students stay in dormitories and security is light, allowing them to easily transport large numbers of victims to forest hideouts to negotiate ransoms.

The kidnapping of Nigerian schoolchildren first made international headlines in 2014 when jihadist group Boko Haram snatched nearly 300 schoolgirls from a rural school in Chibok.

Monday's attack was the fourth mass school kidnapping in Kaduna state since December.

ELSEWHERE



over reins to Andy Jassy

Amazon founder Jeff Bezos stepped down as CEO on Monday, handing over the reins to Andy Jassy (in picture), who ran Amazon's cloud-computing business. Mr. Bezos, Amazon's biggest shareholder with a stake worth about \$180 billion, will still hold sway over the company he started out of his Seattle garage in 1995. He takes over the role of executive chair, with plans to focus on new initiatives. AP

Rest of Florida condo razed ahead of storm

The partially collapsed Miami-area condo where 24 people are confirmed dead was demolished on Sunday night, ahead of the possible arrival of Tropical Storm Elsa Search-and-rescue efforts for 121 people missing have been suspended. Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava said on Sunday that rescue efforts would resume after the demolition, noting it was 11 days since the collapse. REUTERS

Pope in 'good' condition after colon surgery

Pope Francis was doing well on Monday after surgery for an inflamed large colon, but the 84-year-old was expected to spend around seven days recovering in hospital, the Vatican said. The pontiff was admitted to Gemelli hospital on Sunday for an operation under general anaesthetic for symptomatic diverticular stenosis of the colon. Pone "is in good general condition, alert and breathing spontaneously", spokesman Matteo Bruni said. AFP

Boat sinks off Tunisia, 21 migrants dead

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Coastguards in Tunisia have retrieved the bodies of 21 sub-Saharan migrants and rescued 50 after their boat sank off the port city of Sfax, authorities said on Monday.

"Twenty-one bodies of migrants were recovered after their boat was shipwrecked on July 4, and 50 were rescued," National Guard spokesman Houcem Eddine Jebabli said.

He said the migrants, all from sub-Saharan Africa, had been trying to reach Europe.

The spokesman said four boatloads of migrants had sunk since June 26 after setting off from Sfax.

China wants to expand ties with Europe, Xi tells Macron, Merkel

Beijing seeks an 'unbiased environment for Chinese firms'

REUTERS

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday told French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel he hoped China and Europe would expand cooperation to better respond to global challenges, state broadcaster CCTV

In a three-way video call, Mr. Xi also expressed the

hope that Europeans can play a more active role in international affairs, achieve strategic independence and offer a fair, transparent and unbiased environment for Chinese companies, CCTV

firmed that the three leaders exchanged views on Euro-

pean Union-China relations. "They also discussed international trade, climate protection and biodiversity," her office added in a statement.

"The conversation also re-

volved around cooperation in the fight against the CO-VID-19 pandemic, global vaccine supply, and interna-Ms. Merkel's office contional and regional issues."

In May, the European Parliament halted ratification of a new investment pact with China until Beijing lifts sanctions on EU politicians.

After cyber attack, hackers demand \$70 mn

Experts say over 1,000 firms affected after data stolen from U.S. firm Kaseya

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE WASHINGTON

Hackers were on Monday demanding \$70 million in bitcoin in exchange for data stolen during an attack on a U.S. IT company that has shuttered hundreds of Swedish supermarkets.

Researchers believe more than 1,000 companies could have been affected by the attack on Miami-based firm Kaseya, which provides IT services to some 40,000 businesses around the world.

The FBI warned on Sunday that the scale of the "ran-

digital hostage-taking where hackers encrypt victims' data and then demand money for restored access - is so large that it may be "unable to respond to each victim individually".

somware" attack - a form of

Russian-link suspected

Sweden's Coop supermarket chain was among the most high-profile victims, with "a majority" of their 800 stores still closed three days after the hack paralysed its cash registers, spokesman Kevin Bell said.

situation was looking "positive compared to a few days ago", but the few hundred stores that have reopened were relying on alternative payment solutions, such as customers paying using their smartphones. Experts believe the attack

Mr. Bell stressed that the

was probably carried out by REvil, a Russian-speaking hacking group known as a prolific perpetrator of ransomware attacks. A post on Happy Blog, a

site on the dark web previously associated with the group, claimed responsibility for the attack and said it had infected "more than a million systems".

The FBI believes that REvil, also known as Sodinokibi, was behind a attack last month on global meat-processing giant JBS, which ended up paying \$11 million in bitcoin to the hackers.

The blog post said the hackers would post a decryption tool online "so everyone will be able to recover from attack in less than an hour" - if they were handed \$70 million in bitcoin.

Learn to live with virus, Johnson tells Britons

U.K. plans to lift curbs from July 19

ASSOCIATED PRESS

British Prime Minister Boris Iohnson confirmed on Monday that his government plans to scrap laws requiring face masks and social distancing later this month, though he acknowledged that lifting the restrictions will drive surging coronavirus cases even higher.

Mr. Johnson said legal controls will be replaced by "personal responsibility" when the country moves to the final stage of its lockdown-lifting roadmap. That is scheduled to happen on July 19, though he said a final decision would come on

This means people can throw away masks after months of enforced face-covering, though businesses and transit operators may still require them, and they will still be recommended in some enclosed spaces.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bank and Gaza.

ers, say it's a racist measure

aimed at restricting the

growth of Israel's Arab mi-

nority, while supporters say

it's needed for security pur-



Boris Johnson

Mr. Johnson said he would set out how the country would "learn to live with this virus" – a major shift in tone from a leader who has previously painted CO-VID-19 as an enemy to be vanguished.

"I want to stress from the outset that this pandemic is far from over," he said, predicting that cases could hit 50,000 a day by July 19. "We must reconcile ourselves, sadly, to more deaths from

Israel looks to renew law that

keeps out Palestinian spouses

Critics call it a racist measure against the Arab minority

of difficulties for Palestinian

Indonesia faces oxygen shortage

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Parts of Indonesia lack oxygen supplies as the number of critically ill COVID-19 patients who need it increases, the nation's pandemic response leader said on Monday, after dozens of sick people died at a public hospital that ran out of its central supply.

"Due to an increase of port it if needed, he said.

At least 63 COVID-19 patients died at Dr. Sardjito General Hospital in Yogyakarta city since Saturday, hospital spokesman Banu Hermawan said.

three to four times the amount (of oxygen) needed, the distribution has been hampered," said Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan, Coordinating Maritime Affairs and Investment Minister. The government is asking oxygen producers to dedicate their full supply to medical needs and will im-

And few events represent human perseverance better than the Olympics. THE LAST TIME

We are still in the middle of

that has claimed many lives

it is important to stay brave

and not lose strength.

nonetheless. In a time like this,

a war. Not the kind that is fought

4 YEARS FOR



As the games kick off in Tokyo this month, 5 special issues of Sportstar will bring you stories from the greatest arena of them all. Through the eyes of a dedicated bunch of journalists, you will see extraordinary people performing extraordinary feats. You will see odds being met and defied. Above all you will see the true potential of the human spirit.



Grab your copy at the nearest store or visit www.sportstar.thehindu.com/subscription To catch all the live updates, visit www.sportstar.thehindu.com

poses and to preserve Israel's Jewish character. The law creates an array

families that span the war-Israel's Parliament is set to drawn and largely invisible vote on Monday on whether frontiers separating Israel to renew a temporary law first enacted in 2003 that

from east Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza, territobars Arab citizens of Israel ries it seized in the 1967 war from extending citizenship that the Palestinians want or even residency to spouses for a future state. "You want your security, from the occupied West it's no problem, you can Critics, including many left-wing and Arab lawmak-

check each case by itself," said Taiseer Khatib. His wife of more than 15 years, from the West Bank city of Jenin, must regularly apply for permits to live with him and their three children in Israel.

"There's no need for this collective punishment just because you are Palesti-

nian," he said. Israel's dominant right-

wing parties strongly support the law, and it has been renewed every year since being enacted. But Israel's new government includes opponents of the measure, and the right-wing opposition led by former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has warned it won't provide the votes needed to renew

Ahead of the vote, PM Naftali Bennett called on Mr. Netanyahu to join him in renewing the law. "Harming state security for a quarter of a political point is not the right thing to do," he said.

MARKET WATCH

	05-07-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	52,880	0.75
US Dollar	74.31	0.57
Gold	46,408	-0.44
Brent oil	76.11	0.38

NIFTY 50		
		CHANGE
Adani Ports		
Asian Paints	3014.80	9.80
Axis Bank		
Bajaj Auto		
Bajaj Finserv	. 11923.10	172.65
Bajaj Finance	6072.70	74.95
Bharti Airtel		
BPCL	459.70	-3.05
Britannia Ind	3523.55.	21.75
Cipla	974.70.	-4.50
Coal India	149.90	2.25
Divis Lab	4559.95	40.30
Dr Reddys Lab	5537.90	37.80
Eicher Motors	2701.05	40.05
Grasim Ind	1489.70	-0.05
HCL Tech		
HDFC	2494.90	19.20
HDFC Bank		
HDFC Life		
Hero MotoCorp		
Hindalco		
Hind Unilever		
ICICI Bank	647.85	7.60
IndusInd Bank		
Infosys		
Indian OilCorp		
ITC		
JSW Steel		
Kotak Bank		
L&T		
M&M		
Maruti Suzuki		
Nestle India Ltd.		
NTPC		
ONGC		
PowerGrid Corp		
Reliance Ind		
SBI Life		
State Bank		
Shree Cement		
Sun Pharma		
Tata Consumer		1.00
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Tata Motors		
Tata Steel		
TCS		
Tech Mahindra		
Titan		
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EXCHANGE RA	ΓES						
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on July 05							
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL					
US Dollar	74.10	74.42					
Euro	88.00.	88.38					
British Pound	102.69	103.14					
Japanese Yen (100)	66.87	67.16					
Chinese Yuan	11.47	11.52					
Swiss Franc	80.46	80.85					
Singapore Dollar	55.10.	55.35					
Canadian Dollar	60.00	60.27					
Malaysian Ringitt	17.82	17.91					





I-T pushes filing deadline for foreign remittances

The Income Tax Department on Monday extended the deadline till July 15 for manual filing of forms related to foreign remittances. The CBDT has dealers to accept such manual forms till July 15. PTI

Zomato gets SEBI nod to float ₹8,250-cr. IPO

NEW DELHI

Food delivery platform Zomato has received markets regulator SEBI's go-ahead to raise ₹8,250 crore through an initial share-sale. The initial public offer (IPO) comprises fresh issue of equity shares worth ₹7,500 crore and an offer-for-sale to the tune of ₹750 crore by Info Edge (India) Ltd., according to the draft red herring prospectus. PTI

'Services shrink most since July'

Survey-based June PMI for sector shows second successive contraction at 41.2

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

India's services shrank the most last month since July 2020, with the survey-based IHS Markit Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) for services at 41.2, reflecting a second successive monthly contraction in new business and increased job shedding by firms.

International demand for Indian services deteriorated further with new export orders falling for the sixteenth straight month. The sharp contraction in the June Services PMI, followed May's 46.4. A reading above 50 denotes expansion and one below it signifies a contraction in business activity.

"Business activity and new orders decreased in four out of the five broad areas of the service econo-



No takers: 'Four of the five broad service areas shrank, with consumer services contracting quickest'. • PTI

my, with the fastest rates of contraction registered in consumer services," IHS Markit said in a statement. "Transport and storage was the only segment to post growth," the firm added. Jobs fell in tandem with

new orders. "The fall in employment was the seventh in consecutive months and the fastest over this period. The decline in jobs was widespread across the five monitored sub-sectors, and led by consumer services," it noted.

"The overall level of business sentiment was down for the third month in a row in June, reaching its lowest mark since last August," IHS Markit added, with the CO-VID-19 pandemic seen as the main threat to the outlook.

Uncertainty weighs

"Uncertainty about the path of the pandemic restricted business confidence among services firms, who were generally neutral in their forecasts for output in the year ahead," said Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at IHS Markit.

June's manufacturing PMI had earlier slid to 48.4, and with services activity also retreating, the Composite PMI Output Index declined from 48.1 in May to 43.1, again registering the sharpest contraction since July 2020.

Centre to sell ₹3,621-crore stake in NMDC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Centre proposes to sell more than 11.72 crore shares, or 4% of the equity, in mining major NMDC at a floor price of ₹165 each through an offer-for-sale to (OFS) non-retail investors. The OFS opens on Tuesday.

Under the the greenshoe option, it intends to sell 10.22 crore more shares, corresponding to 3.49% of equity, to retail investors as well as those non-retail investors who choose to carry forward their unallotted bid.

From the proposed sale of 7.49% equity, the government stands to mobilise over ₹3,621 crore. On Monday, NMDC shares closed 4.13% lower at ₹175.30 each on the BSE.

private sector, policymakers

will have to view the indus-

try as more than just a col-

lection of manufacturers or

keenly tracking develop-

ments over the scrapped An-

trix-Devas deal in the wake

of the Indian government

losing an international arbi-

tration and Devas eyeing

judicial enforcement of the

arbitral award in overseas ju-

Indian National Space

Promotion and Authorisa-

tion Centre (IN-SPACe), a

newly created regulatory bo-

dy, has received at least 26

applications from Indian

and foreign firms that in-

clude proposals to set up

ground stations and make

Global investors are also

service providers.'

risdictions.

Global investors flag some AatmaNirbhar reforms

'Plan holds negative consequences'

VIKAS DHOOT

International trade and investment flows into India could be affected by several aspects of the AatmaNirbhar Bharat programme as they posed 'perceived as well as real' challenges for global investors, the U.K. In-Business (UKIBC) said.

The UKIBC stressed that some of the reforms announced under the programme could have 'negative consequences for U.K. and all multi-national companies', even as it took note of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's assertion that the self-reliant India program is about integrating with global supply chains, not isolating from them.

Warning that the spate of 'unexpected and sharp' increases in import tariffs could be 'counterproductive', the UKIBC has suggested ways to mitigate the 'new challenges' posed by Aatma-Nirbhar Bharat and urged the government to correct course. U.K. businesses must not be affected by 'restrictive measures', they have pleaded, possibly by creating a 'carve-out' for them in the bilateral trade pact being negotiated.

'Strengths, not tariffs' "India should attract investors due to its strengths rather than by using tariffs as a tool to push internation-

al businesses to invest and make in India... Moreover, the Government of India should be flexible in its 'vocal for local' approach," the UKIBC has underlined in a report highlighting British investors' views on the Aatmanirbhar Bharat policy.

"To be a manufacturing hub, India will need to be part of international supply



porting as well as exporting. If tariffs make manufacturing in India too expensive, investors will go elsewhere," the report noted. Even if India chooses tariffs as a policy tool, it should signal how import duties will rise over the coming years so investors get an incentive and the time to create domestic supply chains, it added.

"It has to be recognised that certain aspects of the initiative have the potential to curtail international trade and investment, such as increased tariffs, non-tariff restrictions on imports, and import substitution," it emphasised.

The ban on the sale of items such as Scotch Whisky in the CSD canteens sends a wrong signal, the Council said, stressing that some products simply cannot be produced in India. Attempts to renegotiate power purchase agreements and adhoc policy shifts are also unnerving for infrastructure investors, it indicated.

While the campaign has opened up several sectors for foreign investors, including defence, atomic energy, agriculture, insurance, healthcare and civil aviation, the UKIBC has outlined concerns and challenges across sectors in its report titled 'Road to a UK-India Free Trade Agreement: Enhancing the Partnership and Achieving Self-reliance'.

Nilekani named to ONDC panel

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The government has appointed National Health Authority CEO Ram Sewak Sharma and Infosys nonexecutive chairman Nandan Nilekani as members of an advisory council for creating an Open Network for Digital Commerce The ONDC would pro-

mote open networks developed on open-sourced methodology and using protocols independent of any specific platform in order to digitise the entire value chain, derive logistics efficiencies and enhance value for consumers, the Commerce and Industry Ministry said.

Tata Motors to

raise PV prices

as costs soar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

passenger-vehicle

input costs.

happen 'shortly.'

Tata Motors said.

Tata Motors said it plans to

increase the prices of its

range due to an increase in

The auto major did not

share details on the time

frame of the intended price

hike but noted that would

shortly mark an appro-

priate increase in prices of

its range of cars and SUVs,

costs, especially of essen-

tial raw materials, necessi-

tates a transfer of at least

some part of this increase

to end customers, it added.

The steep climb in input

The company intends to

Policy black holes spook space investors

Investors cite possible conflict of interest at Department of Space as a concern

VIKAS DHOOT

Potential foreign investors in India's space sector are unsure if their licence applications would get 'a fair consideration' and are wary of a possible conflict of interest given that the Department of Space is both the sectoral regulator and a service provider by way of its role overseeing the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

Observing that the reforms announced in June 2020 to open the sector to private investors were a significant departure from the 'virtual monopoly' of statecontrolled ISRO and allied entities, the U.K. India Business Council said there was, however, a 'lack of clarity' about several aspects related

TVS Motor Company Ltd.

(TVSM), a leading two-and-

three wheeler maker, has

raised concerns about its in-

ternational operations fol-

lowing shortage of contain-

ers and the rapid spread of

COVID-19 during the second

wave in the company's tar-

traffic container movement

from China to North Ameri-

ca and Europe post CO-

VID-19 outbreak, there has

been a shortage of contain-

ers at Indian ports," said Ve-

nu Srinivasan, CMD, in the

"This, clubbed with in-

company's annual report.

"Due to continued high

N. ANAND

get markets.

Concerned about global

CMD cites container scarcity, 2nd wave

operations: TVS Motor



Foreign Direct Investment up to 100% has been allowed under the government route satellite-establishment and operation, subject to the sectoral guidelines of the Department of Space and ISRO. The processes for authorisation to launch a satellite, the frequency allocation mechanism and even the details of different agencies in-

creased exports from India,

is posing further shortage of

space availability or availa-

bility at higher costs. This

situation is expected to re-

sult in delayed supplies to

the company's target mar-

kets/countries might wit-

ness a 'rapid spread of CO-

second

thereby lowering economic

activity. A sustained drop in

commodity prices and ex-

ports could reduce foreign

exchange income in some of

On the shortfall in semi-

conductors, he said it was

likely to continue and pose a

risk to meeting demand.

the export countries.

He also said that some of

global customers.

volved in these clearances were not clear, the Council said, calling for the regulatory structure to be refined.

Today, the Department of Space acts as the regulator, but since it is a major service provider through IS-RO, there is scope for a conflict of interest," the UKIBC said. "Service delivery and decision making are critical challenges. ISRO is a party involved in both, thus creating doubt in the mind of investors, if their licence applications will receive fair consideration," it added.

Emphasising that the private sector was concerned about sharing its intellectual property with the government, the business group said: "If ISRO is serious about partnering with the

RBI to buy

₹20,000-cr.

G-secs July 8

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Reserve Bank on Mon-

day said the first purchase

of government securities

for an aggregate amount of

₹20,000 crore under the

G-sec Acquisition Pro-

gramme (G-SAP 2.0) will be

Shaktikanta Das had an-

nounced that the central

bank will conduct open

market purchase of go-

vernment securities of ₹1.2

lakh crore under the G-SAP

2.0 in Q2 of FY22 to sup-

port the market. On Thurs-

day, the RBI will buy five

government securities of

different maturities via a

multi-security auction.

On June 4, RBI Governor

conducted on July 8.

and launch satellites. Rise in tea imports is worrying, says UPASI

'Jan.-March flows more than double'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Tea imports jumped 139% in January-March this year compared with a year earlier, according to the United Planters Association of Southern India, which said that the trend was a matter of concern.

UPASI president Prashant Bhansali said in a statement that imports in January-March this year were 5.96 million kg versus 2.49 million kg a year earlier.

Tea exports in January-April this year came close to 58 million kg as against 61.13 million kg during the same period last year. The domestic sector, with 50% of pro-



duction coming from small tea growers, was burdened to high input and wage costs, UPASI said. It added that the Centre should monitor tea imports closely and implement the Tea (Distribution and Export) Control Order, where applicable.

on DCGI nod for Sputnik V SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Panacea gains _

Panacea Biotec has received a licence from the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) to manufacture Sputnik V, a development that saw the shares of the vaccine and pharmaceutical maker gain 5% on Monday.

The licence is a necessary condition for using Sputnik V produced by the company in India, said Panacea Biotec, which is among the clutch of firms with whom the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) has collaborated in the country for manufacture of the vaccine against COVID-19.

Phoenix Suns has the edge against injury-hit Milwaukee Bucks

The Paul-Booker combination may prove too strong if Antetokounmpo doesn't recover in time

NBA FINALS

SRINIVASAN RAMANI

he last time Phoenix Suns played in the NBA Finals was in 1993 when it lost to Michael Jordan's Chicago Bulls, Milwaukee Bucks' last Finals appearance goes back even further - 1974, three years after it won its only NBA title. That these two teams have made it this far in a pandemic-affected season is a tribute to their coaching staff and key players.

Massive boost

Point 'god' Chris Paul's addition has been a massive boost to the Suns. Among the best guards in the league since 2005, he had never previously made the Finals – he has played in weaker sides and has also missed out because of injury in the past.



He has added veteran poise the Paul-Devin Booker comto the Monty Williamscoached team. The Suns have a terrific backcourt with

cated half-court defence while Booker is a dead-eye bination. Paul orchestrates and uses his high IQ to break mid/long-range shooter who down even the most sophistican be a go-to weapon when the chips are down.

Centre DeAndre Ayton plays sturdily in the paint and has a feathery soft touch at the rim that makes him a potent offensive weapon while young forward Mikal Bridges and gritty veteran Jae Crowder provide the three-and-defence nous to the outfit. The Suns also have good bench strength.

Formidable threat

The Bucks, however, will be a formidable threat, provided former MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo recovers from his knee hyper-extension problem. The side had to weather a tough challenge from the Brooklyn Nets in the conference semifinals and then had to reach deep within the roster when the 'Greek Freak' got injured.

The Bucks are a versatile squad – point guard Jrue Holiday is a sturdy rock who can defend multiple positions, P.J. Tucker was outstanding against Kevin Durant in the semifinals and should take on the Booker assignment while Khris Middleton is an unsung Swiss Army knife who seamlessly shifts from the back seat to the closer option in crunch time.

Centre Brook Lopez has his flaws (defending in space, which mid-range maestro Paul will do his best to take advantage of), but he is a good shot-blocker and has good shooting range.

The Bucks are complete with Antetokounmpo, a freight train in the paint, an outstanding defender who plays with a relentless motor. If he remains injured, the Suns will be favourites, but if he risks playing, expect the coaches matching wits with subtle adjustments.

The Finals are going to be a treat to watch.

Junior Federation Cup in Patiala from July 31

ATHLETICS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The 19th National Federation Cup junior (u-20) athletics championship will be held at Patiala from July 31 to Aug. 2.

The championship is a qualification event for the under-20 World championship to be held at Nairobi from August 17 to 22.

The SOPs, issued by Cen-

tral and State Governments, Sports Ministry, SAI and AFI, will be followed. The meet is open only to athletes born between 2002 and 2005 and who have achieved AFI's entry standard.

Entries, with proof of achieving the entry standard, are to be sent online between July 15 and 25.

Only athletes with negative RT-PCR report, taken 72 hours prior to the start of the event, will be allowed.

his title at next year's Com-

monwealth Games.

Sumit to challenge ban

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Indian wrestler Sumit Malik has decided to challenge the two-year ban imposed on him by the sport's world body for failing a dope test. He will seek a lesser punishment so that he may defend

Sumit admitted he was responsible for the substance found in his body but since the intention was not to cheat, he would appeal for the punishment period to be reduced to six months.

Ash Barty lays down a marker, in quarters for the first time at SW19

The 25-year-old Australian beats French Open champion Krejcikova in straight sets to join an array of maiden Wimbledon quarterfinalists; Kerber, Jabeur impress

WIMBLEDON

AGENCIES

LONDON World No.1 Ashleigh Barty reached the Wimbledon quarterfinals for the first time on Monday, beating French Open champion Barbora Krejcikova of the Czech Republic 7-5, 6-3. The defeat brought an end to Kreicikova's 15-match winning streak.

Barty may have won in straight sets, but that did not really tell the full tale of a hard-fought 95-minute encounter against an opponent who had yet to win a main draw singles grass match prior to Wimbledon.

Barty's serve was once again her Achilles heel, being broken early in the first set and then again in the second while serving for the match.

Fortunately for the Aussie supporters on Court No.1 one of whom was holding a hand written card 'It's Barty's Party' - she found the return

game when she most needed it, including the final break of serve to take the match.

"It was incredibly tough," Barty said. "I found some good stuff when it was important. It's down to the work myself and my team do in practice. It tastes sweeter when you win."

Earlier, Ons Jabeur continued here historic run, reaching the women's last eight with a 5-7, 6-1, 6-1 victory over Poland's 2020 French Öpen champion Iga Swiatek.

The 26-year-old is the first Tunisian woman to reach this stage at Wimbledon and will face Belarusian second seed Aryna Sabalenka, who defeated Elena Rybakina 6-3,

Jabeur showed great poise after she let slip a 5-4 lead while serving for the first set. She broke her 20-year-old opponent in the first game of the second and never looked back, taking 11 of the next 13 games. Jabeur celebrated



with a fist pump and a shriek of delight, but for once she was not a lone Tunisian voice, as some spectators

beur joining by cupping a hand to one ear.

Marton Fucsovics became iust the third Hungarian man

in the last eight who are first-time quarterfinalists, including World No.1 Barty The number of

Number of

singles players

the 18-game fifth Before Jabeur,

the last Arab player to reach the last eight at Wimbledon was Egyptian man Ismail El Shafei 1974, 47 years ago

The number of years since Hungary last had a singles quarterfinalist at Wimbledon (Zsuzsa Kormoczy, women's singles, 1958)

quarterfinals, after Bela von Kehrling (1929) and Jozsef Asboth (1948). The 29-year-old. ranked 48, blasted 41 winners to defeat fifth seed An-

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drey Rublev 6-3, 4-6, 4-6, 6-0,

6-3. Fourth seed Alexander

Zverev was upset by 20-year-

old Canadian Felix Auger-

Aliassime 6-4, 7-6(6), 3-6, 3-6,

6-4, with the German serving

er champion in the women's

draw, Angelique Kerber,

stopped the fast-rising Amer-

ican teenager Coco Gauff

with her most assured perfor-

mance yet, beating the 20th

The only remaining form-

20 double faults.

■ 1-Barty vs

- 19-Muchova vs 25-Kerber
- 8-Pliskova vs Golubio
- 2-Sabalenka vs 21-Jabeur

Federer entered the quarterfinals with a 7-5,

THE RESULTS congratulated by Fourth round: Men: 1-Djokovic Roger [Federer] after my (Srb) bt 17-Garin (Chi) 6-2, 6-4, match, which was amazing. 6-2; Fucsovics (Hun) bt 5-Rublev I think now I'm good in my (Rus) 6-3, 4-6, 4-6, 6-0, 6-3; 25tennis career. He was very Khachanov (Rus) bt Korda (USA) 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, 5-7, 10-8; 10-Shanice. He took the time to

hunger to win more JABEUR after beating Swiatek

Actually I got

Women's quarterfinals

me a lot and gives me the

- Raducanu/Tomljanovic

Federer through

6-4, 6-2 win over Sonego Medvedev led Hurkacz 6-2, 6-7(2), 6-3, 3-4

povalov (Can) bt 8-Agut (Esp) say congrats. That inspires

6-1, 6-3, 7-5; 7-Berrettini (Ita) bt Ivashka (Blr) 6-4, 6-3, 6-1; 16-Aliassime (Can) bt 4-Zverev (Ger) 6-4, 7-6(6), 3-6, 3-6, 6-4. Women: 1-Barty (Aus) bt 14-Krejcikova (Cze) 7-5, 6-3; 8-Pliskova (Cze) bt Samsonova (Rus) 6-2, 6-3; 21-Jabeur (Tun) bt 7-Swiatek (Pol) 5-7, 6-1, 6-1; 2-Sa-

balenka (Blr) bt 18-Rybakina (Kaz) 6-3, 4-6, 6-3; 19-Muchova (Cze) bt 30-Badosa (Esp) 7-6(6), 6-4; Golubic (Sui) bt 23-Keys (USA) 7-6(3), 6-3; 25-Kerber (Ger) bt 20-Gauff (USA) 6-4, 6-4.

Fallen seeds

- Men: 4-Zverev, 5-Rublev, 8-Agut, 17-Garin
- Women: 7-Swiatek, 14-Krejcikova, 18-Rybakina, 20-Gauff, 23-Keys, 30-Badosa

Anderson claims 1,000th First Class wicket

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

England paceman James Anderson claimed his 1,000th First Class wicket during a career-best spell of seven for 19 for Lancashire against Kent in the County championship on Monday.

The wicket came in trademark fashion, an outswinger that Kent batsman Heino Kuhn edged behind at Old Trafford, with wicket-keeper Dane Vilas taking the catch.

It was the 38-year-old paceman's fifth scalp of Kent's innings and saw him bring up another notable milestone in a career in which he has broken England Test records for appearances and wickets

Anderson finished the

first innings with seven wickets from his 10 overs as Lancashire bowled Kent out for just 74 in 26.2 overs. He was given a standing ovation from the crowd.

Greatest

England Cricket tweeted an emoji of a goat, which has become shorthand for 'greatest of all time', adding: "Congratulations on 1,000 First Class wickets."

Anderson, who turns 39 this month, made his First Class debut for Lancashire in 2002.

Most of his First Class wickets have come in Tests – he has 617 scalps in 162 matches, just two behind Anil Kumble, who is third on the all-time bowling list.



Thanks! James Anderson acknowledging the cheers after his feat. • TWITTER/LANCSCRICKET

Italy appears to have the edge over Spain

Both the teams have almost forgotten what it is to be on the losing side



COMPILED BY AASHIN PRASAD

EURO 2020

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Luis Enrique thought for a couple of seconds, looked straight back at the questioner, and gave the curtest of re-

"No," said the Spain coach, with a blank look on his face, after being asked if he had seen a better team than his at the European Championship.

An answer out of blind loyalty? Perhaps. Or was it the fact that Spain was the leading scorer at Euro 2020? Maybe. Or the fact that La Roja is on an unbeaten streak stretching back to October, a run of 13 games? Quite possibly.

Spain's opponent in the

Euro semifinals on Tuesday might have something to say about all that.

Italy, another of the continent's traditional powers, brings an even better run of form to Wembley Stadium a national-record 32 matches unbeaten, going all the way

back to September 2018. Maybe Enrique isn't aware, but Italy is rolling at the moment.

Much has changed since Roberto Mancini took charge in May 2018, with the team having evolved into a highenergy unit that presses hard and attacks at pace. But the Azzurri's defence needs little introduction.

Formidable centre-backs Leonardo Bonucci and Giorgio Chiellini are still holding fort, like they have been for

TODAY'S MATCH

SEMIFINAL

Italy vs Spain 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday) Live on Sony Ten 2, 3 & Sony six (SD & HD)

more than a decade, and Italy has conceded only two

goals so far. Spain's defence, on the other hand, is a work in progress while centre-back Aymeric Laporte integrates fol-

nationality from France. In attack, striker Alvaro Morata continues to frustrate for Spain and Enrique has seemingly vet to settle on his

lowing his switch of

preferred wingers. Italy, though, has had strong and reliable performances from striker Ciro Immobile and wide forward Lorenzo Insigne, the scorer of the decisive second goal against Belgium.

It's in midfield where Spain can seriously challenge Italy, potentially making it the department where the match could be won or lost. Jorginho, Nicola Barella and probably Marco Verratti for Italy versus Sergio Busquets, Pedri Gonzalez and Koke for Spain is a must-watch duel all

by itself. Neither team has made it this far in a major international competition since 2012, when they met in the Euro final in Kyiv. Spain won

Two players remain from each country - Bonucci and Chiellini for Italy, and Jordi Alba and Busquets for Spain.

Argentina looks to Messi to deliver

He is set to make his 150th appearance for the National team

COPA AMERICA

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BRASILIA Argentina is enjoying the "Barcelona version" of Lionel Messi at the Copa America ahead of his 150th ap-

pearance for the national

The 34-year-old Messi is still seeking his first major success with Argentina, not counting the Olympic gold in 2008.

But with four goals and four assists in the tournament so far, Messi has led Argentina to the semifinals where it plays Colombia on Tuesday at the Mane Garrincha Stadium.

The inspiration

On Saturday he scored one goal and provided two assists in Argentina's 3-0 win against Ecuador in the quarterfinals. It was Messi's first game since his contract with

Barcelona expired. Messi has played a record in the last five are being compared to his best days with Barcelona, including his vision on the field, the quality of his passes and two goals from free kicks. "This is the best player ever we are talking about,"

149 matches for Argentina.

His inspired performances

said Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni. His teammates have

played their part in Messi's resurgence for Argentina, which last won the Copa America in 1993. Messi seems driven to be

at the July 10 final at the Maracana in Rio de Janeiro, the same stadium where Argentina - and Messi as captain – lost in the 2014 World Cup final to Germany.

TODAY'S MATCH

Argentina vs Colombia 6.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

Live on Sony Ten 1, 2 & Sony six (SD & HD)

laid down by World Athlet-

ics, to secure automatic

100m and 200m), M.P. Jabir

(men's 400m hurdles), Gur-

preet Singh (men's 50km

race walk) and Annu Rani

(women's javelin) were as-

sured of entries on the

strength of their Road to To-

The team: Men: Avinash Sable

(3000m steeplechase); M.P.

Jabir (400m hurdles): M.

Sreeshankar (long jump); Tajin-

derpal Singh Toor (shot put);

Neeraj Chopra and Shivpal

Singh (javelin throw); K.T. Irfan,

Sandeep Kumar and Rahul Ro-

hilla (20km walk), Gurpreet

Singh (50km walk); Amoj Ja-

cob, Arokia Rajiv, Muhammed

Anas, Naganathan Pandi, Noah

Nirmal Tom (4x400m Relay):

Sarthak Bhambri, Alex Antony

Dutee Chand (women's



The provider: Messi has four goals and four assists so far. • AP

berths.

kyo rankings.

IN BRIEF

Capacity crowd for **India-England series**

The five-Test series between India and England is set to be played in front of packed crowds after UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced the lifting of COVID-19-related restrictions on Monday. PTI

Organise a pink-ball event before Australia challenge: Shantha

NEW DELHI

BCCI apex council member Shantha Rangaswamy has written to her colleagues, including the office-bearers, suggesting the "dire" need to organise a domestic pink ball competition before the historic women's day-night Test in Australia from September 30. PTI

Will attend press conferences during Olympics: Osaka

Tennis star Naomi Osaka said on Monday she wants to be in top form at the Olympics and will take part in press conferences. She said she was "proud" to play for her country at the Games, adding that she would take part in news conferences. AFP

Simulation time



In the thick of it: The Indian limited-overs squad continued its preparation for the series against Sri Lanka with an intra-squad game in Colombo on Monday. For the record, Bhuvneshwar Kumar's side trumped Shikhar Dhawan's team. • TWITTER/BCCI

Dhanalakshmi gets a ticket to Tokyo

Back injury rules Poovamma out of the Indian Olympics team

ATHLETICS

STAN RAYAN

The absence of the seasoned M.R. Poovamma, who won the 400m gold in five of the six meets this year, and the inclusion of Tamil Nadu's S. Dhanalakshmi in the 4x400m mixed relay squad were the big surprises in the 26-member Indian athletics Olympics team announced on Monday.

Poovamma, the 400m silver medallist with 53.54s at last week's inter-State Nationals, was assured of a berth in the mixed 4x400m relay but surprisingly, the Karnataka athlete left the national camp and went back

"(Her) back is bad," Adille Sumariwalla, the Athletics Federation of India president, told The Hindu.

Meanwhile Dhanalakshmi, the inter-State National and Federation Cup 100m champion who had been hoping to go to Tokyo through the women's



mixed relay squad came as a surprise. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

4x100m relay, got a surprise and athletes have been chalticket in the 4x400m mixed relay after finishing third in the 400m trials in Patiala on Sunday. Athletics events begin on July 31.

Well-prepared

"We are happy that it is a well-prepared team, physically and emotionally, for the Olympic Games. The world has been through a lot lenged to stay in good shape, retain form and in good spirits," said Sumariwalla. "We are pleased that our

athletes have remained in training ever since lockdown was lifted," he added.

He said it was significant that as many as 12 individual athletes and the 4x400m mixed relay team had attained the entry standards,

(4x400m mixed relay).

Women: Dutee Chand (100m and 200m); Kamalpreet Kaur and Seema Antil-Punia (discus throw), Annu Rani (javelin throw); Bhawna Jat and Priyanka Goswami (20km walk); Revathi Veeramani, Subha Venkatesan and S. Dhanlakshmi (4x400m mixed relay).

TV PICKS

Wimbledon 2021: SS Select 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m. Tour de France: Eurosport (SD & HD), 4.30 p.m. **Euro 2020**: Sony Ten 2, 3 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

Copa America 2021: Sony

Ten 2 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 6.30 a.m. (Wednesday).

IN BRIEF



Davis wins in play-off: Lahiri ends tied 52nd

Cam Davis won the Rocket Mortgage Classic for his first PGA Tour title when Troy Merritt missed a six-foot par putt on the fifth play-off hole here on Sunday. Anirban Lahiri shot a four-under 68 to

Ko wins VoA title; Aditi finishes T-47

finish tied 52nd, PTI

Ko Jin-Young of South Korea carded two-under 69 and finished 16-under 268 for her eighth career LPGA victory at the Volunteers of America Classic here on Sunday. India's Aditi Ashok signed off tied 47th at one-under 284. PTI

Herbert tops; Bhullar, Shubhankar way down

Australia's Lucas Herbert won his second European Tour title here on Sunday with a 19-under 269 at the Dubai Duty Free Irish Open. India's Shubhankar Sharma finished tied 56th, while Gaganieet Bhullar fell from T-21 overnight to T-66. PTI

CAS upholds high jumper Lysenko's ban

The CAS on Monday upheld a ban on Russian high jumper Danil Lysenko for multiple breaches of anti-doping rules. Lysenko, who was 2017 worlds silver medallist and won the world indoor title in 2018, will be ineligible until August 3, 2022. AFP

Mary Kom, Manpreet Singh to be flagbearers at opening ceremony

Bajrang Punia to do the honours at the closing ceremony

TOKYO OLYMPICS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Boxer M.C. Mary Kom and men's hockey team skipper Manpreet Singh will be flagbearers for India at the opening ceremony of Tokyo Olympics, scheduled to get

underway on July 23. Wrestler Bajrang Punia will be the flagbearer at the closing ceremony on August

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has communicated the decision in this regard to the Organising Committee of the Games.

"It would be a huge huge moment for me given that it



M.C. Mary Kom. ■ FILE РНОТО

is my last Olympics. Who knows I might even get emotionally overwhelmed," said Mary Kom.

'Amazing'

"This is amazing, and I am speechless. I think it's a huge



Manpreet Singh. ■ FILE РНОТО

honour to be named the flagbearer for the opening ceremony alongside the incredible Mary Kom," Manpreet was quoted as saying in a Hockey India release.

The country's lone individual Olympic gold-medallist

Abhinav Bindra was the flagbearer at the opening ceremony of the 2016 Games in Rio de Janeiro.

Gender parity

At its executive board meeting last year, the International Olympic Committee had made provisions for flagbearers from both genders at the opening ceremony.

"The IOC Executive Board also decided that there should be – for the first time ever - at least one female and one male athlete in every one of the 206 teams and the IOC Refugee Olympic Team participating at the Games of the Olympiad," IOC chief Thomas Bach had

Harika primed for World Cup in Russia

Says she is glad to have done well in Speed Chess

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

It was a profitable month of I working from home for Dronavalli Harika. Finishing runner-up at the Women's Speed Chess Championship on Saturday made her richer by ₹9.28 lakh.

The superb performance has come as a huge moralebooster ahead of the World Cup, starting in Sochi, Russia, on July 10. "I am glad I could do well

in a strong tournament like Speed Chess, in which most of the best players took part," Harika told The Hindu over phone on Monday.

"It is disappointing that I lost in the final to Hou Yifan, but it felt nice that I could put up a strong fight."

nese opponent is the world's second-strongest player of all time. She went into the lead,

She certainly did! Her Chi-

D. Harika. ■ FILE РНОТО

fell behind considerably towards the end, but staged a splendid fightback.

Technical issues

Harika was troubled by technical issues during the final.

"I lost internet connectivity for a brief while following a power failure and that cost me a game. But, in online tournaments, one should be

prepared for such problems," said the World No. 9.

"It was an excellent tournament for me, as I was able to defeat some strong players like World blitz champion Kateryan Lagno and former World champion Alexandra Kosteniuk," she

Looking ahead to the World Cup, she said she was just happy that she would be able to get back into a tournament hall once again.

"It is great to see that chess and the rest of the sporting world is returning to normalcy," she said.

"My last tournament was in Switzerland in March last year. I got home just before the entire world went into lockdown.

"The last one year has not been easy, as I realised that chess need not always be the priority in life."

'Title against the odds for Mercedes'

Toto Wolff admits his team is fighting a tough battle

FORMULA ONE

REUTERS

Formula One champion Mercedes is fighting against the odds now in its title battle with Red Bull, team boss Toto Wolff said after Sunday's Austrian Grand Prix dealt a fifth successive defeat.

Once-dominant Mercedes started the season chasing its eighth consecutive constructors' championship and with Lewis Hamilton seeking an unprecedented

eighth drivers' title. Hamilton is now 32 points behind Red Bull's Dutch youngster Max Verstappen, who has won five of nine races including the last three, and Mercedes is 44 points adrift of its Honda-powered



Toto Wolff. ■ GETTY IMAGES

"We are fighting a tough battle at the moment, against all odds as it stands," Wolff told reporters at the Red Bull Ring.

"It is against the odds for us now, and that's clear because they have an overall performance advantage.

"All these years I tried to

keep our feet on the ground by not being carried away with performance and now I need to do the opposite."

Optimistic

Wolff recognised the momentum was going in the wrong direction but said Mercedes would fight to the end and needed to stay optimistic.

"There are 13 or 14 races to go, we are one DNF (retirement) away from Red Bull, no more, and we've lost more points than we should have lost to our own mistakes. We need to just get our act together overall.

"This is so far from over we just need to up our game, make less mistakes and continue to understand the car better and then we are still massively and absolutely in

Geetha relives Olympics experience

She represented India in the relay event of the 2004 and 2008 Games

ATHLETICS

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

For S. Geetha, daughter of a cycle spares shop owner in the obscure town of Marteru of West Godavari in Andhra Pradesh, it has been a fabulous journey in the world of athletics -- with the distinction of representing India in the 2004 Athens and the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

"When I look back, it all looks like a dream. Representing my country in the Olympics was something which I never ever thought of when I started off in athletics in the then AP Sports School (Hakimpet) in 1994," recalls the 38-year-old Geetha, now settled in Guntur as OSD in South Central

Railway. "I got the support at the



Memorable day: S. Geetha receives the Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award from Pranab Mukherjee, the then President of India. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

right time from so many officials at APSS and I am thankful to many including PET Pradeep sir, SAI athletics coaches M. Ranga Rao and N. Ramesh and the Director Dr. N. Parameswara Ram," she said in a chat with The *Hindu*, tracing her journey.

"Making debut in the

Olympics in Athens itself was a huge honour for me. I was informed just after the warm-up that I would be competing in the 4x400m relay and we finished eighth

in the finals," said Geetha,

who is married to former

player and now secretary of

Andhra Hockey Association

mehow I could focus, tried to give my best when I ran the first lap," recalled the 2006 Asian Games gold medallist in 4x400m relay. "In the 2008 Beijing Olympics, I was relatively re-

"I was nervous and unpre-

pared for the biggest expe-

rience of my career. But, so-

laxed but was disappointed finishing fourth in the semifinals (4x400m)," she said.

Bright chance

G. Harshavardhan.

Geetha feels the current Indian athletes have very bright chance of winning medals.

"Thanks to the exposure and the wonderful support from the federation, government and SAI, they have been doing really well and I am sure they are going to win some unexpected medals in athletics," she said.







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3	Plot No. 3	7.73						
4	Plot No. 12	7.56						
5	Plot No. 4	8.94						
6	Plot No. 13	7.57						
7	Plot A on Road No.7 on southern side of Neopolis layout	1.00						

•[8	Plot at	Golden Mile layout	at Kokapet	1.65		
		49.92					
		HANAMI	EΤ				
	(S.No	Plot Details	Area (A	cres)		
		1	Plot No. 4	3.1	5		
		2	Plot No. 6	3.1	5		
		3	Plot No. 12	3.6	9		
		4	Plot No. 14	2.9	2		
		5	Plot No. 17	No. 17 2.1			
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- Foreign companies which have established a branch office or other place of business in India, in accordance with RBI, Gol / FEMA / FERA regulations, can acquire any immovable property in India, which is necessary for or incidental to carrying on such activity* *https://www.mea.gov.in/images/pdf/acquisition-and-transfer-of-immovable-property-in-india.pdf

E-AUCTION SCHEDULE

HMDA

Nouncation	13-00-2021
Pre-Bid Meeting	25-06-2021
Last date for registration	13-07-2021 till 5.00 PM
Last Date for EMD Payment	14-07-2021 upto 5.00 PM
Date of e-Auction	15-07-2021 From 9.00 AM to 12.00 Noon & 2.00 PM to 5.00 PM

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Notification	15-06-2021
Pre-Bid Meeting	26-06-2021
Last date for registration	13-07-2021 till 5.00 PM
Last Date for EMD Payment	14-07-2021 upto 5.00 PM
Date of e-Auction	16-07-2021 From 9.00 AM to 12.00 Noon

TSIIC



For Neopolis site visit & queries, contact +91 73311 85150 or +91 9866578319 Auction undertaken by HMDA & TSIIC on behalf of Government of Telangana

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