





India largest source of government info requests, says Twitter



hiked to 28% from 17%

Sindhu hopes to give her best and win gold at Tokyo Olympics







PRINTED AT · CHENNAI · COIMBATORE · BENGALURU · HYDERABAD · MADURAI · NOIDA · VISAKHAPATNAM · THIRUVANANTHAPURAM · MANGALURU · TIRUCHIRAPALLI · KOLKATA · HUBBALLI · MOHALI · MALAPPURAM · MUMBAI · TIRUPATI · LUCKNOW · CUTTACK · PATNA

DA for Central government employees

page 15



against agitating farmers

The Haryana police have invoked sedition charges against a group of protesting farmers who allegedly damaged the official vehicle of Deputy Speaker Ranbir Gangwa in Sirsa on July 11. during a demonstration against the farm laws. Sirsa's SSP Arpit Jain confirmed that sedition charges under Section 124A of the IPC had been invoked against them. **NEWS** ▶ PAGE 8

June WPI inflation eases to 12.07%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Inflation based on the Wholesale Price Index slowed marginally to 12.07% in June, from May's record 12.94%, official data showed.

The government said the "high rate of inflation" was primarily due to the low base effect – the WPI had seen a year-on-year deflation of 1.81% in June 2020 – and the rise in prices of fuels, including petrol and diesel, and manufactured products.

FULL REPORT ON ▶ PAGE 14

Govt. directs private centres to step up the pace of vaccination

States asked to monitor progress; Health Minister rubbishes claims of shortage

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The slow pace of COVID-19 vaccination by private centres in some States is a "cause of serious worry", Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said on Wednesday.

Mr. Bhushan said he had directed the States to review the status and progress of vaccine procurement by these centres on a daily basis. Many private COVID-19 vaccination centres (PCVCs), he said, had not placed any indent for the earmarked quantum of vaccines.

Mr. Bhushan chaired a meeting with the Health Secretaries and senior immunisation officials of 15 States and Union Territories during which the areas of concern were highlighted, including delay in ordering and lifting of doses and payment.

He directed them to ensure that the indents for the earmarked quantum of vaccines were placed with the vaccine manufacturers at the earliest.

Senior health officials of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Odisha, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat, West Bengal, Delhi, Punjab and Haryana participated in the videoconference. Nodal representatives from the vaccine manufactur-



Virus protection: People waiting in the observation area of a Delhi hospital after receiving the COVID-19 shot on Wednesday. • AFP

rum Institute of India (SII) were present. The State governments and the PCVCs were advised to ensure that the gap between the indented quantity and the payment towards their procurement was reduced to zero. Some States/PCVCs had not physically lifted the vaccines that had been paid for. They should ensure the lifting of the dispatched doses immediately, he said.

A release issued by the Union Health Ministry said that in some States, wherever vaccine doses had been lifted by the PCVCs, their actual administration was seen to be less than the quantity lifted.

The States and the PCVCs

were advised to review this and ensure that the unutilised vaccine doses were quickly administered.

The Ministry said more than 39.59 crore doses had been provided to the States and the Union Territories so far, through all sources and a further 30,250 doses were in the pipeline.

'Unutilised vaccines'

"Of this, the total consumption, including wastage, is 38,07,68,770 doses (as per data available at 8 a.m. on Wednesday). More than 1.51 Cr (1,51,52,450) balance and unutilised COVID Vaccine doses are still available with the States/UTs and private hospitals to be administered," it stated.

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, in a series of tweets, rubbished allegations by the State governments of vaccine shortage due to the Union government not ensuring adequate supplies. "11.46 cr. doses of vaccine were made available to States govts. in June so that vaccination can be done through government and private hospitals," he said. "This availability has been increased to 13.50 crores in the month of July."

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8 NO ROOM FOR COMPLACENCY, SAYS MHA ▶ PAGE 10

Delhi Police fined ₹25K for 'farcical' probe

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH

A local court here imposed a cost of ₹25,000 on Delhi Police while questioning the fairness of the probe conducted into a case of a man who suffered a gunshot injury in his left eye during the riots last year. The court said the probe had "been done in a most callous and farcical manner".

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 2

SC notice to Centre, U.P. on Kanwar Yatra

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday took suo motu cognisance of a media report that the annual Kanwar Yatra is likely to be held from July 25, amid rising fears of a third COVID wave.

"We were a little disturbed given today's headline in *The Indian Express* of July 14 about the 'Kanwar Yatra', which is likely to be held from July 25. This court has taken suo motu cognisance of the report and thus issues notice to the Union of India and the States of U.P. and Uttarakhand to file their early response," a Bench, led by Justice Rohinton F. Nariman, said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Haryana 'excess deaths' seven times official toll

Huge undercount during second wave

Moderate excess

Haryana's excess deaths - 60,397 during the pandemic period, calculated by comparing baseline mortality with pre-pandemic years (2018 and 2019) were 7.3 times more than the official COVID-19 tally recorded in the State till May 31, 2021. This mutiple was slightly more than that of T.N. and Karnataka and lower than that of A.P. and M.P.

¹Baseline mortality: Average of 2018 and 2019 figures | ^Based on State's official COVID19 tally | *Reconciled COVID-19 death toll released by State

State	Excess deaths ¹	COVID-19 tally	Multiple ¹
A.P.	1,95,422	10,930	17.9
M.P.	1,92,004	8,068	23.8
Tamil Nadu^	1,54,965	24,232	6.4
Karnataka	1,25,732	29,090	4.3
Haryana	60,397	8,303	7 . 3
Kerala*	4,178	9,954	0.4

SRINIVASAN RAMANI

The number of "excess deaths" registered by the Civil Registration System (CRS) in Harvana ever since the COVID-19 pandemic hit

(from April 2020 to May 2021) was 60,397, which is 7.3 times the official reported figure of 8,303 COVID-19 deaths for the same period. This high number was largely due to the deaths registered in April 2021

(28,276) and May 2021 (46,108). In this period which coincided with the second wave, the excess deaths were around 46,283, compared with the registered COVID-19 tally of 5,148, leading to an undercount factor of 9. The overall tally in Haryana, as of July 12, is 9,556. The excess deaths were

calculated based on the

month-wise number of deaths registered in the online CRS from January 2018 to May 2021, which was accessed by The Hindu. Not all excess deaths would be related to COVID-19 but a bulk of them are, during the pandemic. The mortality figures registered online for 2018 and 2019 - 1,85,842 and 1,88,910 - were 96.1% and 97.3% of the deaths mentioned in the annual reports on "Vital Statistics in India based on CRS" 2018 and 2019 respectively.

The undercount factor (7.3) and the excess deaths for Haryana (60,397) were lower compared with those from Madhya Pradesh (23.8 and 1,92,044) in the same period and for which complete data have been made available so far.

FARIDABAD ON TOP ▶ PAGE 10

SC to examine plea challenging sedition

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

The Supreme Court will exa-

and needed a relook.

A Bench, led by CJI N.V. Ramana, on Wednesday listed the case for hearing on July 15 and asked Major-General S.G. Vombatkere (retd.), reprement of the court that helped sented by advocates P.B. Su- ven at a time when doctrines sedition survive in the Indian resh and S. Prasanna, to serve such as 'chilling effect' on free a copy of his petition to Attor- speech were unheard of.

nev General K.K. Venugopal.

The petitioner argued that the 1962 judgment in the Kedar Nath case, which upheld Section 124A (sedition), a relic of the colonial legacy, was gi-

The *Kedar Nath* judgment was delivered during an era when the scope and inter-relationship of fundamental rights such as liberty, equality and dignity were "rather restrictive", the plea said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

mine a petition filed by a retired Major-General who said a nearly 60-year-old judg-Penal Code was behind time

'Afghanistan's future can't

SUHASINI HAIDAR TASHKENT

be its past'

The world will not legitimise a Taliban regime that comes to power in Kabul by force, indicated External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Wednesday, amid rapid advances made by the militant group on towns and border checkposts in various parts of Afghanistan.

Speaking at the "Contact Group" meeting of the Shanghai eight-nation Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Dushanbe, Mr. Jaishankar said the future of Afghanistan "cannot be its past", referring to the previous takeover of the country by the Taliban in 1996. The group also issued a joint statement decrying the violence.

"The world is against seizure of power by violence and force. It will not legitimise such actions," Mr. Jaishankar told the meeting, which included Ministers from Afghanistan, Pakistan, China, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan,

and Tajikistan. Instead, Mr. Jaishankar said, peace negotiations would need to result in an "acceptable compromise" that reflected the Doha, Moscow and Istanbul-Heart of Asia processes, and produced an "end state" that ensured a democratic and neutral Afghanistan.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8 LAC IMPASSE IMPACTING TIES. **WANG TOLD** ▶ PAGE 9

EXT IRS

Foundation Course for **CSE 2022**

Classes conducted by India's top GS faculties.

- Systematic subject sequence and well-framed modules.
- Well designed comprehensive study material.
- Personalized & dedicated Academic Coach for academic support.
- Mandatory weekly classroom tests and discussions Weekly Current Affairs and newspaper analysis to integrate
- current based approach. Unique concept of classroom workbooks.

Live-Online Classes

with Facility to convert

• L-6 Batch: 21st June'21 (9:00 am to 12:00 noon) • L-7 Batch: 1st July'21 (5:30 pm to 8:30 pm)

Offline Classes **Spacious & sanitized classrooms**

with COVID-19 safety protocols

 M-Batch: 26th July'21 (11:30 am to 2:30 pm) N-Batch: 5th August'21 (5:30 pm to 8:30 pm)

Note: In case offline classes are suspended due to COVID conditions then. Live-online classes will be provided till offline classes resume.

Optional Foundation Course for CSE 2021 & 22

Economics (Live-Online classes)

Anthropology by Ayaz Khan Sii 18th October, 2021 (Online & Offline classes)

Mathematics

Sociology by **Raj Kumar Rai Sir** 18th October, 2021 (Online & Offline classes)

(Live-Online classes) Geography

(Founder, Digmani Education)

18th October, 2021 (Online & Offline classes)

Philosophy (Founder, Patanjali IAS) 18th October, 2021 (Offline classes)

Engineering Optionals (CE, ME, EE) Online & Offline batches commencing from 18th October, 2021

27-B, Pusa Road, Metro Pillar No. 118, Near Karol Bagh Metro Station, New Delhi-60 This pdf was originally uploaded to Brills Express Official (https://t.me/The_Hindu_Express) before anyone else. Don't forget to join backup channel Thehindu000

www.coviself.com

COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Self Test Kit







Designed for Easy, Safe & Secure testing



Safe Swab for Safe Sampling

Register in the app and take

sample with safe swab

Children aged from

with Mylab CoviSelf™

Self-test kit by an adult.

2 to 18 years can be tested





Put the sample in a tube, break

swab and close the nozzle cap

Antigen Test should be linked with RT-PCR test facility and subsequently get tested by RT-PCR to rule out infection. In the

meantime, such individuals will be urged to follow home isolation and treatment as a negative report on Rapid Antigen

Test may not be true negative in some cases. For Positive Test: A positive test should be considered as true positive and

does not need reconfirmation by the RT-PCR test. | Disclaimer: Read the instructions before performing the test. All tests

should be conducted by the individuals with their own consent and completely at their own risk, cost and consequences,

RSV COMBINE

09821382808 | 0129 4550000

and the test results should be uploaded at the ICMR site using the Mylab CoviSelf™ App



Code For

Unique QR



Add 2 drops, wait for 15 min. upload through app & get report

Put kit contents in the disposal bag and discard ICMR Advisory: Currently, Home testing by Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) is advised in symptomatic individuals and Download Mylab

CoviSelf™ App



Flipkart 🏋



demonstration of now to use the kit

CoviSelf™

Authorised Distributor - For Delhi: Surbhi Tomar 9821382808, Atul Malhotra 9818832151 | For Punjab: Sanjay Garg 9569055233 | For Uttar Pradesh: SMD Medicare: 9555422455 / 9899677102 | Tara Medicos Wellness Pvt. Ltd.: 7905160669

BHAWAR GROUP

Purchase CoviSelf™ Kit by Mylab from Authorized sellers only - https://coviself.com/distributors-list.php



Court fines Delhi Police ₹25K for 'farcical' probe into riots case

It says officials have 'miserably failed' in their statutory duties

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH

A local court here has imposed a cost of ₹25,000 on the Delhi police while questioning the fairness of the probe conducted into a case of a man who suffered a gunshot injury in his left eye during the north-east Delhi riots in February last year.

Additional Sessions Judge Vinod Yadav censured Delhi Police for resisting registration of an FIR based on the complaint of the victim, Mohammad Nasir, a resident of North Ghonda in Delhi.

"It is clearly evident that defence for the accused per-

sons named in the complaint of respondent [Mr. Nasir] has been sought to be created by the police," the judge remarked while dismissing Delhi police's appeal against an October 21, 2020, order of a trial court here directing registration of an FIR. .

Bhajanpura SHO

"Seeing the matter from any angle, I have not been able to persuade myself about the efficacy and fairness of the investigation carried out in the matter," the judge remarked, adding that the investigation has "been done in a most casual, callous and farcical manner".

The judge further noted the police "did not bother to look into the grievance of the respondent that he was being constantly threatened by the accused persons".

The court directed the DCP (North-East) to deposit the fine with the Delhi Legal Services Authority within a week. It also said the fine amount should be recovered from the Station House Officer of Bhajanpura police station and his supervising officers, "who have miserably failed in their statutory duties in this case".

The incident in question took place on February 24 last year, when Mr. Nasir was bringing his sister home from Max Hospital in Shalimar Bagh. When their cab reached Khajuri Chowk, they saw chaos and fires all around. The police officials present there advised him to avoid the normal route. They took a detour, but were stopped by rioters near Rubber Factory Chowk. They were allowed to proceed af-



Policemen stand in front of vandalised shops following riots in north-east Delhi's Bhajanpura on February 24, 2020. • FILE РНОТО

ter Mr. Nasir told the rioters his name was Krishna.

The cab driver, however, insisted that he didn't want to go any further due to the situation, so, Mr. Nasir and his sister left the cab at Gokalpuri flyover. On reaching the street of his house, he noticed a mob of around 100150 people carrying rods, pistols, petrol bombs and swords etc, which was allegedly being led by the owner of M/s Tyagi Store.

Mr. Nazir alleged that since he belonged to a different community, Naresh Tyagi fired at him as a result of which he suffered gunshot injury in his left eye.

He was taken to Guru Tegh Bahadur Hospital where he was operated upon and subsequently discharged on March 12, 2020.

On March 19, 2020, he gave a written complaint to the Bhajanpura SHO in which he named Naresh Tyagi, Subhash Tyagi, Uttam Tyagi, Sushil, Naresh Gaur and their other accomplices as the assailants. However, no FIR was registered by the police. Mr. Nasir then approached the trial court on July 17, 2020.

In the meantime, an FIR was lodged at the Bhajanpura police station on the statement of an Assistant Police Sub Inspector with regard to the incident of rioting in the area on February 24, 2020.

It was also recorded in the FIR that Mr. Nasir had suf-

spot on the date and time of the incident. It was further stated that besides him, six more persons: Ali Hasan, Al-

taf, Javed, Aman, Faizi and Adnan, had also suffered gunshot injuries. The court noted that all the injured persons were taken to hospitals by their family members and not by the police.

fered gunshot injuries at the

Police response

The police said all the accused persons named by Mr. Nasir had been thoroughly interrogated, "however, no evidence was found against them". Police said Naresh Tyagi and Uttam Tyagi were not present in Delhi at the time, as they had gone to their native place for attending family functions. Sushil was present in his office on duty and nothing was stated about Naresh Gaur.

"Perusal of the case diaries reveals a very shocking state-of-affairs," the court said. While the incident against Mr. Nasir happened at North Ghonda, the FIR was lodged in respect of Mohanpuri, Maujpur.

"The factum of seven persons... having suffered gunshot injuries was in the due knowledge of the investigating agency, however, for reasons best known to it, Section 307 of Indian Penal Code (attempt to murder) and Section 25 of the Arms Act were not invoked initially at the time of FIR registration," the court noted.

The court also questioned why the police were unable to trace any eyewitnesses in the case despite the medicolegal case of Mr. Nasir clearly having his address.

Man arrested for passing on files to ISI

STAFF REPORTER

A 34-year-old man was arrested from Rajasthan for allegedly obtaining sensitive documents from an Indian Army official and providing it to Pakistani intelligence agency ISI, officials said on Wednesday.

The suspect, Habeeb Khan, who hails from Bikaner, was nabbed by the Delhi Police Crime Branch from Pokhran, where he had been working as a vegetable supplier on contract basis, they said.

Preliminary investigation has revealed that the suspect used to fish out sensitive documents from an Army official posted at the Pokhran army base camp and further provided them to ISI, a senior police officer said.

Notice to govt. after plea for DMC chief's removal

Zakir Khan abused his power: petition

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday issued notice to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government on a petition seeking removal of Zakir Khan from the post of Chairman of the Delhi Minorities Commission (DMC) for allegedly abusing his position.

A Bench of Chief Justice

D.N. Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh also issued notice to the DMC and Mr. Khan on the petition and listed it for further hearing on August 31. The petition was filed by one Abdul Amir Amiro, who complained that Mr. Khan after assuming office as the Chairman of DMC in August last year has been "continuously exercising the abuse of his position and power".

The plea contended that



members of the commission including its Chairman being 'public servant' should not get associated with polit-

The petition claimed Mr. Khan, who was formerly an AAP leader, was holding meetings with its members and has been taking part in party rallies. It said Mr. Khan has "knowingly misused his power and position to act upon as an agent of AAP for propagating the political party".

City gets above average rain for the season

Partly cloudy sky with light rain forecast for today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Rain continued to lash the city under the influence of the south-west monsoon on Wednesday with the maximum temperature settling at 35 degrees Celsius, which is normal for the season.

The Capital received 26.1 mm of rainfall between 8 a.m. and and 5.30 p.m., and 28.5 mm of rainfall in the preceding 24 hours. The minimum temperature settled at 26 degrees Celsius, which was one degree below normal. The MeT department has forecast partly cloudy sky with light rain or thundershowers on Thursday.

Isolated to scattered rainfall can be expected till July 16 and enhanced rainfall from July 17.



Heavy waterlogging during monsoon rain in Delhi on Wednesday. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Despite the monsoon arriving over two weeks late, deficit rainfall has been covered and Delhi has now received more than the average rainfall for the season, IMD data show.

The rain was, however, not equally distributed across the city with Palam receiving 2.4 mm on Wednesday while the Ridge recorded 107.4 mm of rainfall.

was reported from more

than a dozen arterial points

located in north and east

Waterlogging plaints up The Public Works Department (PWD) on Wednesday received 10 waterlogging complaints every hour, up from 7 complaints on Tuesday. Significant waterlogging

Delhi, including ITO, with at least 70 calls logged till 5 p.m., the PWD said.

The complaints, according to the PWD, originated in relation to the Azadpur area and Azadpur Mandi, ITO to Bhairon Marg, Jhilmil underpass, GTK bus depot, Nangia Park, Punjabi Bagh underpass, Shahdara and Zahkira among others.

Operationalise crowdfunding platform: HC

STAFF REPORTER

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday cautioned the Centre that it would take action for "wilful noncompliance" if it failed to make operational a digital platform for crowdfunding of expensive medicines and treatment for rare diseases.

Justice Rekha Palli said despite specific directions on January 28 that the digital crowdfunding platform be made operational by March 31, it has not been done. "This court would be

constrained to take action wilful non-compliance," Justice Palli said while directing the counrepresenting the Centre to take instructions on the issue.

For women, bus ride back home becomes an ordeal

Limited seats due to COVID-19 norms leaves them stranded for hours at bus stops, raising safety concerns

SAURABH TRIVEDI IATIN ANAND

Striking a balance between women's satety and COVID appropriate behaviour has turned out to be a challenge for the police. Women commuters allegedly have to wait for over an hour for public transport after sunset as most buses refuse rides citing limited number of seats.

A Delhi government official said the 50% limit on seating capacity on public transport, including Staterun buses as well as the Delhi Metro, was in accordance with the guidelines issued by



Women waiting for a bus at Rail Bhavan bus stand on Wednesday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

the Centre to control the spread of the pandemic. Sandhya Sharma, a resi-

dent of Laxmi Nagar said: "My work ends at 6 p.m. but I reach home, which is just four kilometres from my of-

fice, at 8 p.m. because most of the buses didn't stop at ITO as they are all running at cant. This starts a frenzy full capacity. My pocket among those waiting to doesn't allow me to hire an autorickshaw daily."

Shweta Gupta, a student, said while returning home after visiting a doctor, she and her mother didn't get a bus after two hours of waiting. "Buses are free for women but there is no space. Either buses don't stop at bus stops or marshal comes out and signals space for one passenger only," she said.

As a bus approaches the bus stop at Pragati Maidan, passengers keep an eye on know how many seats are vaboard. In the commotion, women and children are left behind as men push their

way in to the vehicle. "COVID appropriate behaviour applies only inside the bus but not at the bus stop or while boarding. I wouldn't dare to go near the bus as men fight for space and never think of the women waiting late night at a bus stop. Anti-social elements pass comments and last-mile connectivity is also an issue for women during late night,"

the bus marshal's signal to said Kusum Rana, a passenger waiting at ITO bus stop.

Increased patrolling

Chinmoy Biswal, PRO of Del hi Police, said they have already increased patrolling in isolated stretches and they will raise the matter with authorities for more buses during peak hours.

A Delhi govt. official said the Graded Response Action Plan, which had standard operating procedures related to all activities, including public transport, had been prepared by all stakeholders to prevent the possible spread of COVID-19.

STAFF REPORTER

In a bid to augment non-fare box revenue, the Noida Metro Rail Corporation (NMRC) on Wednesday said that the vacant parking spaces at metro stations will be of-

fered to food truck vendors. The vendors will be required to pay a fixed licence fee or rental fee to avail the designated space.

ted to operate between 9 a.m. and 10.30 p.m. daily, according to the NMRC. Officials said that the NMRC has issued an Expression of Interest (EOI) to invite applications from interested

"The mobile food or food truck service vendor will pay NMRC a fixed licence fee or rental fee to avail the designated space at parking

area which shall be decided by the NMRC. The minimum tentative space proposed to be provided for installation of each food truck is 25 square meters and the maximum available space shall vary station wise," officials said.

According to the NMRC, a total of 15 stations were offered for food, recreational, utility truck facility under

The monthly licence fee varies from ₹390 to ₹600, excluding taxes and is dependent on the "band" category of the location. Out of the 15 stations being offered for the facility, two are on band 1 category, nine stations in band 2 category and four stations in band 3 category, according to officials.

Rithala-Narela line on anvil

Extra 5.6 km on \pm

STAFF REPORTER

Following a joint inspection of a proposed Rithala Narela corridor, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) said that a single alignment was not enough to serve the entire area.

An additional 5.6 kilometre corridor may be planned subject to government clearances, the Delhi Metro said.

"The DMRC has suggested that one single alignment cannot serve the entire area with just one corridor," said Anuj Dayal,

DMRC spokesperson. Mr. Dayal added, "Therefore, in addition to the original corridor already proposed between Rithala and Narela (22.9 km), a spur of 5.6 km length from Puth Khurd to Holambi Kalan may be planned."

पेयजल एवं स्वचछता प्रमंडल, तेनुघाट

उद्योग संचालनालय भोपाल (सूक्ष्म लघु एव माध्यम उद्यम विभाग म. प्र.)

सहायक संचालक

कृते उद्योग आयुक्त

औद्योगिक भूखंडों के ई-नीलामी से आवटन हेतु आवेदनों का आमंत्रण

सूक्ष्म, लघु और मध्यम उद्यम विभाग, म.प्र. शासन द्वारा उर्ज्जेन जिले के औद्योगिक क्षेत्र भगतपुरी उमरनी नागदा के 2 भू-खंडों, नीमच जिले के औद्योगिक क्षेत्र रामपुरा के 16 भू-खंडों एवं सांडिया के 1 भू-खंड तथा खरगौन ज़िले के औद्योगिक क्षेत्र निमरानी के 5 भू-खंडों को ई-नीलामी के माध्यम से आवंटित किया जाना है जिसकी प्रक्रिया दिनांक 21.07.2021 से https://mptenders.gov.in/ पोर्टल पर

भूखंड हेतु ई-नीलामी की प्रमुख शर्तें इस प्रकार हैं

- 1. भू-खंडों का आवंटन ''मध्यप्रदेश एमएसएमई औद्योगिक भूमि तथा
- भवन आवंटन एवं प्रबंधन नियम 2021'' के तहत किया जायेगा। 2. प्रत्येक भू-खंड हेतु आवेदन शुल्क रूपये 5000/- होगा एवं जीएसटी राशि पृथक से देय होगी। आवेदन शुल्क वापसी योग्य नहीं है [नियम 11 (i)]
- 3. आवेदन शुल्क के अतिरिक्त आवेदित भूमि हेतु आवेदन दिनांक को प्रचलित प्रब्याजी की 25 प्रतिशत अग्रिम राशि ऑनलाईन जमा करानी होगी जो आवंटन के समय समायोजन योग्य होगी।[नियम 11 (1) (iv)
- 4. नीलामी के लिये बेस प्राइस भूखंड की प्रब्याजी तथा विकास शुल्क का योग होगा। [नियम 12 (i) (अ) (i) (1)]
- 5. ई-नीलामी में भाग लेने हेतु Class 3 Digital Signature होना

नियम, प्रक्रिया एवं भू-खण्डों आदि की विस्तृत जानकारी विभाग की वेबसाइट mpmsme.gov.in से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

G-14508/2021



ODISHA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

ADVERTISEMENT NO.06 of 2021-2022 **SHORT ADVERTISEMENT**

RECRUITMENT TO THE POSTS OF ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS
IN DIFFERENT STATE PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES UNDER THE
ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL OF
THE HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

WEBSITE - http://opsc.gov.in

Online applications are invited from the prospective candidates for the posts of Associate Professors in different State Public Universities of Odisha. This recruitment covers across 50 subjects comprising total vacancies across subjects at 320 (119-W). The online registration shall start from 23.07.2021.

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION:

- i) A good academic record, with a Ph.D. Degree in the concerned/allied/
- ii) A Master's Degree with at least 55% marks (or an equivalent grade in a point-scale, wherever the grading system is followed). iii) A minimum of eight years of experience of teaching and / or research in an academic/research position equivalent to that of Assistant Professor in
- a University, College or Accredited Research Institution/industry. iv) A minimum of seven publications in the peer-reviewed or UGC-listed
- v) Total research score of Seventy five (75).
- Application fee- Rs. 400/- for candidates other than SC, ST and PWD

• For details the prospective candidates are requested to visit OPSC Website

- Last date for online registration and payment is 23.08.2021 Last date for submission online application is 31.08.2021.
- N.B.- The online application form is automated & system driven and will guide the candidate seamlessly in filling the application. The requisite options shall be enabled and information shall be asked as per data furnished by the candidate. Before filling up the information ensure that accurate information is fed, for edit option is limited and on confirmation there is no scope for further edit even if wrongful entry has been made while filing up application.

CUTTACK DATE:- 14/07/21

SECRETARY ODISHA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, CUTTACK

'Vacant parking spaces to be offered to food trucks'

Noida Metro looks to augment revenue

Vendors will be permitstakeholders.

Monthly fee

झारखण्ड सरकार पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग

<u>ई—प्रोक्योरमेन्ट सूचना</u>

(प्रथम आमंत्रण)

VT and Centrifugal pump motor, Five years operation & maintenance with allied works etc. all

<u>ई–निविदा सूचना संख्या - (तेनुघाट) (JJM) 09/2021-22 तिथि – 13.07.2021</u> Name of the Work :- Detailed survey, designing and drawing, Construction of R.C.C. Intake Well cum Pump House, R.C.C. Gangway 70 M long and 3.00 M wide, 13.50 MLD Capacity Conventional Water Treatment Plant, RCC Elevated Service Reservoir - 9 nos., RCC Ground Service Reservoir -1 no. Staff Quarter, Compound Wall, S.H. Crossing, Pump House, Supplying and laying Raw and Clear Water rising main and Distribution Network, House Connection, Supplying and Installation of

	complete job for Kasmar and Adjoining Village Rural Division Tenughat on turnkey basis."	Water Supply Scheme under D.W. & S.
2	प्राक्कलित राशि	For the year 2021-22. 11353.02 लाख
3	अग्रधन की राशि	113.54 লাख
4	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	10000.00
5	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	33 माह + 3 माह (ट्रायल रन की अवधि)
6	वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि	19.07.2021 समय 02.00 बजे अपराहन् तक
7	प्री बीड मिटिंग की तिथि	27.07.2021 समय 12.30 बजे अपराहन् तक
8	निविदा प्राप्ति (ऑन लाईन बिडींग) की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय	10.08.2021 समय 05.00 बजे अपराहन् तक
9	पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, तेनुघाट/अधीक्षण अभियंता पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता अंचल धनबाद/क्षेत्रीय मुख्य अभियंता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विमाग दुमका प्रक्षेत्र दुमका के कार्यालय में परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य एवं अग्रधन की राशि की मूल प्रति जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय	12.08.2021 समय 04.00 बजे अपराहन् तक
10	निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	13.08.2021 समय 04:00 बजे अपराहन्
11	निविदा खोलने का स्थान	अधीक्षण अभियंता का कार्यालय पेयजल एवं स्वचछता अंचल, धनबाद।
12	निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम/पदनाम :- ई0 राम प्रवेश राम, पेयजल एवं स्वचछत	
13	निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले कार्यालय का टेलिफोन नं0	9430153040, 9430475767
1/1	र्द_ गोक्स्प्रमेन्ट येज का देजा जार्रन यंत	0651-2480345

14 ई— प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट सेल का हेल्प लाईन संव नोट – केवल ई निविदा ही स्वीकार किये जायेंगे। ऐसे सम्बेदक जिन्हें पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग झारखण्ड सरकार का निबंधन प्राप्त नहीं है वे भी निविदा में भाग ले सकते है व शर्ते कि वैसे सम्बेदक को कार्य आवंटित की तिथि से दो माह के अन्दर पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग झारखण्ड सरकार से निबंधन पत्र प्राप्त कर लेना अनिवार्य होगा। अधिक जानकारी के लिए वेवसाईट http://jharkhandtender.gov.in पर देखा जा कार्यपालक अभियंता

PR 249517(Drinking Water and Sanitation)21-22*D

DELHI

THURSDAY, JUL. 15 RISE 05:34 SET 19:21 RISE 10:22 SET 23:08

FRIDAY, JUL. 16 RISE 05:35 SET 19:21 RISE 11:23 SET 23:41

SATURDAY, JUL. 17 RISE 05:35 SET 19:21 RISE 12:24 SET 00:00

Delhi Weather max min Delhi City

Delhi Palam Today 34°C Light rain or thunderstorm likely at some places with cloudy sky and warm and

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 35°C Rise in day temperature likely. Thunderstorm likely at some places with cloudy sky

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2019

humid day

THEMAHINDU

Cong. calls for audit of DJB

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Delhi Congress on Wednesday called for an audit of the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) and alleged that the people of the Capital were dependent on the water tanker mafia for potable water due to the misman-

It said that Chief Minister

be established on the Yamuna to filter the water.

Final phase of Khori Basti demolition begins

SC order to free land from encroachers by July 19 will be adhered to, says Faridabad Commissioner

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Municipal Corporation of Faridabad (MCF) on Wed nesday kicked off the final phase of demolition at Khori Basti here with less than a week to go for the Supreme Court deadline to remove encroachment on 170-acre forest land. The drive was, however, called off for the day mid-way due to heavy rain.

MCF Commissioner Garima Mittal said the target for the day was achieved before the drive was abandoned due to rain, adding that the Supreme Court order to free the land from encroachers till July 19 would be adhered to "in letter and spirit". She, however, evaded questions on the number of houses demolished, saying that she could not share the "operational details". She said the drive would continue in the days to come.

Temporary shelter

Ms. Mittal said a camp was being organised for those eligible for the rehabilitation policy of the Haryana govern-



however, called off midway due to heavy rain. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ment and a temporary shelter was also set up through Red Cross for those in need of immediate shelter.

The Faridabad district administration had on Tuesday announced a policy to rehabilitate those having Haryana voter identity card, Parivar Pechan Patra or electricity bill, but the activists objected to it saying that the government should not resort to

"pick and choose" and extend rehabilitation policy to all. Social activist Meenu Verma said only 1,000-odd residents were eligible for the rehabilitation policy.

Earlier, the demolition squad of the municipal body comprising 17 excavators began the drive in the morning. More than 3,000 police personnel, including three Deputy Commissioners of Pol-

Assistant Commissioners of Police, and staffers from Traffic Police, Crime Branch and Rapid Action Force, were deployed for the demolition under the supervision of Nodal Officer Anshu Singla, Deputy Com-

missioner of Police, NIT. The Supreme Court had on June 7 ordered demolition of the structures in Khori Basti on the forest land with-

in six weeks. The demolition was being carried out in bits and pieces since the SC order, and several FIRs were also registered.

Activists demand

The social activists and political leaders have been demanding that Khori Basti residents be rehabilitated before the demolition and compensated.

The colony has 5,158 houses, 80 shops, five educational institutes, 36 social, public utility and religious structures and two industrial units. Most of the residents are migrants from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Punjab and other States. Most of them bought plots through local real estate agents to settle on the land in early 1990s.

Former Lok Sabha MP and Congress national spokesperson Udit Rai also held demonstrations in Delhi along with Khori Basti residents earlier this month seeking to revoke the court order and save the houses from demoli-

160 oxygen plants being set up in city

L-G holds review meeting with officials

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal Wednesday reviewed the status and progress of work related to the installation of PSA oxygen plants in Delhi where he reiterated that the Capital should not face the same situation as that during the second wave of COVID-19 infection.

According to sources present at the meeting, the Delhi Chief Secretary and other senior government officials were present where Mr. Baijal was informed that a total number of 160 PSA plants with a capacity of 148.11 MT were being installed in various government and private hospitals in the city.

The L-G, according to a source, inquired if this figure of 160 plants was normative or was based on demand or limited by supply constraints and was informed that the figure was based on requirements of around 150 MT posed by hospitals.



L-G Anil Baijal

While 66 plants, including 17 under the PM CARES Fund were being set up Delhi government hospitals, 10 were being installed in Central government and 84 in private hospitals, a source said the L-G was informed.

Of these, Mr. Baijal was told, 36 at Delhi government hospitals had been commissioned while 27 were expected to be commissioned by August 31. In relation to the remaining three, where plants were expected to arrive by September 30, commissioning would be completed by October 15.

agement of the agency.

Arvind Kejriwal came to power promising 20,000 litres of free water per family. However, since Delhi was not receiving adequate water supply, those who were not getting regular water supply had to depend on the water mafia.

Leader of the Congress party in the South Corporation Abhishek Dutt alleged that people are getting dirty water with high ammonia. He demanded a plant

Rainwater harvesting discussed at MPD meet

Next webinar to be held on July 16

STAFF REPORTER

In the third webinar conducted by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) on the draft Master Plan for Delhi (MPD) 2041, senior officials discussed issues pertaining to physical infrastructure and spatial development framework.

"The major suggestions provided by stakeholders during the webinar were rainwater harvesting for parks and other open public places, fire safety compliance in commercial centres developed and maintained by agencies, management of existing dhalaos by local bodies, physical infrastructure provisions in Green Development Area (GDA), deve-

lopment of decentralised wastewater treatment systems and sanitation system," officials said.

Other demands

The land-owning agency added that other suggestions put forth by stakeholders who attended the webinar pertained to the issue of water demand and wastewater treatment in future regeneration schemes, managing water demand and reducing wastage of water and focus on the use of treated

The next webinar is scheduled to be held on July 16 and will cover aspects like plan monitoring and evaluation and development control norms.

Govt. to begin single-window facility for e-vehicle chargers

Delhi will be first city to get this service, says DDC official

STAFF REPORTER

Dialogue and Development Commission of Delhi vicechairperson Jasmine Shah on Wednesday said that Delhi will soon be the "first city" in India where anyone can get an electric vehicle (EV) charger installed by making a phone call or applying on-

The Delhi government has taken an important step towards empanelment of private charging infrastructure providers for EVs, he said. The empanelment will be accompanied by the rollout of a single-window facility for installation of EV chargers in residential spaces, institutional buildings such as hospitals and also malls and theatres among other places. The decision to imple-

ment a single-window facility and empanel vendors through discoms for smooth rollout of EV chargers in private and semi-public places was taken on Wednesday at the Charging Infrastructure Working Group meeting of Delhi government chaired by Mr. Shah.

"We have received requests from many apartment societies, RWAs, mall owners etc. that they wish to install EV chargers but don't know how to. This innovative process will enable quick and efficient installation of EV chargers," he said.

The roll-out plan also includes disbursal of a grant of 100% for the purchase of charging equipment up to ₹6,000, per charging point for the first 30,000 charging points, as per the Delhi EV policy.

Join hands with Google In a related development,

the Delhi government announced it had joined hands with Google to integrate Delhi's public transit system onto the Google Maps platform today.

Once the project kicks off, the government stated, static and dynamic location data of Delhi buses will be available for passengers in real-time. A bus user will get information of all the routes and bus stops, all bus arrival and departure times in real-time and even by bus numbers.

'Vaccine stock to last for less than a day'

Capital reports 77 new COVID-19 cases

STAFF REPORTER

The COVID-19 vaccine stock of the city will last for less than a day as per a vaccination bulletin released by the Delhi government on Wednesday. The Capital had faced a si-

milar situation on Monday and a day later, the Health Minister Satyendar Jain said 500 vaccination centres were shut due to shortage in the city. A total of 1,29,054 doses

of vaccines were administered in the city on Monday, as per the bulletin.

The total number of vaccine doses administered in Delhi till date, includes 69,57,233 first doses and 21,31,485 second doses, the government's vaccination bulletin said. Meanwhile, the city re-

ported 77 new COVID-19 cases in the past 24 hours, taking the total cases to 14,35,281, according to another bulletin.

There was only one death reported and the total number of deaths stood at 25,021.

A total of 76,095 tests were done in a day and that test positivity rate (TPR) was 0.1%. Of the total cases, 14,09,572 people have recovered and there are only 688 active cases.

The Delhi government did not release the daily health bulletin on Tuesday and it was later released on Wednesday morning. As per the bulletin, there were 76 new cases and two deaths.

With flying colours



Budding artist: Raihan Rajiv Vadra, son of Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and businessman Robert Vadra, displaying his work during his first solo photography exhibition 'Dark Perception: An Exposition of Light, Space and Time'. The exhibition is up at the Bikaner House in New Delhi. ■R.V MOORTHY

BJP protests outside Raj Niwas for DTC probe

L-G assures party delegation of action

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The BJP on Wednesday staged a sit-in protest outside Raj Niwas demanding that Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal grant permission sought by the Anti-Corruption Branch to probe the alleged DTC bus purchase scam worth ₹5,000 crore.

A BJP delegation led by Delhi party chief Adesh Gupta, Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri and Rohini MLA Vijender Gupta, who filed a complaint regarding the alleged scam, met the L-G over the issue but decided to sit-in protest outside his office after the L-G did not allegedly give satisfactory

"The very Kejriwal government which came to power on the basis of removing corruption is now encouraging it and rather spearheading it. [Mr.] Kejriwal had the knowledge about it but kept quite as he was himself involved in it," the Rohini MLA alleged.

The enquiry committee constituted by the L-G, the BJP delegation argued, had found illegalities in the DTC bus purchase deal tender and the ACB had already sought permission from Mr. Baijal to probe the issue but were yet to get permission.

"The L-G assured us of iustice and we have been assured that the file related to the matter is being referred to the Centre for further action," Mr. Gupta said.

AAP collects 1 lakh signatures against policies of civic bodies

BJP hits back saying AAP leaders live in 'illusionary world'

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Wednesday claimed that the party has collected 1 lakh signatures as part of its ongoing campaign against the BJP-governed municipal corporations' "harsh" new policies against traders and "increase" in taxes.

"A few days ago, we told vou about the new policies introduced by the municipal bodies and the many taxes that have been increased through which thousands of rupees are being taken from the shopkeepers. Be it the commercial tax, trade licence fee or the money being taken from shopkeepers under the name of garbage removal or the annual sum Shopkeepers, especially in markets, have a lot of resentment against the municipal bodies

SAURABH BHARADWAJ AAP chief spokesperson

of ₹30,000 being taken from clinics just to remove their garbage. Because of these reasons, shopkeepers, especially in city markets, have a lot of resentment against the municipal bodies," AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh

Bharadwaj said. He said that the party had started a signature campaign under which party workers and councillors have been visiting different

markets as well as shops

across the city to collect signatures of shopkeepers.

"Shopkeepers and doctors are openly saying that the kind of loot and plundering that is being done by the civic bodies clearly shows that the BJP knows that it is very difficult for it to win the next elections. Hence, they are trying to loot as much money as they can," Mr. Bharadwai added.

Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said AAP leaders "live in their illusionary world" and want everyone to believe what they dream. "I am, myself an Old Delhi-based trader and have not heard of any campaign amongst traders here or any other prominent market," he said.

Denied ex gratia, families of two policemen move HC

They died of COVID-19; govt. letter states one officer was not on pandemic duty, hence not eligible

HEMANI BHANDARI

The families of two Delhi police officers, who died of CO-VID-19 last year, have approached the High Court after the Delhi government allegedly denied them ex gratia as announced earlier.

Assistant Sub-Inspector Shesh Mani Pandey was posted in Crime Branch's fingerprint bureau and died of CO-VID-19 on May 30 last year. His family had applied for the ex gratia, which was announced by the government for the kin of those who died of COVID-19 while on duty.

In a letter dated October 7, it was stated that the case had been examined and "is not found covered under the Cabinet decision No. 2835 dated May 13, 2020, as the deceased was performing his routine duty assigned to him and was not deployed for CO-VID-19 duty, which is a mandatory condition to become eligible for grant of ex gratia of ₹1 crore".

Pandey's son Krishna Kumar Pandey said he finally decided to approach the court as he felt it was unjustified. "My father did not have the option of work-fromhome and had to go to work. He visited a murder spot in Central Delhi and that is most likely where he caught the virus," the son said, adding that he also lost his grandfather to COVID-19 in

May this year, exactly a year

after his father died. "We lost

two members to the virus.

My mother now lives with me in Madhya Pradesh and my brother is studying in Delhi,"

On July 7, the HC ordered the lawyer representing the government to file a reply, on whether guidelines on who is to be paid the ex gratia were laid down, in four weeks and gave the next date of hearing Constable Amit Kumar Ra-

na's family approached the

HC in June. He died on May 5

and was the first officer in the

VID-19. His wife Pooja approached the court asking for ex gratia, which Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had tweeted about right after the officer's death. The family of the consta-

ble said the next court hearing is later this month. Ms. Pooja had written to Mr. Kejriwal on the matter. "If a Chief Minister will not fulfil a promise he made, then I may never be able to trust anyone ever again," she wrote.

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT

Mr. N SELVA KUMAR PH: 9820350726

selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in

India's National Newspaper

THE HINDU

REGIONAL APPOINTMENT

Advt. No - 43/2021

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

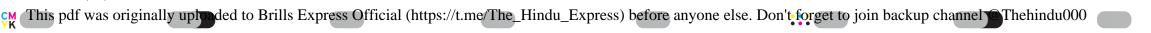
Public Enterprises Selection Board invites applications for the post of **DIRECTOR (OTHER UNITS)**

BHARAT ELECTRONICS LIMITED.

Last date of receipt of applications in PESB is by 15.00 hours on <u>02nd September, 2021.</u>

> For details login to website: http://www.pesb.gov.in

Published by N. Ravi at Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002 and Printed by S. Ramanujam at HT Media Ltd. Plot No. 8, Udyog Vihar, Greater Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. 201306, on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Group Editorial Officer: Krishna Prasad. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).



SKM suspends Haryana farmer leader for seven days

Charuni wanted farmer outfits to contest Punjab elections

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA CHANDIGARH

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) on Wednesday suspended Haryana BKU leader Gurnam Singh Charuni for seven days for suggesting that Punjab farmer outfits involved in the stir against the Centre's farm laws should contest the State Assembly polls next year.

The SKM is an umbrella body of various farmer unions protesting the Centre's farm laws.

Addressing a press conference near the Singhu border protest site, senior SKM leader Balbir Singh Rajewal said Mr. Charuni was making statements regarding his 'mission Punjab' despite being told not to do it on several occasions.

"At present we are fighting (against the Centre's farm laws). We are not doing any



Gurnam Singh Charuni •

politics," said Mr. Rajewal.

"For this, today we decided to suspend him for seven days. He will not be able to issue any statement or share stage. These restrictions have been imposed on him," said Mr. Rajewal, who is also president of the BKU (Rajewal).

Further replying to a question, Mr. Rajewal said Mr. Charuni had been telling the Punjab farmers unions leaders to take a political

"We had been telling him that we have no such programme. Later, the Punjab leaders complained about his statements and on Tuesday, a meeting was held. Today, the general house (of the Morcha) suspended him for seven days," he said.

A week ago, Haryana BKU (Charuni) chief Gurnam Singh Chaduni had said that the outfits from Punjab involved in the agitation against the new agriculture laws should contest the Punjab Assembly elections as it will "present a model on how the system can be changed".

Mr. Charuni, a key leader of the SKM, which is spearheading the farmers' stir, had earlier said, "What I want to say is that we should not run "Mission U.P., but Mission Punjab'."

Punjab to waive ₹590 cr. loan of landless farmers

'Cheques for labourers too will be issued on August 20'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

With an eve on the coming Assembly elections, due early next year, the Congress government in Punjab has announced waiver of ₹590 crore in loans under the farm debt waiver scheme for labourers and the landless farming community.

"Cheques would be issued at a State-level function on August 20," said an official statement after a high-level meeting held here.

The government would pay off loans to the tune of ₹520 crore of 2,85,325 members of the Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS), thus ensuring a relief of ₹20,000 a member, said a statement, attributed to Chief Minister Amarinder Singh.

Capt. Amarinder has di-



CM Amarinder Singh

Cooperation departments to start the process for effective implementation of the decision on the ground.

Debt relief scheme

The government had formulated a debt relief scheme for farm labourers and landless members PACS-2019, which would cover only the consumption loan of the members of the rected the Finance and PACS advanced by the District Central Cooperative Banks through the cooperative societies, said the statement.

The announcements follow the waiver of the loans to farmers under the Chief Minister's flagship Waiver Scheme.

"So far, loans of ₹4624 crore have been waived of as many as 5.64 lakh farmers under the scheme, which was announced as a part of the 2017 poll promises by the Punjab Congress," it stated. In addition, loans of the

Scheduled Caste and Backward Class categories have been written off up to the amount of ₹50,000 each, including waiver up to ₹58.39 crore of 6,405 beneficiaries by the SC Corporation and ₹20.71 crore of 1,225 beneficiaries by the BC Corporation, said the statement.

Rajasthan Minister bats for population control

'Our resources are under huge strain'

MOHAMMED IQBAL

After the BJP governments in Assam and Uttar Pradesh announced their intent to bring a population control policy, Rajasthan Medical and Health Minister Raghu Sharma on Wednesday extended support to the legal measures for controlling the growth of population. "Population growth is a matter of great concern. It is high time the country thought about controlling it," Mr. Sharma

While giving details of the COVID-19 vaccination drive to reporters here, Mr. Sharma said the increasing population had made an adimpact verse development activities and vaccination during the pandemic. "Our resources are under a tremendous strain," he said.

said.

"The country has to think about controlling the population, so that the future

generations can get better education, healthcare and other facilities for a better quality of life... It is time for Hum Do, Hamara Ek [We two and one child]," Mr. Sharma said.

The Minister affirmed that he had raised the issue earlier at several platforms, ever since the slogan, Hum Do, Hamarey Do [We both and two children], was coined in the country.

The Congress-ruled Rajasthan has legal provisions for disqualifying the candidates for panchayat elections and government jobs on having more than two children. Under Section 19(l) of the Rajasthan Panchayati Raj Act, 1994, no person can become a Panch or member of a Panchayati Raj institution if he has more than two children.

The previous BJP government had relaxed the twochild norm in case of a differently abled child.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one minor boy namely Rajeem S/o Mobin R/o Jhuggi No. D-60, Sarai Pipal Thala Adarsh Nagar, Delhi has been missing/ kidnapped from the area of PS: Mahendra Park, Delhi since 04.12.2014. In this regard, a case FIR No. 809/14 u/s 363 IPC. has been registered at P.S. Mahendra Park, Delhi. The description of the missing boy as under.

Age: 4 Years 3 month (at the time of missing and now 11 years, 3 month)

Complexion: Shallow, Height: 3', Face: Round, Wearing: White, Yellow, black and red Colour Shirt and Black colour Warm Pajami. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out his but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the been missing/kidnapped boy then please inform P.S. Mahendra Park, Delhi at following Tel No./ e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website: http://cbi.nic.in Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641

ax No. 011- 24368639

DP/101/Crime/2021

Sd/- S.H.O. Mahendra Park, Delhi Phone: 011-2763250

RAJEEM

3 more 'terrorists' arrested in U.P.

'Al-Qaeda operatives were planning explosions in the State'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Uttar Pradesh police on Wednesday arrested three more alleged terrorists of the Al-Qaeda-linked Ansar Ghazwatul Hind, a senior officer said. Those arrested have been

identified as Shakeel, a resident of Lucknow's Wazirganj; Mohammad Mustqueem of Muzaffarnagar and Mohammad Moid of New Haiderganj, Campwell Road, Lucknow.

Earlier on July 11, the U.P. Anti-Terror Squad (ATS) had

arrested Minhaz Ahmed and Musheeruddin. The ATS had claimed that they were planning explosions, including using 'human bombs' at several places in the State.

'Accepted involvement'

"On their tip-offs, some persons were called for interrogation by the ATS. The three were arrested after they accepted their involvement with the two arrested earlier," Additional Director General (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar said.

About the role of the

three, the ADG said Mustqueem had knowledge of the conspiracy and had helped Minhaaz and Musheeruddin. Moid had made a pistol available to Mustqueem through Minhaaz. Shakeel helped Minhaaz in arranging the arms, Mr. Kumar said, adding that the three will be produced in a court for further action.

"They were planning explosions at important places, and also to use human bombs. For this, they were collecting weapons and explosives," Mr. Kumar said.

'Tea workers get less than living wage'

Planters' organisations pick holes in the report for Assam

RAHUL KARMAKAR GUWAHATI

A study by Oxfam India, a confederation of 20 independent charitable organisations headquartered in Kenya's capital Nairobi, and IIT-Bombay said tea plantation workers in Assam get less than a fourth of a proposed 'living wage' of ₹884.

It also said tea labourers in Assam do not get the entire amount of ₹205 (enhanced from ₹167 when the study was conducted) as daily wage, which is lowest with respect to the daily wages of

₹403, ₹349 and ₹333 in Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Living wage, the Oxfam India report titled "In defence of living wages for tea plantation workers: Evidence from Assam" said, is in relation to the International Labour Organisation's concept of 'decent work' and 'quality of life'.

The report, based on interviews with 5,000 tea workers, was done jointly with Rahul Suresh Sapkal of IIT-Bombay's Centre for Policy Studies. "The study finds a stark gap between the current wages that tea workers receive vis-à-vis the living wage," Oxfam India's CEO Amitabh Behar said.

According to the report, women workers earn 80% of the average ₹4,672 each of their male counterparts earn a month. "When you take non-cash

benefits, the total wage works out to an average of ₹390 in the Brahmaputra Valley," said Bidyananda Borkakoty, advisor of North Eastern Tea Association. The Assam Tea Planters' Association too refuted the findings.

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE: www.thehinduads.com 011-43579738 • 43579797

ANTHRO'22&'23

Admission Dates for Aug Batches OFFLINE: JULY 15 | ONLINE: JULY 18

For Details Visit Our Website www.vaidsics.com

youtube.com\c\vaidsicsdelhi



Interview ONLINE SESSIONS with Vaid Sir Pl Contact

VAID'S ICS, DELHI 0-9999901938

or Our YouTube Channel

PUBLIC NOTICE

I MR Salil Kumar Mukherjee 64–A, Poket–3, Mayur Vihar Phase –1. i lost my mutation paper from DDA, Request if anybody find this paper kindly contact in the mob no: 8287386189.

TENDERS SALE NOTICE

Nusturd Oil- Aprrox 11 MT lying at M/s Mother Dairy Fruit & Vegetable (P) Ltd.Anisabad, Patna Contact Person — Mr. Sunil- 7903014942 / 8697230833 , Mr. MF ISLAM — 9911003339 / PM of 16.07.2021 on your company's

@Support@Salvagemanagers.Com (Insurance Claim Material Will Be Sold On 'As Is 'Whatever There Is' And 'No Complaint' Basis).

terhead or via mail

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES



.SUNDARAI 02.07.1948 DOD:15.07.20 ondly Remembered By Padmini Sundaram (Wife Pradeep & Kavitha

044-24917515,

announcements in this section, please contact our

office at the following number between 10a.m. and 8p.m. New Delhi: 011-43579797

(Minimum Rs. 320/- 2 Lines Extra Line - Rs.160/-)

(B/W Display): Rs.60/Per Sq.cm

(Clr Display): Rs. 70/Per Sq.cm Log on to For Placing Advertisements

In memory of your loved ones To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:

011-43579797 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. & For Placing Advertisements Online log on to www.thehinduads.com

DONATE EYES-GIFT SIGHT



Government of Tamilnadu

Highways Department Trichy (H) NABARD and Rural Roads Circle

TENDER NOTICE Tender Notice No. 03 /2021-22 / SDO / Dated: 09.07.2021.

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamilnadu percentage tender (Two Cover System) will be eceived by the Superintending Engineer (H) NABARD & Rural Roads Circle Trichy for Upgradaion of Panchayat /Panchayat Union Roads (Two Road works) in respect of Thanjayur (H) NABARD & Rural Roads Division & (One Road Work) in respect of Nagapattinam (H) NABARD & Rural Roads Division upto 14:00 hours on 18.08.2021 through online only.

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from 23.07.2021 onwards in the Government website http://tntenders.gov.in. If any changes / Corrections etc in the tender, it will be published on the above website only. **Superintending Engineer (H)** DIPR/2071/Tender/2021 NABARD and Rural Roads Circle, Trichy

Children are expected to look after their parents: HC matter of a 76-year-old

CORRESPONDENT

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has observed that children are expected to look after their elderly parents properly, which is not only a value-based principle, but a bounden duty as enshrined in the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007.

The court's observations came during a

widow, who was ousted from her house by her son, who, by playing fraud with the mother, had transferred her house in his name and even assaulted her. Justices Augustine George Masih and Ashok Kumar Verma said: "The moral values that prevailed in society have been accepted as universal values. The State seeks to promote the common good through the Act."

'Boys, girls forced to undergo surgery' SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI

Less than a week after a kidney racket was unearthed in central Assam's Morigaon district, the police in Guwaa sex reassignment racket.

gery four months ago. hati claimed to have busted A team from the all-women police station arrested seven people on July 12 for "forcibly" converting males

and females into transgen-

This followed a complaint by a daily wager who said he was promised a job by a group in New Delhi but ended up in a hospital for a sur-

"Six of the seven arrested are women. Their identities have not been disclosed," Assistant Commissioner of Police (women unit) Bhanita Nath said. The police said the kingpin is Pinky, based in Assam's Hajo.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

.The Executive Engineer, Nerchowk Division, H.P.PWD., Nerchowk H.P on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the online bids on item rate in electronic tendering system in 2 cover system for the following work from the eligible and approved Contractors/Firms registered with H.P.PWD.

Sr No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD	Cost of Tender	Eligible class of contractor	Time limit
1.	Construction of Chandyal Pipli Kandi Tarapur Kharsi Mansa Mata Mandir Dola Tikkar road Km. 0/0 to 15/840. Under OTMNP (SH:- Providing and Laying WBM G-I in Km. 12/500 to 14/0).	Rs. 17,01,020/-	Rs. 34,000/-	Rs. 500/-	"C&D"	Three Months

HIMACHAL PRADESH

. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website http://hptenders.gov.inbidder would be required to register in the website which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder i required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). "Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWD may obtain the same from the website http://hptenders.gov.in Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidder already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in thi

. Key dates: 22-07-2021 at 11:30 A.M. Date of Online Publication Document Download Start and End Date 22-07-2021 at 11:30 A.M. up to 29-07-2021 at 10:30A.M. 3. Bid Submission Start and End Date 22-07-2021 at 11:30 A.M. up to 29-07-2021 at 10:30A.M. Date of technical bid opening 29-07-2021 at 11:30 A.M. 29-07-2021 at 11:00 A.M. Physical submission of original documents i/c original EMD & cost of tender documents etc

4. Tender Details:

The tender documents shall be uploaded on line in 2 cover i) Cover 1: shall contain scanned copies of all "Technical Documents Eligibility" information ii) Cover 2: shall contain "BOQ/Financial bid" where contractor will quote his offer for eac

. Submission of Original Documents: The bidders are required to submit (a) original deman draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security/Earnest money Deposit (EMD) and other Technical Documents with this office as specified in key dates a Sr. No. 5. failing which the bids will be declared non responsive.

Bid opening Detail: The bid shall be opened on 29-07-2021 at 11:30 HRs in the office of Executive Engineer, Nerchowk Division HP.PWD., Nerchowk. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bid as specified the bid will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

the deadline date for bid submission. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system wil attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender. **Executive Engineer**

HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

The bid for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 120 days after

Government of Jharkhand **Department of Transport** (Lead Agency, Road Safety)

CORRIGENDUM-I

(Reference PR No:- 247850) Memo No:- VLTD/vividh-41/2021-RS /263 Dated:-12/07/2021

Subject: Expression of Interest for Registration of AIS 140 Compliant Vehicle Location Tracking Device (VLTD) Manufacturers & RFC

With reference to the above mentioned subject Expression of Interest has been already published in newspaper via EoI No-VLTD/suchibaddh-29/2021-(R.S)-/216, Dated:-11/06/2021, last date for submission of EOI, Date of opening of EOI has been <u>extended as follows:</u>

1 Last Date/Time for Submission of EoI | 20.07.2021 at 05.00 pm 22.07.2021 at 12:00 pm 2 Date of Opening of EoI

Except above, remaining points will be same as per RFP Vide letter No-VLTD/suchibaddh-29/2021-(R.S)-216 Dated:-11/06/2021. For detailed information please visit www.jhtransport.gov.in. Sd/-

Joint Transport Commissioner (Road Safety) Lead Agency, Road Safety, Department of Transport, Jharkhand PR 249550(Transport)21-22*D

ANDHRA PRADESH CENTRAL POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED

Tender Notice No: CGM/PROJ/REC/SIP - 03/2021-22 Bids through apeprocurement.gov.in are invited from eligible bidders for Erection of 32 No. 33/11 KV outdoor sub-stations in Krishna, Guntur and Prakasam Districts of APCPDCL unde emi turnkey basis with Financial assistance from REC under System Improvement Projects (SIP) The Tender information will be made available in AP E-procurement Portal from 22.07.2021, 18:00 Hrs, Last date for Bid submission online is 09.08.2021, 15:30 Hrs

Now, sex reassignment

racket busted in Assam

SEARCH FOR MISSING FEMALE

General Public is hereby informed that one female (depicted in the photo) namely Geeta **D/o** Lt. Sh. Lekhraj **R/o** H. No. 31/149, Trilok Puri, Delhi Aged- 47 Years has been reported missing since 27.06.2021 at 7:00 AM from her house vide DD No. 54A Dated 27.06.2021 registered at Police Station Mayur Vihar Ph-1, Delhi. Her physical description is



Tel.: 011-28352010

Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 5'0", Face: Round, Built: Thin, ID: Mentally weak & burn mark or right knee & scar on forehead, **Wearing:** Pink coloured suit & salwar, yellow coloured chunni and pink coloured slipper in

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing female, may inform SHO, Mayur Vihar Ph-1, Delhi at E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in or website : http://cbi.nic.in Tele No.: 011-24368638 or 24368641 SHO, Mayur Vihar Ph-1, Delhi

FAX No.: 011-24368639 DP/588/ED/2021

28352011 JHARKHAND BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED CIN No. U40108JH2013SGC001702

Regd. Office: Engineering Building, H.E.C., Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004, Telephone: -0651-2400799 & Fax: 0651-2400799 / https://www.jbvnl.co.in 6th Extension Notice

Tender extension notice for NIT No. 303/PR/JBVNL/20-21 the date extension for above NIT is available on the site www.jharkhand.gov.in.

1		Tender extension notice for ivit ive	5. 303/1103DVIVE/20-21 the date extension for above								
Item No.: 1, Tender No. and Due	NIT is	available on the site www.jharkhand.go	ov.in.								
Date : 17205081 due on 26.07.2021,		A revisesd Date and Time for Bid Submission and Technical Bid Opening is a									
Existing Entry: Relay non AC Immune plug in type style QN1 DC	Sl. No.	Name of Work	Details								
Neutral line 24V, 8F-8B contacts. To read as: This tender is to be treated as cancelled.	1	Name of Work	Supply, Installation, Operation and FMS of AMI System for consumers having load above 10 KW in JBVNL. Estimated cost Rs. 20 Crores (Rs. Twenty Crores)								
Note: Above information may be seen on www.ireps.gov.in .	3	Last Date / Time for receipt of bids	27.07.2021 at 04:00 PM								
Dy. Chief Material Manager/Con, CPRO/S-26 Gorakhpur	4	Date and Time for Opening of Technical bid	27.07.2021 at 05:00 PM								
About any Passenger Amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No. 09794845955		त एवं राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचावें। कृपया अपनी ग्तों को टॉल फी नं० 1800 345 6570 पर दज									
Do not travel with inflammable article in train		करायें।	General Manager (11)								

About any Passenger Amenity complai SMS on Mob. No. 09794845955 **HP. PWD Division** Do not travel with inflammable article in train Nerchowk

North Eastern Railway

CORRIGENDUM Website: www.ireps.gov.in Dated: 13.07.202 Under noted amendment is hereby

made against Tender notice No. 01

PR No. 247662

dt. 01.07.2021 (Item No. 1).

PR 249538 Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd(21-22)D



task force for KRS safety

Sumalatha Ambareesh, Mandya MP, has reiterated her concern over the safety of Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) reservoir from the threat of illegal mining and called for the constitution of a task force to oversee its protection. She visited the dam built across the river Cauvery in Srirangapatana taluk on Wednesday and interacted with officials of the dam authorities and Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Ltd.

Sister Lucy may have to vacate convent, says HC

The Kerala High Court on Wednesday orally suggested to Sister Lucy Kalappura, who was expelled from the Franciscan Clarist Congregation, that she may have to vacate from the convent in Wayanad in view of her security. Appearing in person, the nun argued that if evicted, she had no place to go. Justice Raja Vijayaraghavan said the order of police protection granted last year could not continue

Bank security guard opens fire on employee

any longer if she intended to

continue at the convent.

A bank security guard allegedly opened fire on an employee and injured him at a commercial hub here on Wednesday after the latter repeatedly teased him over a period of time, police said. He fired three rounds, of which one round hit the man and two, the wall, a senior police official said. The injured man, an outsourced employee, was rushed to a nearby hospital by some of the bank staff members, police said. The man is out of danger. The security guard has been taken into custody, police said. PTI

A.P. govt. moves SC against Telangana

Andhra people deprived of their legitimate share of Krishna water for drinking and irrigation: petition

account of unconstitutional,

He urged women to say

'no' to marriages where the

groom's family demanded

dowry. The problem was not

confined to Kerala. The

State, with its admirable so-

cial indicators in literacy and

health, must take the lead in

ter a series of dowry deaths

were reported in the State.

His appeal comes days af-

fight against it, he said.

Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday approached the Supreme Court accusing neighbour Telangana of depriving its people of their legitimate share of Krishna water for drinking and irrigation.

Andhra Pradesh, represented by advocate Mahfooz A. Nazki, in a petition drawn by advocate G. Umapathy and settled by senior advocate Dushyant Dave, said Telangana was refusing to follow decisions taken on river water management in the Apex Council constituted under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act of 2014. It has also ignored the directions of the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB)

Varsities will seek

an undertaking

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Universities will be asked to

seek an undertaking from

students that they will not be

party to the crime of giving

or accepting dowry, Gover-

nor Arif Mohammed Khan

Students will be required

to give the undertaking be-

fore accepting their degrees

and diplomas, the Governor,

who is also the Chancellor of

universities, said while parti-

cipating in a fast organised

by Gandhian organisations

here against the practice of

be writing to Vice-Chancel-

lors seeking the introduc-

Mr. Khan said he would

from students

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

has said.



River of discord: A.P. has accused Telangana of illegally drawing Krishna water for hydel projects. • G.RAMAKRISHNA

constituted under the 2014 Act and directions of the

Say no to wedding if dowry

is sought, Governor tells girls

tion of this measure. The un-

dertaking would also

empower the university con-

cerned to cancel the degree

if it was found later that the

student had become party to

the crime of dowry, he said.

"A degree from an educa-

tional institution is not

meant to increase your price

in the marriage market," he

illegal and unjust acts on part of Telangana and its offi-Central government. "Fundamental rights, incials, resulting in the citizens cluding right to life of its citiof Andhra Pradesh being dezens, are being seriously imprived of their legitimate paired and infringed on share of water for drinking

Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan ending his fast along

with Gandhians in Thiruvananthapuram. • s. MAHINSHA

and irrigation purposes," the petition said.

The focus of the petition is a Telangana government order of June 28, 2021 notifying that "to tap more hydel generation in the State, the government has taken a decision to generate hydel power up to 100% installed capacity." The order directed the Telangana State Power Generation Corporation Limited (TSGENCO) to hence "generate the hydel power up to 100% installed capacity in the State."

Andhra Pradesh said the notification was issued only days after the Ministry of Jal Shakti in its June 17 communication to the Director (Hydel), TSGENCO, had urged the latter "to stop further release of water immediately through Srisailam Left Power House and follow the water release orders issued by the KRMB, except in case of extreme grid urgency.'

"The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh in this regard has written to the Prime Minister on July 1 and July 7, seeking his urgent intervention in view of serious threat to right to life of tens of millions of citizens of Andhra Pradesh," the petition noted.

The petition also blamed the Centre for not notifying the exact jurisdiction of the KRMB. "This is resulting in illegal acts on part of Telangana and its authorities, creating serious constitutional issues," the petition pointed

No new Zika virus cases reported in Kerala

But Health dept. braces for fresh cases

C. MAYA

Even as no new cases of Zika virus (ZIKV) infection were reported from the capital district or anywhere else in Kerala on Wednesday, the Health Department is bracing for fresh cases that may crop up from scattered locations the following days, given the phenomenal rise in vector density across

Now that clinicians are aware that cases with fever and rashes, which are negative for dengue and chikungunya (CHK), could be ZIKV, it is likely that more samples would reach the labs for testing in the coming days.

Health officials accompanying the Central team on field visits in the capital said Aedes (mosquito) density had reached explosive pro-

portions in many places. The reports from vector surveillance units in other districts were no different.

All health field staff have been fully engaged in CO-VID-related activities since the past one-and-half years to the exclusion of all other routine work, including vector control. The quiet arrival of Zika is just an example of how other diseases can silently take a foothold in the community when COVID-19 hogs all attention.

Meanwhile, the Health department has set up a Zika control room where the public can report their symptoms or clarify doubts. The Health Minister, who attended a review meeting, said containment measures had been launched as well as counselling for the

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at a few/ isolated places over Gujarat, Saurashtra & Kutch, sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Telangana, central Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, coastal Karnataka, Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Rajasthan, Bihar, Jharkhand, coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema

CITT	KAIN	IVIAA	IVIIIV	CITY	KAIN	IVIAA	IVIIIV
Agartala		35.6	27.0	Kozhikode	23	31.0	23.8
Ahmedabad		35.6	26.9	Kurnool	3	32.2	24.0
: Aizawl	62.8	26.7	19.5	Lucknow		37.5	28.2
Allahabad		38.2	28.6	Madurai		36.2	25.4
Bengaluru	9.2	25.4	20.5	Mangaluru	80	27.8	23.1
Bhopal	–	35.0	25.4	Mumbai	90	30.0	23.6
Bhubaneswar	0.3	32.6	25.5	Mysuru	5	26.0	25.0
Chandigarh	0.6	31.5	27.6	New Delhi	29	35.0	26.0
Chennai	3	34.3	27.2	Patna		36.0	27.5
Coimbatore	–	30.8	21.9	Port Blair		31.3	23.1
Dehradun	22.5	27.4	22.8	Puducherry		32.6	24.8
Gangtok	58	20.2	17.8	Pune		29.6	22.3
Goa	109	28.0	23.2	Raipur	15	31.5	25.5
Guwahati	25	31.1	23.9	Ranchi	14	29.6	22.1
Hubballi	–	23.0	22.0	Shillong	3	24.3	18.2
Hyderabad	30	28.6	21.6	Shimla	6	23.0	16.4
Imphal	18	27.4	21.0	Srinagar	1.3	26.7	18.9
Jaipur	–	37.4	27.9	Thiruvananthapuram.		31.9	24.2
Kochi	16	28.6	23.6	Tiruchi		34.5	26.2
Kohima	6	28.0	17.4	Vijayawada	37	30.8	24.8
Kolkata	1	33.9	27.2	Visakhapatnam	9	31.6	25.2
(Rainfall data	in mm;	temper	ature in	Celsius)			

ollulants in i	ille a	н уо	u are	Dreat	illig		
TIES	SO ₂	NO_2	co	PM2.5	PM10	CODE	
hmedabad	5	.15	118	83	91		
engaluru	.11		.92	27	43		
hennai	8	.43	.64	32	56		
elhi	7	.21	.48	63	.241		
yderabad		.60	.14	10	12		
olkata	9	.18	.17	23	36		
ucknow	2	.43	.75	76	96		
umbai	.47	.27	.34	26	29		
une	105	.20	.54	69	51		

4.00 p.m., Yamunanagar Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 200

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

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

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

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

NORTH & WEST

Maharashtra records 8,602 fresh COVID-19 cases Plan to link CSR funding with

State reports 6,067 recoveries; spike of 619 infections in Mumbai; 1,185 new cases in Pune district

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Maharashtra reported 8,602 new COVID-19 cases as opposed to 6.067 recoveries as the active case tally, which had dipped in the past few days, rose to 1,06,764.

However, the number of samples tested in the past 24 hours was low - just 1.76 lakh as opposed to the daily average of 2.30 lakh. A total of 170 deaths pushed the State's total death toll to 1,26,390, with the case fatality rate standing at 2.04%.

The total cases have reached 61,81,247, while cumulative recoveries have risen to 59,44,801, with the recovery rate at 96.17%, "Of 4,46,09,276 laboratory samples tested thus far, 61,81,247 (with the average case positivity falling to 13.86%) have returned positive with over 2.26 lakh samples being tested in the last 24 hours," said State Surveillance Officer Dr. Pradeep Awate.

Pune reported 1,185 new cases, taking its total cases to



after the State government eased lockdown restrictions. • PTI

10,71,296. As many as 16 deaths were reported as the total death toll rose to 17,551. As per district authorities, the active case tally stood at 9,600 while the total death toll has reached 18,129.

Mumbai reported 619 new cases to take its total case tally to 7,29,263 while the active cases stand at 11,088. As many as 10 fatalities took the city's death count to 15,654.

Kolhapur in western Maharashtra reported more than 1,600 new cases, taking its

total case tally to 1,78,558, of whom 11,784 are active. Thirty-one deaths saw the cumulative death toll rise to 5,128.

Satara reported 681 cases and 24 deaths as its total cases rose to 2,04,663, of whom 7.850 are active, while the death toll climbed to 4,939.

Neighbouring Sangli reported more than 900 new cases and 12 deaths. The total case tally stands at 1,68,225, with the active cases rising to 10,746, while its death toll reached 4,597.

'How many pilots used on Vande Bharat flights'

HC asks Centre to give count of those vaccinated

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday asked the Centre how many pilots were deployed on Vande Bharat flights to rescue Indian stranded abroad at the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak and how many hours they had flown. It also asked how many had been vaccinated so far.

A Division Bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice G.S. Kulkarni was hearing a petition filed by the Federation of Indian Pilots seeking compensation of

₹10 crore for the kin of pilots who died of COVID-19 on duty. It demanded that pilots be vaccinated and provided insurance cover.

Senior advocate Prasad Dhakephalkar, appearing for the petitioners, said at least 13 pilots had died due to COVID-19. Since pilots were frontline workers working through the pandemic, they should get vaccination and compensation on priority.

The Bench said, "We want to know how many pilots are yet to be vaccinated, how many are vaccinated, how many pilots are deployed on Vande Bharat flights...what were their duty hours and so on". It directed the federation to file an affidavit.

women entrepreneurship

Jaipur police's 'Nirbhaya Squad' would impart skills training

MOHAMMED IQBAL

A proposal to link the corporate social responsibility (CSR) funding by the private companies for education with the promotion of entrepreneurship among women is being considered in Raiasthan. The focus will be on developing entrepreneurial skills among young women in the rural areas to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 pandemic.

The all-women 'Nirbhaya Squad' of Jaipur police has expressed willingness to join a consortium of organisations to impart skills training to women at the grassroots. The Squad's nodal officer Sunita Meena said here on Wednesday that the CSR funding for education could be utilised for developing skills among young women in the villages and small towns to create livelihood opportunities for them.

"Digital skills training is the need of the hour for women, who should be encouraged to take up productive work and join the community efforts in the fields of healthcare, sanitation and hygiene," Ms. Meena said.

New avenues The CSR educational pro-

grammes should enable the women entrepreneurs to find new avenues through networking and diversification of work, she said.

The bike-borne Nirbhaya Squad was formed in 2019 with women constables trained in martial arts, who are deployed at schools, colleges, malls and bus stops to extend protection to women. The Squad took out flag marches during the pandemic and distributed sanitary pads free of cost in the containment zones in Jaipur.

Ms. Meena joined other experts at a virtual event here to recommend adopting new strategies to integrate skills and values with the career decision making process for women. Udaipurbased Narayan Seva Sansthan's president Prashant Agarwal said the CSR education sector could increase the availability of trained professionals through innovative programmes.

Goutam Sadhu, professor at School of Development Studies, Indian Institute of Health Management ResearchUniversity, said the corporates had geared up to meet the requirements of the CSR regime introduced in the Companies Act, 2013.

The maximum work under the CSR had covered the domains of education, skill development, poverty alleviation and health care, he

COVID patient on ventilator attacks doctor in Alibag

Doctor asked him to wear oxygen mask properly

RAINA ASSAINAR

The Alibag police have booked a 65-year-old CO-VID-19 patient from Lonere for assaulting a doctor at Alibag Civil Hospital on Wednesday. According to the police, the doctor, Swapandeep Thale (32), had repeatedly told the patient on ventilator support not to remove his oxygen mask. The patient had been admitted with an oxygen saturation level of 85 and it climbed to 92 after he was put on a ventilator.

The doctor even instructed a nurse to ask the patient to put on his mask. "Later, when the doctor was resting on his chair, with his eyes closed, the patient picked up a stand used for hanging saline bags and struck the doctor on the forehead. The doctor evaded a second blow and then a ward boy dragged the patient away. The doctor sustained injuries to the forehead and eyes," senior police inspector K.D. Kolhe from Alibag police station said.

'Fadnavis misled Assembly on SECC report' clarified the matter and gi-

Deliberate action by BJP leader, says Prithviraj Chavan

STAFF REPORTER MUMBAI

Leader of the Opposition Devendra Fadnavis misled the Maharashtra Assembly by claiming that the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC), 2011, had eight crore errors and 69 lakh were from the State alone, senior Congress leader and former chief minister Prithviraj Chavan said.

"The Lok Sabha Standing Committee on Rural Development, in its 27th report published in 2015-16, has ven the official statistics about the number of errors," Mr. Chavan said. "The data has been examined and 98.87% of individuals' caste and religion is error-free," he said, quoting the report. He accused the BJP leader of deliberately misleading the House and the public. The SECC, 2011, is a study

of the socio-economic status of rural and urban households, and allows ranking of households based on predefined parameters. It has three components that were conducted by three separate authorities, but under the coordination of the Department of Rural Development in the Union government. The Census in rural areas has been conducted by the Department of Rural Development, while the Census in urban areas is under the administrative jurisdiction of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation. The caste Census is under the administrative control of the Registrar-General of India and Census Commissioner of India, Ministry of Home Affairs.

Speaking on the issue of political reservation for Other Backward Classes inside the State Assembly, Mr. Fadnavis had on July 5 said,

"There are eight crore errors in the SECC, 2011 data and 69 lakh errors are from Maharashtra".

The report stated that the population of socio-economic castes was 118,64,03,770, of which the incidence of errors noted was 1,34,77,030. This means that only 1.13% of the data had some errors. The committee had asked

the Ministry to rectify these errors with the States. A Claims and Objections Tracking System was then set up. Uttar Pradesh resolved 2,09,182 complaints (0.22% of population), while Rajasthan resolved 45,550 complaints using the system.

Nerul; 10 labourers hurt

Scaffolding collapses in

They fell off 14-storey residential building

RAINA ASSAINAR

Ten labourers, working on water proofing and painting a 14-storey residential building in Nerul, sustained injuries on Wednesday after the scaffolding they were standing on collapsed.

"Of the 10 workers, two were on the 14th floor of Shailesh Towers in Sector 19 and sustained serious head injuries. They have internal bleeding. Three labourers have been discharged after primary treatment," senior

Shinde from Nerul police The police said the seriously injured have been

police inspector Shyam

identified as Riyad Ali (40) and Mohammad Mukhtar (24). All 10 workers were employees of Swaraj Construction based in Kandivli. **Contractor booked**

The police have booked the

contractor, Santosh Ramkote, for not providing the labourers with adequate safety equipment.



Ramping up supply

Spikes, dips in vaccination rates are normal, but India needs to guard against slackening

ess than a month after the Centre revised its vaccination policy and took over the responsibility of vaccine procurement from the States, old worries of a supply constraint appear to have resurfaced. The Centre's CoWIN database shows that the weekly pace of vaccination has declined to nearly 60% of what was seen in the week after June 21, causing several States, particularly in South India, to complain of a shortage. On June 21, the first day of the new policy, 91 lakh doses were administered and until June 27, it was about 4 crore. The period July 5-11 saw only 2.3 crore vaccine doses dispensed. The Centre's move to take over vaccine administration followed a chaotic April-May when the second wave roiled India with unprecedented ferocity. This was also the time that saw a surge in vaccine demand and the country being unable to deliver because of an underestimation of the need and demand. The heady week of June 21-27 saw 60 lakh vaccines a day becoming the norm. However, the last time India crossed that daily figure was July 3. At least 86 lakh doses have to be administered every day if all Indian adults are to be fully vaccinated by the year end. Beginning this week, the daily doses have again slipped to 30-40 lakh though this is better than in May when India struggled to provide even 20 lakh doses a day.

There are two major concerns with the slackening pace. One, India still has managed to inoculate only 33% of its adult population with at least one dose; just about 8% have been fully vaccinated. At this rate, it is impossible for the Centre to deliver on its stated goal of inoculating all Indian adults by the year end. Second, the signs are apparent everywhere of an uptick in cases. The U.S. – the only country with more cases than India – after a month of reporting less than 15,000 cases a day is now, like India, seeing over 40,000 cases a day. There has also been a rise there in daily deaths. A similar acceleration is also visible in the U.K. and both these countries have vaccinated a large fraction of their adults. India, while better off than in May, still averages about 800-1,000 deaths a day. So, it is far from being out of the woods even as economic activity appears to have near-normalised in many parts. The Centre continues to put the onus on States for planning but does not address a concern of inadequate Covaxin supplies. It has ordered at least eight crore doses since January but only 4.7 crore have been administered. The concerns over a third wave have been voiced but meaningful preparedness entails having enough vaccines. While daily vaccination rates will see spikes and dips, aggressive publicity measures and campaigns are necessary to boost vaccination, as was seen in end June. The Centre and States must work towards sprucing this up.

Showing the way out

Nepal has a new Prime Minister after the Supreme Court overrules Mr. Oli again

🛘 n what must be a *déjà vu* moment for outgoing Prime Minister K.P. Oli and President Bidya Devi Bhandari, ▲ the Supreme Court of Nepal set aside their dissolution, in May, of the House of Representatives. The apex court had in February overruled Mr. Oli's decision to dissolve the House in December 2020 as well. But this time, the ruling was more than just a rap on his knuckles. The judgment also paved the way for Sher Bahadur Deuba of the Nepali Congress to be appointed as Prime Minister after recognising his claim based on signatures of 149 lawmakers across different parties affirming their support. The five-member Constitutional Bench also provided the way out of the unending political deadlock in the House by allowing individual lawmakers to ignore their party whips during a trust vote that is a must win for Mr. Deuba. The inability of Mr. Oli and Mr. Deuba to win trust votes, prior to the dissolution decision by Ms. Bhandari, was because the support for them in the 275-member House divided both the ruling Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) (UML) and the Opposition Janata Samajwadi Party (JSP) as rebel lawmakers risked suspension. The court's decision earlier in the year to de-recognise the merged Nepal Communist Party was another factor too. Mr. Oli had minority support within the merged NCP, but his faction retained the endorsement of the bulk of the legislators in the de-merged UML. The rebels, led by Madhav Nepal and Jhala Nath Khanal, were limited to a smaller faction. The other component of the NCP, the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist-Centre), meanwhile endorsed Mr. Deuba's candidacy, while the JSP was split vertically, with the Mahantha Thakur-Rajendra Mahatoled faction supporting Mr. Oli as opposed to the Baburam Bhattarai-Upendra Yadav-led faction.

It remains to be seen whether the lawmakers will now vote based on their individual agency with the fear of suspension gone. There is no guarantee that Mr. Deuba will win a trust vote as he must secure the support of the rebel factions within the UML and the JSP. The Madhav Nepal-led faction, which has not endorsed Mr. Oli and welcomed the judgment, has also been a mercurial force undecided on joining hands with the Opposition in this new situation. Nevertheless, this is a blow to Mr. Oli whose brinkmanship and authoritarian tendencies have come at a difficult time for Nepalis reeling from the COVID-19 outbreak. It is also a stinging rebuke to Ms. Bhandari whose actions as President rubber stamping her former party colleague Mr. Oli's decisions have called into question her role as a constitutional functionary. Mr. Deuba has his task cut out, but a firm message of unity and consultative governance can bring about political stability, something that has long eluded Nepal during both its constitutional monarchy and its republican periods.

Making welfare conditional is a stamp of coercion

A simple reading of U.P.'s draft population control law is that it will grossly impinge on the right to reproductive freedom



SUHRITH PARTHASARATHY

n Sunday, the government of Uttar Pradesh released a "Population Policy" which it stated its intention to bring the gross fertility rate in the State down from the existing 2.7 to 2.1 by 2026. To achieve this, the government says it will consider the enactment of a new piece of legislation. One such law that might be on the anvil is an ominous proposal released just days earlier by the Law Commission (https://bit.ly/3xGH2TF).

Incentives and disincentives This draft law, titled the Uttar Pradesh Population (Control, Stabilisation and Welfare) Bill, 2021, seeks to provide not only a series

of incentives to families that adhere to a two-child norm, but also intends on disentitling families that breach the norm from benefits and subsidies. These recommendations are rooted in a culture of coercion. They are also steeped in myth. Experiences from across the world demonstrate that laws of this kind simply do not work. They invariably instil an attitude of discrimination, with a burden imposed disparately on the most vul-

nerable groups in society. The draft Bill echoes the U.P. government's new policy in claiming that the State's ecological and economic resources are limited. According to it, unless population growth is regulated, the State will be unable to guarantee the provision of basic rights to all citizens. It also invokes some of the nowusual buzzwords: sustainable development, it says, cannot be achieved without government-imposed birth control.

To these ends, the draft postulates an array of measures. It promises public servants who undergo sterilisation and adopt a two-child norm several benefits. These include two increments during their service, subsidy towards the purchase of a house, maternity, or paternity leave, with full salary and allowances, as the case may be, for up to 12 months, and free health care and insurance coverage for the spouse.

This is as far as the "incentives" go. The draft Bill also contains a list of punishments. It terms these euphemistically as "disincentives". A person who breaches the two-child norm will be debarred from securing the benefit of any government-sponsored scheme and will be disqualified from applying to any State government job. Existing government employees who infringe the rule will be denied the benefit of promotion. And last, transgressing individuals will be prohibited from contesting elections to local authorities and bodies.

It is worth pondering over whether regulation of population is necessary at all. But assuming such regulation is a legitimate governmental aim, the first question that we must ask of the new proposal is: why. After all, experiences from other States in India show us that there are more efficacious and alternative measures available to control the growth of population, including processes aimed at improving public health and access to education.

Indeed, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare conceded as much before the Supreme Court late last year. Through an affidavit filed in court, the central government argued that "international experience shows that any coercion to have a cy partakes different connota-

certain number of children is counter-productive and leads to demographic distortions". The Government further confirmed that India was committed to its obligations under international law, including the principles contained in the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action, 1994.

Pledge on right

Foremost in those principles was a pledge from nations that they would look beyond demographic targets and focus instead on guaranteeing a right to reproductive freedom. Since then, in India, the Supreme Court of India has recognised this right as an inalienable promise. In Suchita Srivastava & Anr vs Chandigarh Administration (2009), the Court found that a woman's freedom to make reproductive decisions is an integral facet of the right to personal liberty guaranteed by Article 21. "It is important," the Court wrote, "to recognise that reproductive choices can be exercised to procreate as well as to abstain from procreating".

This ruling was endorsed by the Supreme Court's nine-judge Bench verdict in K.S. Puttaswamy vs Union of India (2017). A reading of the plurality of opinions there shows us that the Constitution sees a person's autonomy over her body as an extension of the right to privacy. In his judgment, Justice D.Y. Chandrachud held that priva-

tions. These include decisional autonomy, which comprehends, among other things, liberty over "intimate personal choices such as those governing reproduction". Justice S.K. Kaul similarly declared in his separate judgment that the right to procreation was an important constituent of "the privacy of the home".

Like all other fundamental rights, the right to privacy is not boundless. But, as Puttaswamy clarifies, any restriction placed on the right must conform to a doctrine of proportionality. This requires first, that the limitation be rooted in statute; second, that the state show us that the objective of its law is founded on a legitimate governmental aim; third that there are no alternative and less intrusive measures available to achieve the same objective; and fourth, that there exists a rational connection between the limitation imposed and the aims of the statute. The logic here is simple: in pursuing public interest, it is essential that governments ensure that individual liberties are encroached upon to the lowest degree possible. A simple reading of U.P.'s draft law will show us that, if enacted, it will grossly impinge on the right to reproductive freedom. The government will likely argue that there is no violation of privacy here because any decision on sterilisation would be voluntary. But, as we ought to by now know, making welfare conditional is a hallmark of coercion. If we want the idea of India as a welfare state to mean something, the right to access basic goods cannot be made provisional on a person sacrificing

her bodily autonomy. By all accounts, therefore, the proposed law will fall foul of a proportionality analysis. If nothing else, the Union government's concession in the Supreme Court demonstrates that there are several available to regulate population.

Negative consequences

But the new proposal is also worrying because it is likely to bring with it a host of other deleterious consequences.

For instance, an already skewed sex ratio may be compounded by families aborting a daughter in the hope of having a son with a view to conforming to the two-child norm. The law could also lead to a proliferation in sterilisation camps, a practice that the Supreme Court has previously deprecated. In Devika Biswas vs Union of India (2016), the Court pointed to how these camps invariably have a disparate impact on minorities and other vulnerable groups.

As is so often the case with bad laws in India, though, this draft Bill may find support from some past judgments of the Supreme Court. In this case, the Government may point to the judgment in Javed & Ors vs State of Haryana & Ors (2003), where the Court upheld a law that disqualified persons with more than two children from contesting in local body elections. But not only is the present proposal far more disproportionate - in that it virtually sanctions civil death for those that violate the norms it fixes - the judgment in Javed can no longer be seen as good law.

For one thing, its reasoning flies in the face of Puttaswamy. But as rousing as the nine-judge Bench verdict is, its legacy depends on how its findings are applied. For the judgment to have tangible value and meaning, any law of this kind, which invades upon our most personal and ethical choices, must be seen as repugnant to the Constitution.

Suhrith Parthasarathy is an advocate

Five years later, Brexit continues to divide

The Brexiteers who forecast a clean break with the European Union underestimated many key issues



KRISHNAN SRINIVASAN & JULIUS FEIN

he British referendum five years ago was supposed to settle the United Kingdom's historical love-hate relationship with Europe, but while the full consequences of Brexit will not be analysed for decades, the U.K. remains as divided as ever, and the way people voted in 2016 forms a large part of their identity. The referendum dominates British politics as the most significant event since the Second World War, resulting in two general elections, ousting two premiers and threatening the political geography of

Loose ends

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson needed a rapid departure from the European Union (EU), and the Withdrawal and Trade and Cooperation Agreements of December 2020 were rushed through. Problems were soon apparent. The U.K. imports 70% of

the fish it consumes; the industry only contributes 0.12% of GDP and employs 0.1% of the workforce (https://bit.ly/3i7emwG), but has political traction. In May, after 60 French fishing boats massed to blockade Jersey over fishing rights, naval units from both Britain and France deployed off Jersey, a farcical reminder of the loose ends of Britain's exit from the EU.

Case of Northern Ireland

but in the EU's single market, and therefore obliged to follow EU rules, is another case in point. The EU's external border would be in the Irish Sea between Britain and Northern Ireland, and goods for Northern Ireland would need to be inspected there, which is politically untenable for the U.K. The alternative would be that the EU would itself impose inspections to protect its single market and structure a border either on the island of Ireland or between Ireland and the EU, which are both equally unfeasible.

Tensions predictably arose between Britain and the EU over the import of chilled meat products from Britain to Northern Ireland, with Britain seeking an extension of the transition arrangements from June 30 by three months. No



ing solution. It seems Britain is questioning Brexit agreements rather than following them, while boasting about its COVID-19 immunisation compared to the EU and the success of the City of London in maintaining its status against hostile EU legislation and incentives for banks to move to European capitals. To supporters of Brexit, it looked as if the EU wanted to punish Britain for leaving, if only to discourage its other members from doing the same. Thus, after membership of the EU for almost 50 years, mutual trust is lacking, and two versions of a rulesbased order are colliding. This was apparent during the G-7 summit, when bilateral meetings between Mr. Johnson and EU leaders lacked warmth. The EU conceded the Northern Ireland postponement and persuaded its member States, especially France and Germany that are losing patience with Bri-

tain, to avoid a trade war over British sausages. Such recriminations may become a permanent feature of U.K.-EU relations as a small nation plays a poor hand against the world's largest trading bloc while seeking trade deals with distant countries, which even official forecasts suggest will produce negligible benefits.

Scotland's calculations

In Scotland, the National Party, which seeks an exit from the U.K. has grown in popularity since the Brexit vote. Scots voted in the referendum by 62% against 38% to remain in the EU, but were dragged out by the overall result. For many Scots, leaving the U.K. is the clearest path back to the EU, and anticipate that among other benefits, the EU will grant Scotland least developed status and subventions on the scale enjoyed by the Irish Republic. This is as much an anti-Westminster stance as an effort to ioin the EU since the chances of an independent Scotland jumping the queue of EU applicants and of all member States approving Scottish membership are not great. Nevertheless, the prospect of a break-up of the United Kingdom is of grave concern to London. Meanwhile, a vote on reunification

in Ireland seems more probable

now than at any time since the Good Friday Agreement of 1998 which brought an uneasy peace to fratricidal factions in the North.

In perspective

The International Monetary Fund warned that the British economy faced a 10% GDP decline in 2020 (https://bit.ly/3raZXUs) In first quarter 2021, food and drink exports to the EU declined by nearly 50% (https://bit.ly/3yUvj41) and export of services also shrank. At least 500 British companies have relocated to Europe (https:// bit.ly/3ejG746). The Brexiteers who forecast a clean break with the EU either underestimated or ignored the practical inconveniences of leaving, including the vast paperwork involved in exporting and importing with the EU, but the success of British CO-VID-19 vaccination compared with the EU's bungled efforts has enabled Brexiteers to claw back some

In sum, most people have accepted Brexit though few are satisfied with the divorce settlement. No version of Brexit will satisfy everyone, and it has left the United Kingdom less united.

Krishnan Srinivasan is a former Foreign Secretary. Julius Fein is a British historian

$LETTERS\ TO\ THE\ EDITOR\ \ \text{Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.}$

The report that vaccination has declined substantially as States say that they have no doses is disturbing (Page 1, July 14). The only way to battle the novel coronavirus is through complete vaccination. With lockdowns being lifted, and the threat of a third wave looming large in the backdrop of new variants, is India really prepared? If lessons have not been learnt from the tragic aftermath of the second wave, then it is clear that we, as a nation, have not learnt anything. In the months ahead, which will be marked by a series of festive events, all-out efforts are required to ensure that the situation does not get out of hand. BALASUBRAMANIAM PAVANI,

Visuals of the suffering during the second wave are still fresh in our minds. The State and central

governments should do their bit in ensuring that COVID-19 appropriate behaviour is the norm. The penalties for violations can help to change the situation to some extent. The State of Uttarakhand has done well to cancel the Kanwar Yatra, which would have been another super spreader event. All types of gatherings should be curtailed by the authorities for at least six months. It is a collective responsibility to combat the pandemic especially when vaccine stocks are running low. Dr. D.V.G. SANKARARAO Nellimarla, Andhra Pradesh

■ The report is disheartening as it must be read in conjunction with the Centre's grand plan to fully vaccinate the country by December. The tall claims of vaccination availability have now fallen like a pack of cards. Urgent measures must be initiated by the Government, especially after the new Minister of Health

has taken charge. If we need to curb the third wave, only mass vaccination can prevent an upsurge. Dr. Jayasekharan V.P., Payyanur, Kannur, Kerala

■ It is not only a shortage of vaccines but also vaccine hesitancy, especially among marginalised sections, that needs immediate attention. The Governor of Telangana has done her bit by getting herself vaccinated at a tribal settlement. The ball has been set rolling and government officials must keep the momentum going . Film stars and local leaders should also take the lead. P. SATYA LAKSHMI, Secunderabad

Back to school

The writers of the article, "Prioritising school reopening on the road to recovery" (Editorial page, July 13), have marshalled solid facts on the need to reopen schools especially as, in the context of many parts

of India, the prolonged shutdown has impacted the nutritional needs of children. But a via-media solution is needed. First, the Union government can expedite its approval for vaccination of the age group 12-15. The Government can explore the possibility of giving options to parents for online learning or in-person schooling. Parents, particularly in the rural areas, may prefer in-person schooling as many of them have to go out to work. The Government could also introduce a shift system. For example, if there are six sections in a class, three sections may be operated on a rotational basis. Online learning for an indefinite period is clearly no substitute for in-person schooling. Constant exposure to electronic devices can affect the child's health while "in-house incarceration" may end up causing obesity and other serious health issues. It also

deprives children of social

skills. 'Back to school' should be the norm after observing COVID-19 appropriate protocols. V.N. GOPAL,

EV policy With Maharashtra unveiling its new Electric Vehicle (EV) policy in an attempt to go green, one can observe the similarities with the Norwegian government's EV road map. Norway's plug-in car segment has been at the top of its game mainly because of policy incentives, tax redemptions and the role of dedicated EV NGOs. Although Maharashtra has drawn fine inspiration from the same, it is crucial to note the vast differences in the population, area and market share between India and Norway. Hence, we must tread the EV path carefully and apply policies that are suitable to the Indian geopolitical scenario. RUJUTA ASHTEKAR,

Thane, Maharashtra

Yashpal Sharma In the passing of Yashpal

Sharma, India has lost a doughty cricketer ('Sport' page, July 14). It was his performances in the 1983 World Cup that stood out. I remember his innings in the semi-final against England and being stunned by his outrageously imperious and dismissive flick for six off the bowling of Bob Willis. More than anything else,

perhaps that shot epitomised the self-belief and confidence that this young team had in itself. I also recollect that just before the semi-final, one of the English commentators said, "India is going to meet England in the semi-final and that's a bit of luck for England." That shot of Sharma's was a fitting reply to the rather parochial observation of the commentator. V.V. KOUSHIK,

Chennai

People's voice and Kashmir's future

The all-party conference failed because it completely ignored Kashmiri sentiments



The all-party conference on Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) revealed the failure of the strategy crafted by the Government of India. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has long urged the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution. But the constitutional coup went miles beyond that. It abrogated Article 35A as well, broke up the State of J&K by lopping off Ladakh, and reduced the rest to a Union Territory. It is unthinkable that any other State would have received the treatment meted out to J&K whose 'special status' was an eyesore.

But the elephant in the room was the law on delimitation of the constituencies. It trumpeted the real object of the coup loud and clear, which was to wipe out the political set-up in J&K and establish a new political order. To accomplish this, virtually the entire political class of Kashmir had to be put out of action, the press muzzled, assemblies banned, tourists given marching orders, schools and colleges shut, and electronic communications suspended.

Abrogation of Article 370

Article 370 cannot be abrogated even by Parliament, let alone by the President. Even the letter of Article 370 bars that. But there is a profound reason which fundamentally bars such a result. To cite an example, insurgency erupted in Mizoram on February 28, 1966. The Mizo National Front (MNF) led by Laldenga began an armed insurgency and declared independence the next day. On June 30, 1986, the Mizoram Accord was signed. It said: "Notwithstanding anything contained in the Constitution, no Act of Parliament in respect of (a) Religion or social practices of the Mizos, (b) Mizo customary law or procedure, (c) Administration of civil and criminal justice involving decisions according to Mizo customary law, (d) Ownership and transfer of land, shall apply to the State of Mizoram unless the Legislative Assembly of Mizoram by a resolution so decides." On February 20, 1987, the 53rd Constitution Amendment came entries in the Central List were ap-



into force inserting Article 371G which reads thus: "Notwithstanding anything in this Constitution, no Act of Parliament in respect of (i) Religious or social practices of the Mizos. (ii) Mizo customary law and procedure, (iii) Administration of civil and criminal justice involving decisions according to Mizo customary law, (iv) Ownership and transfer of land, shall apply to the State of Mizoram unless the Legislative Assembly of Mizoram by a resolution so decides.

The two are identically worded because Article 371G gives legal force to an accord between the Union and the MNF. Parliament cannot repeal it or even amend it unilaterally.

Article 370 stands on a higher footing. It gives legal force to an accord between the Union and a State of the Union and the parleys were held by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and his deputy, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. They began at Patel's residence on May 15, 1949 and ended in mid-October with an agreed text. But it was moved in an altered form in the Constituent Assembly on October 17, 1949 by N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar in the absence of Sheikh Abdullah who happened to be in the lobby. He rushed to the House.

Article 370 made Kashmir's Constituent Assembly the sole authority to accord consent to any addition to the Centre's power and to further extension to Kashmir of India's Constitution. The Assembly first met on October 31, 1951 and was formally dissolved on November 17, 1956. Article 370 enabled the State government to accord its concurrence only subject to J&K's Constituent Assembly's concurrence. This was abused to make the State government and even the Governor alone to be the consenting authority.

The result? Ninety-four of the 97

plied to Kashmir leaving a balance of three. So much for the 'special status'. The Constitution is studded with 'special' provisions for Nagaland, Assam, Manipur, Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, and Goa (Article 371A-1). Kashmir had an elected Sadr-E-Riyasat. The Centre replaced him with a

Governor it nominated.

We have high legal authority for challenging the 'laws' of August 5, 2019. After the First World War, countries of the British Empire were restive about their independence. In 1926, the Earl of Balfour devised a formula which pleased all. The autonomy of those countries was recognised simultaneously with their loyalty to the British Crown. This was incorporated in the Statute of Westminster passed in 1931 by the British Parliament. It said that no law it passed would extend to the Dominions unless they had so wished (Section 4). In 1935, the Privy Council ruled that "the Imperial Parliament could, as a matter of abstract law, repeal or disregard Section 4 of the Statute. But that is theory and has no relation to realities. In truth, Canada is in enjoyment of the full scope of selfgovernment" (British Coal Corporation v. The King).

Areas of 'special status'

Areas of 'special status' abound the world over. Scotland joined England in 1707 to form Great Britain. It held a referendum on its independence without its being called 'treason'. Quebec held two referenda on secession in 1980 and 1995. All three

For historic reasons, the Germanmajority South Tyrol is partly Italy. Its autonomy is guaranteed by an Austro-Italian accord. The Swedishmajority Aaland Islands are Finnish

The autonomy of both territories (Aaland Islands and South Tyrol) is internationally guaranteed.

Indonesia quelled militancy in Aceh by an accord on August 15, 2005 based on "special autonomy". Newfoundland signed the Terms of Union with Canada on December 11, 1948 after a referendum. Denmark conferred home rule on Greenland in 1979. On June 12, 2009, Denmark enacted an Act on Greenland Self-Government to confer greater power than that of our States.

Fifty years ago, Sheikh Abdullah told former Foreign Secretary Y.D. Gundevia, "Only that person who enjoys the confidence of the Government of India can be Chief Minister of Kashmir". A 'special status' worse than, say, Kerala or Tamil Nadu, which can have Chief Ministers that the Centre does not approve of.

The Supreme Court's record on Kashmir is uninspiring. The matter is too politicised. The petitions must be withdrawn in favour of a political, peaceful, constitutional approach. The Gupkar Declaration of August 4, 2019 must be amplified in a Convention.

On July 9, 1953 Maulana Azad offered to Sheikh Abdullah that the Government of India "is willing to declare that the special position given to Kashmir will be made permanent without any conditions". Abdullah replied on July 16, "If such a declaration had been earlier, it would have strengthened my hands". Now, "if I fail to gain the confidence of my people here, I will not be able to render my service to my friends." The people matter more than they did in 1953. Statesmanship lies in crafting a solution acceptable to them.

Time is running out. The Delimitation Commission visited Kashmir to fulfil the vision of the BJP's Vision Document – more seats for Jammu. A lot depends on the statesmanship of Farooq Abdullah, Mehbooba Mufti and Mirwaiz Mohammad Umar Faroog. Their objectives should be twofold: to work for the restoration of Kashmir's identity and pride and help to complete the four-point formula which former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and former Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf had built four-fifth. The all-party conference failed because it ignored Kashmiri sentiments

territory under an accord of 1921. A.G. Noorani is a constitutional expert

35

30

25

20

15

10

2015

No pseudoscience, please

Astrology exploits the vulnerability of the human mind and should not be taught as a mainstream course by universities



HAMID DABHOLKAR

The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) is India's premier national institute for improving access to education. Recently, IGNOU launched a degree course in astrology. This obsession with astrology is not a new phenomenon in a country which recently sent a spacecraft in orbit around Mars. A similar decision was taken by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government in 2001, which was withdrawn after widespread opposition. In

this context, all the citizens of this country who are concerned about the status of education and the role of scientific temperament in education need to take a stance about this deci-

Content of syllabus Let us start by examining what is

covered by the IGNOU syllabus.

Even a casual look at the syllabus gives us an understanding of the unscientific nature of the course. The syllabus includes the study of horoscopes, which are determined by the state of different planets at the time of our birth and which apparently impact all the things that we do throughout our life. It also includes how to decide on an auspicious time for initiating a specific task. It claims to train its students in how to nullify the ill effects occurring due to specific problems in their horoscope. The range of problems for which astrology can offer solutions has no limit. It provides solutions on when one needs to apply for a job to ensure a good result to even determining the time a nation has to take a decision to start a war!

Let us try and evaluate the three basic assumptions of astrology on which this syllabus is based. The first assumption is that the planets around us in the universe have a continuous effect on human life. The second assumption is that the result depends on the time of birth of the person and the third assumption is that the future of a person depends on all this and can be changed by solutions offered by an astrologer. Let us now look at the main objections by

astronomy (the science of the universe) to these assumptions. As per astrology, nine Navagrahas affect our lives. All of us know that four of these Navagrahas are not even grahas (planets). The sun is not a planet but a star. The moon is the natural satellite of the

Oils and fats

earth. Rahu and Ketu, which are claimed to be the most dangerous planets in astrology, are not even planets but points of intersection of the paths of the sun and the moon. The Milky Way, in which the sun and solar system are included, has countless stars other than the sun. It is not very difficult to appreciate how unscientific and potentially dangerous it will be to allow something like astrology as a mainstream course.

Next, let us look at the time of birth. The nature of a horoscope is dependent on the time of one's birth. And the time of birth used for this purpose by astrology is the time when the baby takes the first breath outside the mother's womb. Modern science tells us that the baby is actually born when the sperm and ovum come together to form the embryo, and it grows for the next nine

> months through different stages. How do all these Navagrahas not have any impact on the baby when it is inside the mother's womb and start affecting it only when it comes out? Astrologers have no answer. It is a simple observation that thousands of children are born in the world every second and their futures are not the same. What will be in their ho-

roscope when a human being gives birth to a baby, say, on the moon or Mars tomorrow? The most serious effect of depending on astrology is that it takes human agency out of

Science and pseudoscience

While we are on the path to astrology, Elon Musk, an American businessman, has started a project to humanise Mars under the SpaceX mission. The robotic rovers sent by NASA to Mars are collecting information and sending it back to earth. Stephen Hawking stated that the search for a habitable planet like earth in the universe should be the priority of astronomical research. Against this background, one needs to learn to differentiate between astrology, which is a pseudoscience, and astrophysics, which is a robust scientific discipline. Astrology exploits the vulnerability of the human mind while people face uncertainty. On the other hand, astrophysics depends on the core scientific principles of precise observations, hypothesis, experimentation and results based on all these. In an era where pseudoscience has started becoming the new normal, it's our responsibility as citizens to oppose such decisions and demand the withdrawal of such a

Hamid Dabholkar is a psychiatrist and member of the rationalist movement, Maharashtra Andhashraddha

The Man Kindu.

(From an Editorial)

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 15, 1971

Family planning in China

When the Chinese communists first came to

power, they argued that China as a socialist

State had no need to worry about the popu-

lation problem. But a more sober attitude

has prevailed since the collapse of the "great

leap forward" in 1958 and to-day the two-

child family is advocated, with the right age

for marriage fixed at 25 for women and 28

for men. It this ideal is realised, a stable pop-

ulation would result. China-watchers based

in Hongkong have estimated China's popula-

tion at 830 millions in 1970 and the crude

birth and death figures at 43 and 21 per thou-

sand, yielding a growth rate of 2.2 per cent.

Even this would mean that China would

reach the billion mark by 1980 and 1.6 billion

by the end of the century. Mr. Edgar Snow,

the American writer and friend of Mao Tse-

tung, has reported after another visit to Chi-

na recently that the present population is so-

mewhere between 750 and 800 millions and

that the rate of growth is about 2 per cent.

The Chinese planners hope to cut the rate to

one per cent, though even this would yield a

billion-strong population by 2000 A.D.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 15, 1921

Education of Depressed classes.

We have received a copy of the handbook on

the education of Depressed classes in My-

sore published by the Inspector-General of

education in the State. The book is intended

Awards cannot be doled out

Care needs to be taken to ensure that only those deserving of awards receive them

M.P. NATHANAEL

The Delhi Chief Minister recently wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging him to consider awarding an "Indian Doctor" the Bharat Ratna, the country's highest civilian honour. "By an 'Indian doctor', I mean the entire medical community all doctors, nurses and paramedics should be given the award, collectively," he wrote. He requested the Prime Minister to change the rules if the current rules do not permit conferment on any group as such.

While this is a great gesture, changing the rules would open a Pandora's box and erase the sanctity attached to this prestigious award. There is no doubt that doctors need to be honoured for their relentless and dedicated service during the pandemic. But there were many who also fleeced patients and the kin of the deceased by exploiting their helplessness and desperation. Many private hospitals charged exorbitant amounts for treatment. Should these plunderers also be grouped with those who worked selflessly and be part of the honour?

Paying compensation

Rather than eulogising their services, the Chief Minister could have at least ensured that the doctors and nurses were paid their salaries on time. Several doctors and nurses went on strike because they were not paid. According to the Indian Medical Association, 798 doctors died in the second wave. With Delhi recording the highest number of such fatalities (128 doctors), the Chief Minister should have paid an ex gratia amount of ₹1 crore to each of them. The Delhi government had, in April 2020, announced ₹1 crore in ex gratia for families of front-line workers who die of the infection while on duty. But most of the families of the doctors have not been paid. Nor have the kin of policemen who died of the infection while on duty. The wife of a deceased constable knocked on the doors of Delhi High Court claiming the promised amount. The hearing is scheduled for July 28.

rendered yeoman service during the (Retd), CRPF

pandemic, other front-line workers, including the police, too contributed at grave risk to their lives.

Meanwhile, while the local courts in New Delhi have reprimanded the Delhi Police for their handling of the riots and fined them ₹25,000 for mishandling of cases related to the riots, 25 personnel of the Delhi Police have staked their claim for the President's Police Medal for Gallantry, citing their role in the Delhi riots last year. Among them is the then Deputy Commissioner of Police, Ved Prakash Surya, who was seen standing next to BJP leader Kapil Mishra when Mr. Mishra was delivering a controversial speech a day before the riots broke out. Even the Joint Commissioner of Police has entered the fray.

Choosing the awardees

Every individual will exaggerate his role in the riots to stake his claim. Much would depend on the projection of the individual's role in a manner that would be convincing enough to consider the case for award of a medal. In such rigmarole, the possibility of the wrong persons getting awarded cannot be ruled out. The deserving ones who are left out get demoralised and shy away from exposing themselves to risk.

According to a senior official of Delhi Police, a high-powered committee of senior officials goes through every case thoroughly. Depending on the degree of bravery displayed by each, a few are recommended for the gallantry medals while others are recommended for the Police Commissioner's Commendation Disc.

There is always a proclivity for officers to garner gallantry medals as these carry monthly allowances and other perks such as free travel by train with a companion and even a rent-free landline telephone. Officers cannot operate in isolation and they are accompanied by their subordinates. Utmost care needs to be taken to ensure that the deserving among the lower ranks are not left out when they have displayed bravery in dealing with unruly elements at grave risk to their own lives.

While doctors and paramedics M.P. Nathanael is Inspector General of Police

DATA POINT

A bill of health 6.26% in June 2021, above the RBI's upper limit for the second consecutive month. A sharp surge in the cost of edible oils (34.7% y-o-y increase in June) followed by significant increases in the prices of egg, fuel and light,

fruits, and transportation contributed to the high inflation in June. In parallel, health costs expanded too, especially during the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. Health inflation increased to 8.4% and 7.7% in May and June 2021, respectively, from 3.8% in December 2019. A closer look at the health sub-group points to a consistent increase in the prices of medicines (8.6% y-o-y increase in June), medical tests (6.2%), hospital charges (5.9%), and consultation fees (4.5%). Health expenditure increased the most in Telangana and least in Kerala. By Vignesh Radhakrishan,

Sumant Sen and Jasmin Nihalani

Bihar

M.P Chhattisgarh T.N.

Uttarakhand

West Bengal

Maharashtra

Himachal

Haryana

Gujarat

Assam Odisha

Jharkhand

Karnataka

Rajasthan Kerala

Andhra

Delhi

Punjab

items listed under the health sub-group. While the prices of most medical items increased, the cost of spectacles _____ increased the most (9.6% y-o-y) in June Other medical expenses € 2 Medical tests Hospitalisation expenses <u>-</u>E-2 Family planning consultation fee June 2020 Aug. '20 Oct. '20 Dec. '20 Feb. '21 April '21 June '21

2. HEALTH COSTS | The chart plots the inflation rates for all the

3. STATE-WISE DATA | The graph shows the % growth in the health inflation index in June 2021 compared to June 2019 across rural Ourban and all regions of select States. In this period, health inflation increased to 23% in Telangana and only 7.9% in Kerala, which was the lowest among the States with relevant data J&K

report said this increased health expense will "also result in a squeeze in expenditure on other items of discretionary consumption". The report also argued for a better way to measure inflation during a pandemic given the changes in the spending pattern of consumers during a health crisis Health expenditure estimate (₹ crore) **Price effect** (impact of inflation) | 15,000 Quantity effect (impact of hospitalisation) Income effect (impact of 16,000 reduced income) Total impact due to increased 66,000 health expenditure Health expenditure in FY20 6,00,000 Total impact as % of health expenditure the growth in health inflation was higher in urban areas compared to rural parts

inflation in June. Apart from edible oils and fats, and eggs and fuel, the prices of fruits (11.8% y-o-y increase in June), clothing and footwear (6.2%), and household goods and services (5.8%) contributed to the rise +19.3% Fuel and light +12.6% 2016 2018 2019 2021

The chart plots the inflation rates of

select groups and sub-groups which

4. COVID-19 IMPACT | According to SBI Research, the total health expenditure is likely to increase by ₹66,000 crore due to COVID-19, which is 11% of the health expenditure incurred in FY20. The

to serve as a guide to departmental officers and to others who are interested in the question. The theory that the average Depressed class boy is inherently backward in receiving education is refuted as a mere fiction and

the argument is advanced that given the necessary help, sympathy, opportunity and the special handling that is essential in view of the ages of enforced illiteracy through which he has passed, he can successfully compete with the rest in the end. "What is necessary is to awaken him from his lethargy so far as education is concerned, wean him from the evil habits that are more often the effects rather than causes of his degradation, and raise him from the mental dependency to which has has sunk for want of op-

portunity and encouragement for generations, in short to give him a moral and mental tone in keeping with the physical that is in him and to get him to face life with faith in himself and his future."

This pdf was originally uploaded to Brills Express Official (https://t.me/The_Hindu_Express) before anyone else. Don't forget to join backup channel Thehindu000

Inflation rate (%)

FROM PAGE ONE

Private centres asked to step up vaccination pace

The Minister said the States knew when and in what quantity they would get the doses. The Union government had done this so that they could chalk out the vaccination work up to the district-level by planning properly and people did not face any problem.

"Regarding the availability of the vaccine, I have come to know from the statements and letters of various State governments and leaders. This situation can be better understood by an actual analysis of the facts. Useless statements are being made to create panic."

SC to examine plea challenging sedition

"The doctrine of 'chilling effect' on speech considers the probability of a legal provision causing psychological barriers in the free exercise of the right... This doctrine had not sufficiently developed in 1962. Even in the U.S., the doctrine was established only as late as 1967... The most concrete pronouncement on a statutory provision causing a chilling effect on speech is as recent as 2015 in Shreya Singhal v. Union of India," he submitted.

In the judgment, the court had reasoned that without Section 124A, the state would be in jeopardy if the government was subverted. It, however, said that Section 124A would apply only to expressions that either intended to or had the tendency to cause violence

punishable 'sedition'.

The maximum punishment was life imprisonment. The offence was classified as 'cognisable' and 'non-bailable'.

The petition said Section 124A criminalised expression based on vague terms such as 'disaffection towards government' and 'contempt towards government'. "The provision, by employing phrases like disaffection and contempt toward government, which are incapable of precise definition, causes a chilling effect on speech, constituting an unconstitutional invasion into the right of free speech," it said.

The Kedar Nath judgment had been "impliedly overruled" in a series of judgments by the top court

'Future of Afghanistan cannot be its past'

The representatives of the SCO countries, including Mr. Jaishankar, will travel on Thursday to Tashkent along with the representatives of nearly 40 countries for a "Central and South Asia" connectivity conference that will see Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan and Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani take centre stage together for the meeting hosted by Uzbekistan President Shovkat Mirzivovev. U.S. Special Envoy on Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad will also attend the meeting.

Mr. Jaishankar is expected to call on Mr. Ghani on Thursday and meet Mr. Khastay in Tashkent. While the original focus of

the conference was to be on projects like the Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan railway projects and transit trade agreements, and the Uzbekistan-Iran-India trilateral on the Chabahar project connecting Central and South Asia, the security situation is expected to be at the top of the agenda, given the developments in the past week.

On Wednesday, Taliban claimed it had also taken control of the main Chaman-Spin Boldak crossing with Pakistan, while the Afghanistan government said the at-

SC notice to Centre, U.P. on Kanwar Yatra

The report suggests contradicting steps taken by the Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh governments over the conduct of the yatra. While Uttarakhand has suspended the event, arrangements are reported to be in full swing in Uttar Pradesh.

The court referred to the recent statement by Prime Minister Narendra Modi that it was up to every individual

to prevent the third wave. and there was no room for compromise. "Given the disparate pol-

itical voices, all speaking at the same time, it is important that the relevant Secretary, Union of India, respond to this news report," the court ordered.

The court fixed the next hearing of the suo motu case on July 16.

3 militants killed in Pulwama

One of them is a Lashkar-e-Taiba commander from Pakistan, say police

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT SRINAGAR

Three Lashkar-e-Taiba militants were killed during an anti-militancy operation in Pulwama of south Kashmir on Wednesday, the police

"The bodies of three LeT terrorists were retrieved from the site of encounter. They were identified as LeT commander Aijaz, alias Abu Huraira, a resident of Pakistan, Javeed Ahmad Rather from Tahab in Pulwama and Shahnawaz Nazir Ganie from Samboora in Awantipora," Inspector-General of Police Vijay Kumar said.

The operation started around midnight after specific information was generated by the Srinagar police about the presence of terrorists on New Colony Hospital Road.

"The operation was suspended due to darkness while the cordon remained intact. Taking advantage of the darkness, the terrorists



Standing guard: CRPF personnel seen near the site of a gunfight between security forces and militants in Pulwama district of south Kashmir on Wednesday. •NISSAR AHMAD

tried to escape but couldn't. In the early hours, repeated announcements were again made to the hiding terrorists to surrender. However, the terrorists opened fire, which was retaliated," the police

They said the security forces recovered incriminating material, arms and ammunition, including 2 AK rifles and a pistol, from the site of encounter.

Houses damaged Local people said two multi-

storey residential houses were damaged in operation.

A curfew was imposed in Pulwama town and the Internet was snapped "as a precautionary measure". Evesaid local witnesses protesters clashed with the security forces after the operation was called off.

However, there were no reports of any casualties.

Permanent Commission for 147 women officers

Army grants it to 424 women since 2020

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Army said on Wednesday that 147 additional women officers had been granted Permanent Commission (PC) taking the total number of women officers granted it to 424 out of the 615 officers considered since the landmark judgment by the Supreme Court last year.

Following the judgment on grant of PC to women officers in the Army, a special selection board was constituted and 277 women short service commission officers received it after medical Further, in March 2021,

the Supreme Court directed reconsideration of some cases of women officers who were not granted PC by laying down revised parameters, a statement from the Army said. "The women officers were reconsidered as per directions of the Su-



The SC had ordered that some cases of denial of Permanent Commission to women be reconsidered.

preme Court and fresh results have now been declassified. Consequently, 147 more women officers are being granted PC, taking the total PC granted to 424 out of the 615 officers considered," the statement said. Results of a few have been withheld for administrative reasons and awaiting outcome of a clarification petition by the government in the Supreme Court, it said.

IN BRIEF

Central DA, dearness relief hiked to 28%

DA hike was frozen due to pandemic

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the effective increase of dearness allowance to the Central government employees and dearness relief to pensioners from 17% of basic pay/ pension to 28% with effect from July 1.

Announcing the decision taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said it was a major decision for the benefit of 48.34 lakh Central employees and 65.26 lakh pensioners.

The dearness allowance hike was frozen with effect

Can exam fees

be refunded.

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

pandemic.

HC asks CBSE

The Delhi High Court on

Wednesday asked the Cen-

tral Board of Secondary

Education whether it

would refund the examina-

tion fees taken for Class X

and Class XII examinations

as they stood cancelled

due to the COVID-19

Justice Prateek Jalan di-

rected the Central Board of

Secondary Education to

decide within eight weeks

on the petition by Deepa

Joseph, mother of a Class X

student of a school here,

who had paid ₹2,100 as fee.

from January 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, he pointed out.

"In view of the unprece-

dented situation which arose due to the COVID-19 pandemic, three additional instalments of DA to Central government employees and dearness relief to pensioners, which were due from 01.01.2020, 01.07.2020 and 01.01.2021, had been frozen," a government statement said. The increase of 11% re-

flected the three additional instalments arising on January 1, 2020, July 1, 2020 and January 1, 2021, it said, adding that the actual rate for January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 would remain 17%.

India and Russia will hold

the first 2+2 Ministerial meet-

ing later this year before a

summit between Prime Mi-

nister Narendra Modi and

Russian President Vladimir

Putin, Russian envoy Nikolay

Kudashev said on Wednes-

On India-Taliban Talks,

another senior Russian Em-

bassy official said it was In-

dia's sovereign decision and

it was useful to deal with eve-

ryone in the region. "Taliban

is present in Afghanistan al-

so in a manner it is a party to

intra-Afghan talks. Certainly,

it will be useful to deal with

Nandigram poll

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Calcutta High Court on

Wednesday directed the

Chief Electoral Officer,

West Bengal, to preserve

all documents and devices

related to Nandigram As-

The Court was hearing

an election petition filed by

Chief Minister Mamata Ba-

nerjee challenging the

Nandigram election re-

sults. The matter is being

heard by Justice Shampa

Sarkar, after Justice Kaush-

ik Chanda recused himself

this case, all documents,

election papers, devices

and video recordings etc.

connected with the elec-

tion, which is under chal-

lenge before this Court,

shall be preserved by the

authority concerned," the

for hearing on August 12.

The matter will come up

"Pending the decision of

sembly polls.

from the case.

order said.

Preserve

documents'

NEW DELHI

Man thrashed for supporting rape victim

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A Scheduled Caste man has alleged he was stripped and beaten up by a group of men belonging to dominant castes in Ghanghola village here for supporting the family of a gang-rape victim.

The police said no arrests had been made in the case so far. A First Information Report was registered and 40 people have been named in the case. Ajit Singh, the victim,

said he was inside his school office on July 11 when the accused, riding a dozen motorcycles and a

CPWD again puts off opening of bids

It cites administrative reasons

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Central Public Works Department has once again postponed the opening of bids for the construction of and maintenance contract for three buildings of the proposed Common Central Secretariat, which was to take place on Wednesday. The CPWD first floated a tender on April 20, but issued a modified tender on June 2, inviting bids for the construction of and maintenance for five years for the three buildings. The deadline for the submission of bids and opening of bids had been pushed from June

16 to 23 and then to July 14. Once again, the CPWD

cited "administrative reasons" for postponing the submission of bids and the opening of bids to July 30. The spokesperson of the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry did not respond to request for comment.

As a part of the Central Vista redevelopment, the new Common Central Secretariat to house all Ministries was proposed by the CPWD's consultant for the project, HCP Design, Planning and Management, in 2019. Out of the 10 buildings proposed, the CPWD issued the tender for the first three buildings to be built at a cost of ₹3.408 crore at the site of the Indira Gandhi National

Assembly seats in West

likely to meet Election Commission of India (ECI) officials in Delhi on Thursday, urging the commission to hold bypolls to seven Bengal, Senior party leader and MP Saugata Roy confirmed this.

Trinamool to meet ECI on

bypolls to seven seats

A six-member delegation of

the Trinamool Congress is

Cabinet approves 11th extension for OBC panel NEW DELHI

The Cabinet on Wednesday approved another six-month extension for the commission appointed in 2017 to examine sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in Central list, making it the 11th such extension. A government statement said the Cabinet approved extension of the tenure till January 31, 2022.

President's post: Pawar

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Sharad Pawa on Wednesday dismissed reports that he was a candidate for the President's post. "Reports about me planning to contest for President's post are absolutely false. No discussion on this was held in my two meetings with Prashant Kishore. The result of President's election is clear, knowing the strength of the Bharatiya Janata Party," Mr. Pawar said in his interaction with reporters on

Assam CM defends police shooting at criminals

Wednesday

GUWAHATI

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday said the police will continue to take "extreme action" within the law against criminals as long as he is in-charge of Assam. He holds the Home portfolio too. "Those who defend drug dealers should train them not to escape from custody, snatch arms or attack the police," he said after Opposition legislators attacked the government for alleged fake encounters.

SC strikes down some provisions in Finance Act

The Supreme Court on

NEW DELHI

Wednesday struck down provisions, introduced in the Finance Act of 2017 through an Ordinance, which affected the tenure and service conditions of Chairpersons and Members of Tribunals. The Tribunal Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Ordinance of 2021 had amended Section 184 of the Finance Act of 2017 to fix their tenures at four years. A three-judge Bench reversed the law and confirmed that Tribunal Chairpersons and Members would have a full five-year tenure.

India largest source of govt. info requests, says Twitter

It accounts for 25% of global volume: transparency report

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

India is the single largest source of government information requests during the second half of 2020, accounting for 25% of the global volume, as per the biannual Twitter Transparency released Report Wednesday.

Globally, Twitter received 14,561 such requests for 51,584 accounts in the sixmonth period from June to December 2020, of which 3,615 requests for 7,762 accounts were from India. For India, this is an increase of about 38% from the first half of the year when the number of such requests stood at

"Over the past year, we've experienced and continue to navigate severe global challenges, including the coronavirus pandemic. We've also



Of the 14,561 information requests Twitter revceived, 3.615 were from India.

seen concerted attempts by governments to limit access to the Internet generally and to Twitter specifically," the company said in a blog.

It added that global governments and law enforcement agencies submitted approximately 15% information requests compared to the previous reporting period.

For the June-December period, the compliance rate for government information This pdf was originally uploaded to Brills Express Official (https://t.me/The_Hindu_Express) before anyone else. Don't forget to join backup channel Thehindu000

and 0.6% in India. The second highest volume of information requests originated from the United States, comprising 22% of global information requests. During the period, Twit-

requests was 30% globally,

ter received a total of 38,524 legal demands to remove content specifying 1,31,933 accounts. The platform withheld or otherwise removed some or all of the reported content in response to 29% global legal these demands.

For India, the number of legal requests stood at 6,971, up 151% from 2,772 such requests in the first six months

As a result of legal requests, Twitter withheld 60 accounts and 598 tweets. In addition, 1,310 accounts were either suspended or some content was removed.

couple of cars, reached there and started beating

Russian envoy says details of possible visit of Putin being discussed

India, Russia to hold 2+2 Ministerial meet

Nikolay Kudashev

everyone in the region so that national interests will be better ensured," said Russian Deputy Chief of Mission Roman Babushkin in res-

Mr. Kudashev said in a virtual press interaction that the recent visit of External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar to Moscow demonstrated the attention both sides were paying to satisfy the common desire to maintain strong dynamics of bilateral high-level contacts, which was especially important in view of the preparation for

later this year.

"They include both trade

the next big events planned

The details of a possible visit of Mr. Putin were being discussed, he said. He added that the "epidemiological situation" would be a very important factor. "At the same time, our leaders are planning to jointly participate in BRICS under the Indian pre-

doubtedly, it will be a new

huge cornerstone of the spe-

cial and privileged strategic

partnership, which is really

unique," he stated.

Putin visit

and economic as well desidency, and the Shanghai intergovernmental Cooperation Organisation commissions, the first 2+2 summits in September and the G20 summit in October." Ministerial meeting and, of course, the summit - unhe noted.

Haryana police invoke sedition charges against farmers

Activists allegedly damaged vehicle of Deputy Speaker

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHANDIGARH

The Haryana police have invoked sedition charges against a group of protesting farmers who allegedly attacked and damaged the official vehicle of Deputy Speaker Ranbir Gangwa in Sirsa on July 11, during a demonstration against the farm laws

and the BJP leaders. Sirsa's SSP Arpit Jain confirmed to The Hindu that sedition charges under Section 124A of the IPC had been invoked against the accused and an investigation was under way. "So far, no arrests have been made in the case," he said on Wednesday.

The Sirsa police have registered the FIR under Section 124A (sedition), 307 (attempt to murder) and 186 (obstructing public servant in discharge of public functions), in which two farmer



and Prahlad Singh - have been booked. Apart from them, over 100 unidentified people have been booked. On July 11, the official car

of the Deputy Speaker was attacked by a group of protesters raising slogans and waving black flags.

During the demonstration, protesters allegedly smashed the windscreen of

Mr. Gangwa, however, escaped unhurt. Reacting to the FIR, se-

nior Samyukt Kisan Morcha leader Darshan Pal said the government was trying to provoke farmers by taking such steps. "How can sedition and murder charges be justified if a windscreen of a vehicle was broken," he



Piyush Goyal appointed RS leader

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Commerce and Textiles Minister Piyush Goyal has been appointed the Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha. Former Union Minister Thawarchand Gehlot, who had held that position, has been appointed the Governor of Karnataka.

Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi on Wednesday congratulated Mr. Goval.

"Congratulations to @PiyushGoyal ji on being appointed the Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha. He has been entrusted by PM @narendramodi ji with key responsibility. Wishing him continued vigour in the service to the nation," tweeted Mr. Joshi.

Leg-up for Goyal

Mr. Goyal had been Deputy Leader of the Rajya Sabha under Mr. Gehlot.

This is being seen as a leg-up for Mr. Goyal in terms of political responsibility, as the BJP and the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) are not in majority in the House and frequently require support from parties such as the Congress (YSRCP) and the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) to clear important legislation there.

It is also a signal from Prime Minister Narendra Modi that despite divesting Mr. Goval of Railways (the Ministry with a large outlay), he has been entrusted with the job of shepherding the Union government's Bills through Parliament, especially in a House where it does not enjoy a majority.

The monsoon session of Parliament commences on July 19 and is expected to end on August 13.

Kharge to lead Cong. coordination efforts

The move comes amid speculation about the party replacing LS leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury

NEW DELHI

In a significant departure, Congress president Sonia Gandhi has deputed Leader of the Opposition in the Ra-Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, instead of the party's Lok Sabha leader Adhir Ranian Chowdhury, to lead the coordination with other Opposition parties.

At a meeting of the Congress's parliamentary strategy group on Wednesday evening, sources said Ms. Gandhi expressed dissatisfaction with the party's coordination with other likeminded parties during the Parliament session.

"She has assigned the responsibility to Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge. Usually this charge remains with the floor leader in the



Plan of action: Congress workers staging a protest against fuel prices in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. • BISWARANJAN ROUT

Lok Sabha," a senior party functionary said.

Chowdhury to stay

The move comes amid intense speculation about the replacing Mr. Chowdhury, with many claiming that former Congress president Rahul Gandhi himself would be stepping into the role. Sources said Mr. Chowdhury would continue to stay on for now.

"There was no indication about replacing Mr. Chowdhury for now. As the Lok Sabha leader of the party, he shared his views on various issues," one of the Congress leaders who attended the meeting said.

Better synergy

Giving the primary responsibility to coordinate with the allies to Mr. Kharge instead of Mr. Chowdhury is seen as an attempt by the Congress to have a better synergy with the Trinamool Congress. Mr. Chowdhury, who is also the chief of the West Bengal unit, had led the Congress campaign in the State. Though the Congress, which fought the election in alliance with the Left parties, drew a blank, the central leadership effusively praised Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for her victory against the BJP in the State.

Wednesday's meeting, which lasted more than 90 minutes, also shortlisted the issues that the party would be taking up in the monsoon session. They included the alleged mismanagement of the COVID-19 pandemic by the Modi government, repeated hikes in fuel prices, farmers' agitation and the India-China border situation. The party would also raise the alleged scam in the purchase of Rafale aircraft. The French investigating agency has already launched a probe on it.

The meeting was attended by former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi and senior leaders A.K. Antony, Mallikarjun Kharge, Manish Tewari, Anand Sharma, Jairam Ramesh, K.C. Venugopal, Kodikunnil Suresh and Manickam

Drop cases filed under Section 66A: Centre

Advisory follows SC remarks

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Union Home Ministry on Wednesday asked the States and the Union Territories to withdraw immediately the cases registered under the repealed Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, days after the Supreme Court expressed shock that it was being invoked even six years after it struck down the legislation.

Court view

The Supreme Court found it "distressing", "shocking" and terrible" that the provision was still being used to book people, though the court held it as unconstitutional and a violation of free speech in the Shreya Singhal judgment authored by Justice Rohinton F. Nariman on

Through an advisory, the Ministry asked the authorities in the States and the Union Territories to direct all police stations not to register cases under the repealed provision.

"If any case has been booked in your State under Section 66A of the IT Act. 2000, it should immediately be withdrawn," the advisory

The Electronics and Information Technology Ministry, through a letter in January 2019, and the Home Ministry, in two letters in January and April 2019, asked them to sensitise the police departments and the local police authorities for strict compliance with the court directive.

'China impasse must be discussed'

Many issues need attention, Rahul says at Standing Committee on Defence meet

SOBHANA K. NAIR NEW DELHI

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi pressed the Standing Committee on Defence to discuss the India-China stand-off at a meeting held on Wednesday, even as the committee has called off a tour of Pangong lake in Ladakh, which is the flashpoint of the Indo-China conflict.

The committee had met on the agenda of "Review of Working of Cantonment Boards". This was its third meeting on the subject. The committee is headed

by BJP leader Jual Oram. Instead of touring the Pangong lake, the committee has now proposed a tour of Army cantonments in Bhubanesh-



Rahul Gandhi

war and Sikandra for the members.

Security threat

According to sources, at the fag end of the meeting, Mr. Gandhi said while the issue of Cantonment Boards was important, there were many other significant issues that needed the attention of the committee 'The situation in Ladakh,

Mr. Gandhi had pointed out, had not improved in more than a year now. The U.S. Army's exit and Taliban's takeover in Afghanistan also posed a serious security threat for the country. He added that the committee should discuss the security preparedness of the country," one of the members

The BJP MPs did not protest at Mr. Gandhi's suggestion. The subject "Review of Working of Cantonment Boards," committee chairperson Mr. Oram said, was selected unanimously during the meeting on subject

selection for the year.

A way out

At this, sources said the Bahujan Samaj Party's (BSP) Lok Sabha MP Kunwar Danish Ali suggested a way out. "He said that maybe a subcommittee can be formed, which can have an in-depth investigation on the subject, giving ample time to the committee to discuss issues like the Indo-China conflict,' another member said.

A few committee members also suggested that the committee meet again on Thursday specifically to discuss the Chinese incursions in Ladakh. Mr. Oram though, sources said, declined to

Is Kishor joining Congress?

Poll strategist had a meeting with Sonia, Rahul and Priyanka worked with Chief Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A day after poll strategist Prashant Kishor had a meeting with Congress president Sonia Gandhi, former party chief Rahul Gandhi and party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, the Congress circle is abuzz with speculation that he will formally join it. There was no confirma-

tion from either him or top Congress leaders on this issue. The speculation was partly triggered by Archana Dalmia's tweet, which was later deleted. Ms. Dalmia is the chairperson of the grievances cell of the Congress and a close aide of the Gandhis. "A warm welcome into the Congress family," she



Prashant Kishor

had tweeted.

Mr. Kishor has worked with the Congress previously in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Punjab. On several occasions, he has made his dissatisfaction with the party's working style public.

Following the Trinamool Congress's victory in West Bengal, where he closely

29th July, 2021.

Mamata Banerjee, and the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam's (DMK) victory in Tamil Nadu, where I-Pac, the political consultancy firm that he is associated with, was handling the campaign, Mr. Kishor, in a series of television interviews, had claimed that he was "quitting this space". "I do not want to continue

what I am doing. I have done enough. It is time for me to take a break... I want to quit this space," he had told NDTV. He has had a stint as vice-

president in the Janata Dal (U). He was expelled from the party for his stand on the Citizenship (Amendment)

⁺ LAC impasse is affecting bilateral ties'

Jaishankar says India had hopes China will 'follow through' in resolving issues

ANANTH KRISHNAN

The impasse between Indian and Chinese troops at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) is "visibly impacting" bilateral ties "negatively", External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar told Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi as they met in Dushanbe on the sidelines of the SCO meeting on Wednesday. Highlighting the lack of movement in the disengagement process apart from the initial withdrawal of troops around the Pangong lake area earlier this year, Mr. Jaishankar said India had hoped China would "follow through" in resolving issues at the LAC, as had been agreed in a five-point agreement with Mr. Wang when the two Ministers had last Moscow met in September.

While Indian and Chinese troops completed the first round of disengagement in February 2021, withdrawing from areas and posts around

MEERA SRINIVASAN

Prime Minister Narendra

Modi and Maldivian Presi-

dent Ibrahim Mohamed So-

lih on Wednesday "took

stock" of bilateral coopera-

tion in a telephone conversa-

tion, the Ministry of External

Mr. Modi called the Indian

Ocean island nation the

"central pillar" of India's

"neighbourhood policy",

and maritime vision of Se-

curity and Growth for All in

the Region or 'SAGAR', the

The call assumes signifi-

cance at a time when sec-

tions within the Maldives

have mounted an "#In-

diaout" campaign online,

statement said.

Affairs said in a statement.



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Dushanbe. • PTI

Modi, Maldivian President hold talks

Conversation comes amid '#Indiaout' campaign, tensions within ruling MDP

the Pangong lake, officials have said China continues to stall talks on withdrawing from the other areas where PLA troops have amassed since April 2020, including at Depsang, Gogra and Hotsprings areas in Ladakh.

"[Mr. Jaishankar] pointed out to State Councillor [Mr. Wang] that the successful disengagement in the Pangong Lake Area earlier this year had created conditions for resolving the remaining issues. It was expected that the Chinese side would work with us towards this objective. EAM noted, however, that the situation in remaining areas is still unresolved," a statement by the External Affairs Ministry said. Ahead of the Foreign Mi-

nisters' meeting, however, both New Delhi and Beijing denied reports of fresh tensions along the LAC. The Army also insisted that the agreements with China have not "collapsed" as claimed in an article published on Wednesday.

"Ever since the disengagement agreement in February this year, there has been no

attempt by either side to occupy the areas from where the disengagement had been undertaken. There have been no clashes in Galwan or any other area, the Army statement said.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said he was not "aware of the situation mentioned" in the report as well.

Mr. Jaishankar and Mr. Wang "agreed to remain in touch", as India hoped that "all remaining issues" would be discussed at the next round of Senior Military Commanders talks as decided by the WMCC group on June 25.

In contrast to their last meeting in Moscow, there was no joint statement issued by the two sides after the Iaishankar-Wang meeting. According to the Ministry's statement, Mr. Jaishankar also made it clear that other bilateral relations on other issues could not proceed successfully unless the present LAC situation is

होटल प्रबंध और खानपान प्रौध्योगिकी संस्थान

INSTITUTE OF HOTEL MANAGEMENT AND CATERING TECHNOLOGY, (An Autonomous Body under Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India) G.V.RAJA ROAD, KOVALAM, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM – 695 527

TENDER NOTICE Tenders are invited from reputed Publishers for the supply of LIBRARY BOOKS at KIHM, Kinfra Industrial Park, Thalassery

Tender Ref. No.DOT/GOVK/IHMCT/1/2021-22 Last date: 02.08.2021 at 3.00 pm For details, please visit :

www.ihmctkovalam.ac.in, www.keralatourism.org www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

PRINCIPAL

DIRECTOR-cum-VC

SRI VENKATESWARA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS: Tirupati e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

SVIMS is inviting e-tenders 1) Providing gas supply points (Medical Oxygen, Vaccum and Nitrous Oxide) at Medical Oncology Department at 2nd floor of

Speciality block and proposed New Gastroenterology Department and Medicin Vard at 3rd Floor of Sri Padmavathi OPD Block (above Auditorium). **2)** Subscription f print journals and purchase of books for Central library. Tenders are invited through e-tendering process (Two bid system) for Medical Equipment, 4) Equipment on reagent rentals on Payment per test, General items i.e. Stationery, Sanitary, Computer Stationery and Linen, Supplementary tender for Medical & Lab items, 7) Supplementary tender for

n) Supplementary tender for Medical as Lab items, 77 Supplementary tender its burgical items from Manufacturers, Distributors and Importers, 8) Manual tender single bid system) for chemical, lab ware & IHC markers. For details log on to the website https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in
DONATE LIBERALLY TO "SRI BALAJI AROGYA VARAPRASADINI SCHEME The Director-cum-VC reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, PHED, REGION AJMER PHONE NO. 0145-2624748 FAX NO. 0145-2627671

NO. F.()/Ar. MP/2021-2022/4617-67 NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR WORKS Following bids are invited interested bidders submit their bids online upto 29.07.2021 others particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal

Brief Description of works PROVIDING, LAYING, JOINTING, TESTING & COMMISSIONING OF RISING/DISTRIBUTION PIPELINES OF VARIOUS SIZES/ TYPES TO PROVIDE FHTC CONNECTIONS AT 03 VILLAGES AND THERE DHANIES INCLUDING ONE YEAR DEFECT LIABILITY PERIOD OF MVS & SVS UNDER JJM IN THE JURIDICTION OF PHED DIVISION KISHANGARH DISTT., AJMER

Estimated cost of work - Rs. 960.06 lacs) ÙBN NO. PHE2122WLOB04694

Work of Augmentation/Conversion of various RWSS to provide FHTCs including one year Defect Liability period of various SVS & MVS under JJM in the jurisdiction of PHED Division Kuchamar Nagaur. (Estimated Cost Rs. 1317.57 lacs)
UBN NO. PHE 2122WLOB04697

NIB NO. PHE2122A2095 DIPR/C/6747

http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in)

(Mukul Bhargava PHED, Region, Ajme



Short Term Tender Notification (Two Cover System - Only through e-procurement portal)

No. KPCL/2021-22/PS/Work_Indent 11133 Tender through e-procurement portal mode are invited from contractors/agencies who are reputed individuals/company and having past experience for the work of "Maintenance works of RTPS 7 X 210 MW Units 1 to 7 and 1 X 250 MW Unit 8 Turbine auxiliaries for a period of 2 years " ₹8,76,58,133.38 EMD: Nil. Interested Bidders may submit the bids through GOK e-procurement portal https://eproc. karnataka.gov.in only. Last date for submission of tender:

10-08-2021 up to 16:00 hrs. Opening of technical bid: 11-08-2021 at 16:30 hrs. Opening of price bids of pre-qualified tenderers: 12-08-2021 after 16:30 hrs. Further details can be had from the office of: The Executive Engineer (TM-2) / The Superintending Engineer (MM-2), RTPS, KPCL, Shaktinagar-584170, Raichur Mobile: 09449596540 / 09449596542



K.E.B. Road, Opp.: I.M.A. Hall, Bidar - 585401. Phone: 08482226358, E-mail: dcfbdr@aranya.gov.in

Contractual Engagement of Project Associate - I of a Project Associate - I (01 Position) on Contractual Basis for Study of Lesser Floricans in Bidar district. For further details Visit: aranya gov in or scan the Applications are invited for appointment

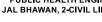
details Visit: aranya.gov.in or scan the QR Code. Last date for submission of Applications is on / before 2200 hrs on

Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bidar

TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process) Tender Inviting Authority SI.No. SE/C/PCC

For details of works/Procurement/Due date of submission/opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit website, www.tangedco.gov.in. www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app.

OFFICE OF CHIEF ENGINEER (URBAN & NRW).



JAL BHAWAN, 2-CIVIL LINES JAIPUR, RAJASTHAN **BID NOTICE**

On behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan, PHED invites bids online in electronic format on website http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, from manufacturers for Procurement of ISI Marked GI Pipe's Medium Class 32-80mm conforming to IS 1239, Procurement of ISI Marked A.C. Pressure pipes (size150 -600mm) conforming to 1592-2003. Procurement of ISI Marked Deep well Hand Pump Extra Deep (EDWP) sets conforming to IS 15500, Procurement of ISI Marked Poly Aluminius Chloride conforming to IS: 8794. For details please visit website www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in

NIB Code: PHE2122A2109 UBN No: GI Pipes-PHE2122GLRC0478 MS Pipes-PHE2122GLRC0479 AC Pipes-PHE2122GLRC04730 EDWP-PHE2122GLRC04731 PAC-PHE2122GLRC04732 CID Joints-PHE2122GLRC04733 Mobile No:- 9953246873

www.karnatakapower.com

(MUKESH GOYAL SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER MATERIAL MANAGEMENT CIRCLE

KARNATAKA POWER **CORPORATION LIMITED** (RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION)

CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919 No.:KPCL/2021-22/PS/WORK_INDENT11362 Date:08.07.2021

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders through e-procurement mode are invited from reputed contractors / agencies who are reputed individuals Company and having past experience for the work of "Routine / Periodic / Breakdown maintenance, Overhauling and Tube Failure Works of Units 1 to 8 Boilers of RTPS (7x210MW + 1 x 250MW) and its Auxilliaries for a period of Two Years." EMD: Nil. Interested bidders may submit the bids through e-procurement portal https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in The last date for submission of the completed bids (2 parts) 06.08.2021 upto 16.00hrs. Opening of Technical bids (Part1): 09.08.2021 @ 11.00 Hrs. Opening of Financial bids (Part2):11.08.2021 @ 11.00 Hrs.Further details can be had from the Superintending Engineer [Mechanical Maintenance-1], RTPS, KPCL, Shaktinagar-584170. Raichur Dist. Mobile No.:9481764616, Website:

criticising India's engagecording to Male-based me-



Maldivian President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih in 2019.

ment with the Solih adminis-

It also comes amid reported tensions within the ruling Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP), with Parliamentary Speaker and former Presi-

dent Mohamed Nasheed, ac-

recently that he cannot align himself to President Solih any more due to "ideological differences". Mr. Nasheed - undergo-

dia, telling party colleagues

ing treatment in the U.K. after surviving an attempt on his life – was not reachable for comment. The MDP has not commented on the development. "President Solih thanked

Prime Minister Modi for the India's cooperation and support in the fight against the the Ministry pandemic," said. India has provided three lakh doses – two lakh as a gift and one lakh for commercial procurement – of COVID-19 vaccines to the Maldives. "Both leaders re-

ment projects in the Maldives and expressed satisfaction at the rapid pace of implementation despite the constraints of the pandemic," the statement said. It made no mention of the

India-supported develop-

proposed consulate in the Maldives' Addu atoll, which the Indian Cabinet cleared, setting off a controversy in the island nation. India sceptics termed the move "heavy-handed", in the absence the press release said.

viewed the progress of the

of any official statement on it from the Maldivian authorities. Mr. Modi also conveyed his congratulations to President Solih on the election of Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid as the President of the UN General Assembly,



Maharashtra unveils adventure tourism policy

The Maharashtra cabinet on Wednesday cleared a policy to promote adventure tourism in the State. Adventure tourism activities on land, air and water will be developed to attract tourists. according to an official release. The decision was taken at a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray. The organisers will have to obtain a temporary registration certificate, and the final certificate will be issued after all safety measures are put in place, the release said.PTI

Immunity boosters for those under 18 in Ladakh

The Ladakh administration on Wednesday decided to give immunity boosters and supplements to those below 18 years to reduce the risk of COVID-19 during a possible third wave of the pandemic. The decision was taken during a review by Lt. Governor, Ladakh, Radha Krishna Mathur, on Wednesday. A drive would also be undertaken to encourage more pregnant women to get vaccinated.

West Bengal extends restrictions till July 30

KOLKATA The West Bengal government on Wednesday extended the curbs put in place during the pandemic but allowed certain relaxations such as the operation of metro services in Kolkata with 50% capacity. "Metro railway services shall operate five days a week with 50% seating capacity and shall remain suspended on Saturdays and Sundays," a notification issued by the government said. However, local train services will remain suspended. The new guidelines will be in force till July 30, the notification said.

Faridabad tops in Haryana excess deaths

DECEMBER

period between April 2020

and May 2021 based on full

data has been done are ad-

ded up, the total comes to

7,32,698, nearly eight times

the official tally recorded in

these States (90,577). India's

overall official COVID-19

death toll itself was 4,10,997

na, Faridabad (6,467), Guru-

gram (5,908), Hisar (4,859)

and Sonipat (3,806) had the

highest excess deaths, but

the undercount factor for

Panchkula, Sonipat, Palwal

and Jhajjhar were the highest

- 17, 16.1, 15.6 and 15.3 res-

Among districts in Harya-

as of 8 p.m. on July 13.

The State's undercount figures were slightly higher than those for Karnataka and Tamil Nadu

SRINIVASAN RAMANI CHENNAI

The excess deaths calculated in Haryana were based on the mortality figures registered online. According to the Civil Registration System report for 2019, Haryana registered 100% of all deaths in the State, much of it online. Excess deaths might go up as late registrations are tallied in the State.

Not all "excess deaths" would be related to COVID-19 but a bulk of them are, during the pandemic. A look at deaths and causal factors in the CRS available only for the State of Tamil Nadu showed a steep increase in deaths related to causes such as pneumonia during the pandemic period, indicating that CO-VID-19 related deaths could have been re-classified as such deaths

Excess deaths calculations (and therefore, undercount factors) depend on the method to calculate them: either based on the years for which averages are considered or if a projection based on linear growth of deaths year on year is used. For Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra

The chart shows the number of deaths registered each month in Haryana between January 2018 and May 2021 As many as 74,384 deaths were registered in Haryana in April 46,108 and May 2021 40,000 Haryana's recorded cumulative COVID-19 death toll was 9,556 10,000

Pradesh, excess deaths were calculated based on registrations available only for two pre-pandemic years, 2018 and 2019. Haryana's undercount figures were slightly higher than those for Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Karnataka and Kerala's figures fall if the linear growth estimation method is used, indicating that better registration in later years has lowered "excess deaths". Tamil Nadu's undercount factors do not change much.

JANUARY <

If the excess deaths for just the six States for whom analysis for the pandemic

pectively. All numbers correspond to the April 2020 to May 2021 period.

Ongoing process

Dhruva Chaudhary, Haryana's nodal officer for CO-VID-19 and head of the pulmonary and critical care medicine department at the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences (PGIMS), Rohtak, told *The Hindu* that audit of all deaths is an ongoing process and is being done across the State. "The discrepancy in deaths is a matter of debate. We have nothing to hide, and all deaths are being reported. The death audit mechanism is a constant process, and we are doing it. Every single death is accountable in Harvana.

Mr. Chaudhary said that as far as the higher number of COVID-19 deaths than officially recorded was concerned "there can't be a guess work, but I am sure it's not going to be very high. In Haryana, the data is online. If the number of total deaths has gone up, the proportionate deaths have also gone

"I want to make it clear that the State's Health Department led by Additional Chief Secretary Raieey Arora did a commendable work to curb COVID-19. During the second wave it was Delhi, which put a huge pressure on Haryana. At that time 60-70% patients in Gurugram and neighbouring areas were from Delhi. The blast was in Delhi and its tsunami

impact was felt and heard in

said

Harvana,"

Chaudhary. A look at the gender breakup of the deaths in the State from 2018 to 2021 shows that the proportion of deaths among women went up marginally from 36.5 during the pre-pandemic years to 37.1% and 39.7% in 2020 and 2021. This was unlike in Tamil Nadu (the only other State for which The Hindu had data available for the pandemic years), where the proportion of women among those dead was close to 40% consistently

(Based on data compiled and aggregated by Pratap Vardhan, with graphics support by Sumant Sen and inputs from Vikas Vasudeva)

from 2015 to 2021.

Cabinet nod to continue **Ayush Mission**

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the continuation of the National Ayush Mission as a 'Centrally-sponsored scheme' for another five years till 2026. A release noted that the scheme would continue from April 1, 2021, to March 31, 2026, with a financial implication of ₹4,607.30 crore to be spent during the period.

SC to study courts' role in policy during crises

Collective effort is required, it says

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said it would examine how far courts could intervene in State policy during times of crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic "when collective effort" was required to overcome odds. "Can the court tell the Ex-

ecutive to get the formula [for vaccines] from companies abroad or decide the number of ventilators... These are times of crisis when everybody has to be cautious... Is this when court should get into all this? Executive has the benefit of experts with their expert knowledge... We will hear submissions on how far constitutional courts should go into these matters... How much we should restrain ourselves," Justices Vineet Saran and Dinesh Maheshwari observed orally.

Justice Maheshwari said these were times for a "collective effort". "There are certain norms based on which every institution should function," he noted.

The top court was hearing a plea by the Uttar Pradesh government against a May 17 Allahabad High Court order which described the medical system in smaller cities and villages of the State during the pandemic as "Ram Bharose". It stayed the High Court order on May 21.

The High Court had issued a slew of directions to the government, which included ensuring that nursing homes in the State had oxygen facility for every bed; ensuring availability of ventilators, high-flow nasal cannula facility and beds with bipap machines in every nursing home/hospital and making sure that every



nursing home/ hospital that has more than 30 beds compulsorily have an oxygen production plant; and medical colleges in Prayagraj, Agra, Meerut, Kanpur and Gorakhpur provided enhanced facilities like the Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute did within four months.

Ambulance service

The High Court ordered the State to provide within a month at least 20 ambulances in small towns and have at least two ambulances with ICU facilities in every village. It said these arrangements would help "patients from smaller towns and villages to be brought to bigger hospitals in bigger towns' for medical treatment.

The State government, in the top court, complained that these directions were impossible to comply with.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta had urged restraint on the part of High Courts. He said the May 17 order had encroached into the "arena governance" breached the principle of separation of powers.

Mr. Mehta, for Uttar Pradesh, said the government catered to a population of over 24 crore. "Despite facing big challenges, the State has been making continuous efforts to control the spread of the pandemic," he had submitted earlier.

The court scheduled the next hearing on August 12.

No room for complacency, says MHA

It asks States to make officials concerned responsible for laxity in enforcing norms

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Wednesday asked the States and Union Territories to make the officials concerned personally responsible for any laxity in the strict enforcement of COVID-19 appropriate behaviour. Blatant violations of COVID-19 norms had been observed in several parts of the country, particularly during the use of public transport and at hill stations, it noted.

Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla, in letters to the States and Union Territories, said massive crowds were thronging market places, violating the norms of social distancing. Consequently, the increase in the "reproduction factor" (an indicator of spread of COVID-19) in some States was a matter of

The authorities concerned needed to be made

responsible for ensuring CO-VID-19 appropriate behaviour in all crowded places, besides the hotspots of virus transmission, he said.

Careful monitoring

There was no room for complacency as the second wave was not yet over. If the norms were not maintained at any establishment, premises and markets, restrictions should be reimposed to contain the virus spread and the defaulters should be held liable for action under the relevant laws, he stated. "You would appreciate that we must guard ourselves against complacency and laxity, which creep in as positivity declines. Instead, during the periods of low posiefforts must be tivity, stepped up to prevent any probable future surge," he observed. Testing, tracking, treating and vaccination was also stressed upon.

⁺ ₹9,800 crore support for livestock development

Centre also invites more investment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Central government will spend ₹9,800 crore on livestock development over the next five years in a bid to leverage almost ₹55,000 crore of outside investment into the sector, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) decided on Wednesday. It would do this by merging a slew of schemes into three main programmes, focused on indigenous cows and dairy development, livestock health, and infrastructure development, an official statement

The CCEA approved the implementation of the spe-

ACROSS

1 Embarrassed about mistake, failed (8)

9 Audacity to find fault with cookware (8)

10 Well, to own a ship is a problem (6)

5 Smart to buy nothing, keeping some earnings for best (6)

11 Cheapest accommodation in ship where teenagers party leaving

cial livestock sector package by revising and realigning the various components of the existing schemes in order to boost growth and make animal husbandry more remunerative for the 10 crore farmers engaged in

it, said the statement. The commitment of ₹9,800 crore over the next five years is expected to leverage an investment of ₹54,618 crore, including spending by State governments and cooperatives, financial institutions and external funding agencies. All schemes of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying will be merged into three broad categories.

India's neurological disease burden rising

Stroke caused 7.4% of total deaths in 2019, says study

NEW DELHI

The contribution of noncommunicable neurological disorders and injury-related neurological disorders to the total disease burden has more than doubled between 1990 and 2019, said the first comprehensive estimates of disease burden due to neurological disorders and their trends in every State of India published in The Lancet Global Health by the India State-Level Disease Burden Initiative and released here on Wednesday.

Stroke caused 6,99,000 deaths in India in 2019,



Neurological disorders can also affect the mobility of patients.

which was 7.4% of the total deaths in the country, it stat-

The burden of non-communicable neurological disorders was increasing in the country, mainly due to the ageing of the population, the paper noted. "Stroke, headache disorders, and epilepsy are the leading contributo neurological disorders burden in India."

High blood pressure, air pollution, dietary risks, high fasting plasma glucose and high body-mass index were found to be the leading contributors among the known risk factors for the neurolog ical disorders' burden. The disorders include

non-communicable ones (stroke, headache disorders, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, brain and central nervous system cancer, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, motor neuron diseases and other neurological disorders), communicable ones (encephalitis, meningitis and tetanus), and injuryrelated disorders (traumatic brain injuries and spinal cord injuries).

The paper found that the burden of many disorders

varied substantially across the States. Dr. Lalit Dandona, director of the India State-Level Disease Burden Initiative and senior author of this paper, stated that the study, based on collaboration with leading neurology experts in the country, provided policy-relevant insights into the trends of the

disorders across the States. "While the burden of infectious neurological disorders has fallen in India, this burden is higher in less developed States. On the other hand, the burden of the disorders related to injury is higher in more developed States. Among non-communicable disorders, stroke is the third leading cause of death, and dementias are the fastest growing disorders," he said.

shipping firms approved

Subsidy scheme for

It is applicable for import of govt. cargo

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a subsidy scheme for shipping companies during global tenders for import of government

The scheme will provide a subsidy of ₹1,624 crore over five years.

The subsidy support varies from 5% to 15% of the lowest bid by a foreign shipping company depending on whether the ship was flagged after or before February 1, 2021, and the age of the ship at the time of flagging in India. However, ships older than 20 years will not be eligible under the

scheme, according to the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

The provisions of this scheme will not be available if the lowest bidder is an Indian flagged vessel.

"A strong and diverse indigenous shipping fleet will not only lead to foreign exchange savings on account of freight bill payments made to foreign shipping companies but would also reduce excessive dependence on foreign ships for transporting India's critical cargoes," a press statement said. The scheme is likely to lead to increase in training opportunities and employment for Indian seafarers.

Display keystrokes of genius, THEROSSWORD+ 13300 Type your answers in our online grids! @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn







12 His leg broke in a vehicle (6) 14 Jack jumps from ledge, gets tense about safety (10)

18 No, staff''s article has a point at times (3,3,4) 22 Head office at an American city earlier had work still (6)

23 One amongst us after sleep to help get bread (8) 24 After a sip of gin and rum, father in Chennai has brandy (6)

25 One changes places with another on road to take speed test (5,3)

26 Side for match? Essentially hopeless to begin with (6) 27 Commercial earnings? Try to change sides cleverly (8)

DOWN

1 Formulating strategies to break gate and obstruct (6)

2 Narrow opening for romeo to jump over top (6)

3 Author's attempt at verse (6) 4 Perhaps a divorcee's great, composed, mature on the outside? To

stretch the truth (10) 6 Nut & bolt for a wrestling hold (8)

7 To enliven, have one pint sir, dance (2,6) 8 The plane transports an animal (8)

13 Book that woman, low in honour in a place beyond reality (10) 15 Mix up in specialist's viewpoint (8)

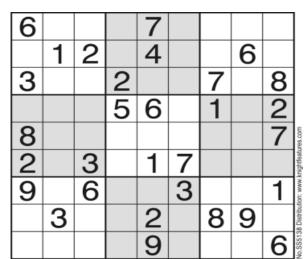
16 A plan, bold for something not played at home (4,4) 17 One. two... disconnect (8)

20 Usual nonsense – copy-cat (6)

19 An ice cream company at LA, centre of uptown (6)

21 Small family at New York is underfed (6)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 13299 Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★公公

V A S S A L J E T L A G A K B A N A A A A C C N C E D C T C N A C C C C C C C C C																									
O N C E D I C T I O N A R Y I I I O Q G D M		_	Α	_	S	_	L		J	_	Т	L	Α	_		ſ	8	1	2	6	7	3	4	5	9
T		A		K		В		Α		N		Α		Α		1	-		-	-	10.00	-	-	-	-
P L E N U M U N M A S K E D	0	Ν	О	Ε		D	Ι	O	Т	Ι	0	Ν	Α	R	Υ	1	7	3	9	8	4	5	1	2	6
L		1		1		0		Q		G		D		М		ı	0	4	_	0	0	4	0	0	7
MACHINERY FIST 423167895 MOLE ADULTERER U I L T O N ANATHEMA WARDEN D O G S B E M PASSMUSTER BAIL N I M E O U E	Р	L	Е	Ν	U	М		J	Ν	М	Α	S	K	Ε	D		6	4	5	9	2	ш	3	8	1
MACHINERY FIST 423167895 MOLE ADULTERER POLE POLE POLE POLE POLE POLE POLE POLE		L				Ε		-		Α		L		Ν		ſ	5	7	1	3	a	8	6	4	2
MOLE ADULTERER 968452713 ANATHEMA WARDEN 256784931 PASSMUSTER BAIL 387219564	М	Α	С	Н	п	Ν	Ε	R	Υ		F	П	S	Т		1	J	-		v	v	U	U		-
U I L T O N N 968452713 ANATHEMA WARDEN 256784931 PASSMUSTER BAIL N I M E O U E 1 0 4 5 3 6 7 7				Α				Е				D					4	2	3	1	6	7	8	9	5
A N A T H E M A W A R D E N D O G S B E M 2 5 6 7 8 4 9 3 1 P A S S M U S T E R B A I L N I M E O U E D C S A S A S A S A S A S A S A S A S A S		М	0	L	Ε		Α	D	U	L	Т	Ε	R	Ε	R	ı	0	~	0		-	^	-		0
D O G S B E M 2 5 6 7 6 4 9 3 1 PASSMUSTER BAIL 3 8 7 2 1 9 5 6 4 N I M E O U E 1 0 4 5 3 6 3 7 8		U		ī		L		Т		0				Ν			9	6	8	4	5	2	1	1	3
PASSMUSTER BAIL 387219564	Α	Ν	Α	Т	Н	Ε	М	Α		W	Α	R	О	Е	Ν	Γ	2	5	6	7	A	1	a	3	1
N I M E O U E 1 O 4 5 3 6 3 7 9		D		0		G		S		В		Е		М		ı,	_	J	U	1	O	7	9	U	
101696970	Р	Α	s	S	М	U	S	Т	Е	R		В	Α	-	L	1	3	8	7	2	1	9	5	6	4
EASTER TWISTS 194536278		N		П		М		Е		0		υ		Е		ł	-	~		=	•	~	~	_	-
		Ε	Α	S	Т	Е	R		Т	W	ī	S	Т	s		L	1	9	4	5	3	6	2	1	8

FAITH

Mahabali welcomes Vamana

When Vamana goes to the place where Mahabali is performing Asvamedha yaga, Mahabali welcomes Him. He says that Vamana looks like the personification of the fruits of the tapas of Brahmarishis. Mahabali says to Vamana, "My family has been purified by Your arrival. My ancestors will be happy that You are here. You have come during my yaga, and so I am sure I will get all the benefits of the yaga. I have washed Your feet, and therefore my sins will be destroyed. Usually, for a yaga to yield the desired result, havis must be given properly. But I have got the results of my yaga very easily by washing Your feet. I can see that You want to ask me for something. Ask me whatever it is that you seek from me. I can give You whatever you want - whether it is cows, or food, or a girl from a good family for You to marry, fertile villages, elephants or chariots."

Vamana compliments Mahabali on his generosity, elaborated Kidambi Narayanan in a discourse. He says Mahabali is so generous, because he comes from a great family. Prahlada was his grandfather, and the learned Sukracharya was his preceptor. None in his family had ever been miserly. None had had any hesitation in giving to others. No one in his family had ever broken a promise. Mahabali's father Virochana had valued learning, and had always respected scholars. Vamana even has words of praise for Hiranyaksha's and Hiranyakasipu's courage and strength!

Vamana further says, "You are large hearted to offer me so much, but all I want is land measured with three steps of mine. You are king of the three worlds, and so you are capable of giving me a lot of things. But I have no desire for anything beyond the land I have asked for. A man who has jnana will not ask for anything more than what he needs."



When the Himalayas craft

ANISHA MENEZES

It was only in April 2016 that one of India's oldest and largest distilleries, Uttar Pradesh-based Radico Khaitan, made its entry into single malt whiskies - launching Rampur Indian Single Malt in Las Vegas. Now, it is the latest among a fine crop of distillers to put Indian single malts in the global spotlight.

The brand's latest, Rampur Asava, won gold medals at the International Spirits Challenge 2021 and New York International Spirits Competition 2021 after a virtual launch at the Whiskey Show, London in October 2020.

What sets this whisky apart? Rampur Asava is the first single malt matured in American bourbon barrels and finished in Indian Cabernet Sauvignon casks. Sanjeev Banga, president of international business at Radico Khaitan, home to Rampur single malts, also credits Rampur's use of six-row North Indian barley. "Since we are located at the foothills of the Himalayas, the groundwater, soil and air shape the soul of all six Rampur expressions [products]. Our single malt is different yet pleasing, racteristics that can abashedly Indian," he declares.

Rampur is not alone. Goabased John Distilleries' Mithuna scored 97 points on Jim Murray's Whiskey Bible, giving it the distinction of the

world's third finest whiskey this year.

To most connoisseurs, single malts are synonymous with the Scottish Highlands. But a maverick mix of Indian distilleries is quietly changing that perception, with a range of sophisticated, locally brewed single malts.

The journey to a distinctly Indian single malt began in the Deccan Plateau, at the turn of the 21st Century. Rakshit Jagdale, managing director of Amrut Distilleries in Bengaluru, reminisces, "We have been in the liquor business since 1948, but our voyage started in 2004. I teamed up with my father, late Neelakanta Rao Jagdale to create Amrut Indian Single Malt: India's first single malt to be certified and exported, at a time when there was no reference point for us."

A sip of India

So what makes a single malt decidedly Indian? "The grain is a very important aspect of whisky making. Our barley is grown in the Punjab and Rajasthan belt, and we experiment with different varieties to access a bouquet of chavour through fermentability," says Rakshit. "From ideation to shelf, it takes around

five to six years,

ket," he adds.

Angel's share Whisky is stored and aged in oak barrels.The wood contributes a lot of flavour to whiskies, but these barrels are also the reason for a loss of around 2% of the whisky stored in

them per year. This is called the Angel's Share, since it is made up of the whisky that evaporates through the pores in the wood. The figure increases with higher temperatures, sometimes up to 12%.

Mountains meet the sea

dian single malt script, has been written with flourish, by John Distilleries. Its operations have straddled eight manufacturing units spread vhen Paul P John set up a dis tillery in Goa to primarily fo-

Fine work (Clockwise) Paul John master distiller Michael D'Souza and its Goan distillery; an Old Fashioned made with

while the rare whiskies take cus on single malts. seven to nine years to marrow barley, harvested in sum-

The formula is simple: six-

mer at the foothills of the Hi-

malayas, blended with Goan

water assisted by locally

sourced yeast. With Indian

copper pot-stills, specially

designed with long necks to

create fruitier spirits, the

malts are matured in Ameri-

helps the malts mature faster.

"It takes a minimum of three

years to make our youngest

single malts, and the oldest

are seven years or above. As

the liquid evolves, we work to

give it the identity it de-

serves," says master distiller

whiff of caramel pudding,

with a salt-edged barley and

honey on the palate and a lin-

two launches so far, Kanya

and Mithuna, looks to the

skies for inspiration. Mithuna

is named after Gemini, prof-

fering a palate of mocha,

tinged with orange peel and

delicate spices, that ride on

active tannins, gentle oils and

leho, which dabbles in bever-

age education and consultan-

cy, sums it up: "Indian single

malts offer a unique experience; the interplay of In-

dian temperatures and six-

row barley offers more pro-

tein and less starch than

two-row barley used in Scot-

land, and finally the inven-

tiveness of our master distill-

ers that makes up the magic."

Vikram Achanta, CEO, Tul-

dark cocoa tones.

The Zodiac Series, with

gering finish of vanilla.

Nirvana, a bestseller, has a

Michael DSouza.

The warm Goan weather

can white oak barrels.

While these drinks are prized as they grow older, the ageing of Indian single malts is complex. "Maturation depends on climatic conditions. In tropical distilleries, we cannot age our malts for too long as the losses due to evaporation are too high. So by a general rule of thumb in these conditions, whisky is aged between four to six

years," explains Rakshit. Sanjeev concurs: "Our [Rampur] malts are aged in harsh North Indian weather conditions where temperatures fluctuate between 40+ degrees Celsius in summer and around 2 degrees Celsius in winter. This makes the malt interact with the casks very aggressively. Even experts in Scotland agree that due to these variations, aging in India is at least four times faster. A malt aged for 10 years in North India would be equivalent to a 30-40 year old

Yet another chapter in the Inover seven states since 1996,

Rampur Double Cask • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Return of the family holiday

Post the COVID-19 second wave, the hospitality sector is seeing a recovery in certain pockets of the country as people reunite after over a year

NIVEDITA GANGULY

It is now a familiar, if admittedly ironic pattern: when cases go down, travel

Reeling under the brutal impact of the pandemic, the hospitality sector is slowly seeing a recovery in pockets of the country. States like Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand have relaxed the mandatory RT-PCR test for tourists, encouraging more people to visit. Institutional quarantine is not required any more for those crossing State borders, making short holidays possible.

Crippled by the uncertainties due to the pandemic, the hospitality sector is still far from a complete recovery. However, the current influx of tourists is bringing some hope for the sector, battered by a financial crisis like never before. According to a recent survey carried out in Tier-1, 2 and 3 cities by Thomas Cook India and SOTC Travel, a significant 69% respondents indicated a keen interest to travel in 2021 as restrictions ease, with 18% ready to travel immediately post-unlock and 51% within three-six months.

After almost one and half years of staggered lockdowns, families are grabbing the chance to reunite. "We went to see our grandchildren for the first time since the pandemic began, and had a family get-together at The Park in Visakhapatnam. This was our first holiday in the last two years with the family," says Ramesh Sanagapally, who flew from Delhi with his wife.

"Last-minute bookings are driving the demand for our hotels; we anticipate an even further uplift in occupancy in the last week of July and first week of August," says Kerrie Hannaford, vice president - Commercial, Accor India and South Asia. The hospitality group is seeing the highest signs of revival in demand in cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Ahmedabad, driven by weekend getaways and staycations.

From discounted packages on long

stays, renting out entire villas with customised adventure activities to offering free date change for air travel for flyers who test COVID-19 positive, airlines, tour operators, hoteliers and adventure activity groups are attracting tourists with a slew of offers.

According to Gandharv Singh Dod who runs the Lagom Stay resort at Jagatsukh near Manali in Himachal Pradesh, profits have doubled post the se-

"We are getting a lot of bookings for people who want to stay with us for even a month, to be away from the city crowd at a relatively secluded location and work from here. We sweeten the deal with a package that includes traditional home-cooked food, visit to century-old homes in nearby villages, weekend adventure activities like trekking and rafting, and facilities like WiFi and power backups to facilitate work-fromhome," he says.

Tour operators say that the demand for outdoor and adventure travel is seeing a huge surge. "Himachal continues to head our favoured destination list with an over 100% week-on-week increase in queries. Top experiences include biking tours of Spiti and Kinnaur valley, camping sites at Barot, Gispa and Manali, paragliding at Bir and Billing. Biking trips have witnessed a significant uptick with over 50 bikers booked with us," says Rajeev Kale, president and country head of Holidays, MICE, Visa, Thomas Cook India.

In Araku Valley, near Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, tourists have started trickling back in. Borra Caves recorded 700 footfalls during the past two weekends with 400 footfalls on weekdays.

"From past two weeks, weekend occupancy levels have been around 50%," said Giri Prasad Reddy, Divisional Manager of AP Tourism Department. He adds, "The post second wave recovery has been quicker than what we saw after the first wave."



Making hay while the sun shines Travellers are out and about • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

That Major General Ian Cardozo utated his own injured leg on the amputated his own injured leg on the battlefield is the stuff of legend. He marks 50 years of the war that defined him and India in his 1971 - Stories of Grit and Glory from the Indo-Pak War

DEEPA ALEXANDER

"'Where is my khukri?' I asked my Gorkha batman. When he pulled it out I said, 'Cut off my leg.' He refused. So I cut it off and told him to bury it. Poor chap. I now own a little land in Bangladesh," says Major General Ian Cardozo laughing softly over the phone from New Delhi.

The story of how 84-year-old Cardozo stepped on a landmine in the final days of the Indo-Pak War of 1971 that led to the liberation of East Pakistan and creation of Bangladesh, amputated his own leg when he realised it could not be saved and shortly thereafter had it operated upon by a Pakistani army doctor who was taken prisoner of war, has found its way into the annals of Indian military history.

It is one of the 14 stories that Cardozo, a recipient of the Sena Medal and the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, has penned for his latest 1971 - Stories of Grit and Glory from the Indo-Pak War (Penguin). But this anecdote is mentioned in passing, giving greater glory to the bravado of others who fought the war over land, sea and air, and did not live to tell the tale.

For 25 years since the Parti-



tion of India, the eastern component of Pakistan lived in the shadow of its more prosperous, politically dominant western counterpart. With refugees pouring into India and a brutal military response by Pakistan on its own citizens, India helped the Mukti Bahini's call for independence. It resulted in the third Indo-Pak War – fought over 13 days on two fronts, two seas and over air. On December 16, 1971, Dhaka fell to the Mukti Bahini fighters and Indian forces spearheaded by General Sam Manekshaw with the surrender of Pakistan's Lieutenant General AAK Niazi and 93,000 soldiers.

It is the human story of the men who made this happen, with just the bare operational details to keep the story going, that



was born and raised in Bombay in a family that encouraged sport and reading.

Life-long love "I was inspired by World War stories to join the Army. John Masters' opus Bugles and A Tiger sealed my decision to choose the Gorkhas," says Cardozo, who was commissioned into the 5 Gorkha Rifles, served with the 4th battalion (4/5 GR) during the

'71 war and commanded the 1/5 GR later.

"I didn't join the Army to be chained to a desk," he says. "I was determined that my war disability would not stand in the way of commanding my men." So Cardozo clambered over icy mountains with his artificial leg, outran his able-bodied officers and went on to become the first war-disabled Indian Army officer to command a battalion, brigade and a division.

Council of India, ran marathons and is the chairman of the Centre for Armed Forces Historical Research. But Cardozo wears this distinction lightly. His writing is humane, never boastful, giving the enemy credit where due, values that are increasingly rare in a jingoistic world.

The book is a meeting ground for the heroism of the Indian armed forces, the courage of the Gorkhas and the painful birth of a nation. In lucid prose, Cardozo He chaired the Rehabilitation writes on well-known incidents

the hunt for the INS Vikrant; the sinking of the PNS Ghazi; Captain MN Mulla refusing to abandon his sinking ship INS Khukri; the Battle over Boyra watched by many as Gnat and Sabre jets strafed and fought each other in the sky; and the tank battle at Longewala.

Despatches from the front (Clockwise from

post on the Line of Control, Jammu and

Gurung • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Kashmir in 1966 with Subedar Narbahadur

far left) The book cover; Ian Cardozo; and at a

Cardozo is a remarkable scene setter; his sketches add flavour. He is a battlefield tour guide drawing the reader's attention to the bravery of both sides, and he does this well in the stories written from oral narratives and tales

gathered from regimental records and bonfire nights.

The last khukri attack in modern military history that highlighted the derring-do of the Gorkha soldier and his fearsome machete; the quaint tale of the gates of Rattoke gurudwara plundered and taken across the border in the '65 war and brought back in this one; why the 4/5 Gorkhas have a 'vazir' but not a second-in-command; an incorrect broadcast by the BBC that changed the tide of the battle for Sylhet; the glint of the decanter on General Jacob's table; a legendary map that now hangs at the United Service Institution; pilots who flew night sorties in lungis letting

loose arcs of fire; and an extraordinary friendship between battle casualties that lasted decades while they learnt to live life to the fullest.

Cardozo says he has carried the stories in his heart for half a century, reliving them with his army fraternity. "I felt these stories of the men I had lived and laughed with had to be now told to a wider world," he says, of the nine days and nights they fought without food or water, forged only by the cold steel of the khukri and the battle-cry 'Ayo Gorkhali' – the Gorkhas are here.

In the pages you see all that glory of long ago, of men who hacked their way through tropical jungles, enemy lines and in Cardozo's case, his own leg now buried in the mud of a forgotten field. "You never forget the faces that never returned or the lessons learnt on leadership, life



Enter the konnakol

Catch the wave of Carnatic hip hop, fuelled by the rise of virtual spaces, and set to the beat of the mridangam, ghatam and kanjira

SWETA AKUNDI

In the musical world, Scarborough conjures up images of Simon and Garfunkel. Across the Atlantic Ocean, its lesser known namesake, a Toronto neighbourhood known for its confluence of Asian cultures, inspires a serenade in Tamil music producer Yanchan's newly released EP, Scarborough Beat Tape.

With 10 instrumental tapes, Yanchan immerses hyperlocal details of his Canadian hometown in a decidedly Tamil flavour - through the soundscape of freestyling mridangam and ghatam.

Seen as a traditionally Carnatic instrument, the mridangam is having a moment in hip hop and rap. What we see then is a chemistry between a genre that has historically sought to rebel against the establishment and one that is very much the establishment.

Carnatic hip hop has found an audience in the Indian diaspora in the US, Canada, Singapore and Malaysia. Yanchan's work in this genre is demonstarted best in the Mrithangam Raps series, in collaboration with Tamil Canadian rapper Shan Vincent De Paul.

"I grew up with a foundation in Car-



natic music. Until high school, that was all I listened to. When I was 13, I lived in Chennai for three months to learn the mridangam from my guru, Neyveli B Venkatesh," says Yanchan.

He grew up listening to Drake. "I would play hip hop in my car and analyse the rhythmic patterns and beats. I started noticing similarities between these beats and the ones I played on the mridangam. They sounded similar to grooves in Adi talam, Rupaka talam..." says the 21-year-old, who calls his sound a combination of Carnatic music, Tamil film music and hip hop.

Mridangam gets the spotlight "The instrument never tells you what

genre it belongs to," says Viveick Rajagopalan, a mridangam exponent based in Mumbai. As the founder of the Ta Dhom project, Viveick collaborates with vernacular rappers from the city to create a sub genre of Indian hip hop - as seen in Gully Boy's 'India 91'.

Viveick wanted to pull the mridangam out of the layers of percussion it is hidden in, and make it the principal

sound, moving it from supporting role to lead. "I took those drum patterns heard in Western music and played them on the mridangam, which gave rise to the collective sound of the Ta

Since 2015, he has been meeting young rappers and sharing the basics of konnakol and talam with them, to provide a foundation for the rhythmic poetry of urban rap. "I didn't want to come in with the traditional approach of Carnatic music (with its rituals)," says Viveick. "What was interest-

Dhom project," he says.

ing to me was that instead of aping the West, these guys were rapping in their mother tongue. I wanted to push (that Indian-ness) even more. For instance, a lot of rappers still have scatting and phrasing that's typically ern," he says.

Freestyling, the classic way (Clockwise from left) Yanchan playing the kanjira; Ta Dhom project founded by Viveick Rajagopalan; Yanchan and Shan Vincent De Paul touring with Mrithangam Raps • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

As a rapper, your flow and intonation is what makes you stand out. And according to Viveick, an understanding of konnakol gives you a better understanding of rhythmic structures and helps you write phrases in more interesting ways. "It's like this: for a layperson, a chair is a chair. But when a carpenter sees it, he sees its parts: its height when you're sitting, when you're standing."

Rappers Swadesi, MC Tod Fod, MC Mawali have been part of this project. The project's second EP is set to be released and will feature MC Dehat rapping in Bhojpuri.

"If you can count the beats, count the gap, you can write with more intention," says Tamil rapper Kalaivanan Kannan, who goes by MC Kalai. "I don't learn the raag, just the taal and the konnakol, the time structures, meters, the gati (flow)." The added knowledge also makes it easier for him to collaborate with other independent bands.

The universality of it

Classical music has spilled over to other genres before. Pandit Ravi Shankar, and now his daughter, Anoushka, have brought Hindustani to raga rock. Hip hop songs by Missy Elliot and Kid Cudi use Indian classical undercurrents. Tamil film music regularly builds on Carnatic; as proven by icons from Ilaiyaraaja to AR Rahman.

"We want to show how versatile Carnatic music is," days Mahesh Raghvan, of Carnatic 2.0, the group that blends Carnatic music with "whatever is fresh, with anything to do with pop culture, electronic music, and hip hop." Their experiments led them to writing 'Mylapore Rap' last year.

In the past year, however, the rise of virtual spaces brought on by the lockdowns has also increased the accessibility to Carnatic music, bringing it out of kutcheris and sabhas. "Learning Carnatic music for four to five years also gives you a good foundation for whatever genre you want to try next," says Mahesh.

In Washington DC, singer-songwriter Hrishi Balaji had a similar realisation in high school. In June, the 25-year-old rose to Internet fame with his Carnatic remixes of pop songs. Hrishi's freestyle swaras over BTS' 'Butter' and The Weeknd's 'Blinding Lights', among others have gone viral on TikTok and Instagram. "I want to create a sense of familiarity and a sense of shock for the Western ear, while being true to both sensibilities," says Hrishi.

It is hip hop's subversive nature that allows space for experimentation, believes Viveick. "The whole rap culture is raw and non-conformist, so there is no template on how you have to play, or how it should sound," he says.

This subversion also has to reflect in its lyrics for a song to be true to hip hop's history of standing up to power. When Shan and Yanchan rap, they talk about their families who had to flee Jaffna during the Sri Lankan Civil War. MC Mawali and Swadesi, while rapping in the style of konnakol, are talking about overcoming systemic obstacles.

"Emotions are universal," says Yanchan. "With any song, your goal should be to speak your truth, speak from your experience, and hope that it connects to



+ Pedalling past the Taj

A team from Tamil Nadu has created a VR game that lets users cycle around monuments, from their homes

PRIYADARSHINI PAITANDY

Despite lockdown, Athik Mohamed M, Deepesh M and Anung Yangfo K from Tamil Nadu managed to cycle around the Taj Mahal in Agra. It only took 15 minutes.

This team of three final year students of Civil Engineering, from Thiagarajar Polytechnic College in Salem, has launched Heritage Race, a Virtual Reality mobile-only game that lets players explore Indian monuments and historic cities.

The game has been created as part of All India Council for Technical Education's (AICTE) Toycathon 2021, an initiative under the AtmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, to propel innovative minds 'to conceptualise novel toys and games that are based on Bharatiya civilisation, history and culture'.

The idea came to Athik in December



Sightseeing from the sofa A screenshot of the VR game created by three students from Salem • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

2020, before he even heard of Toycathon. Lockdown made it impossible to go anywhere. "With the lack of outdoor activities, my physical fitness was waning. I started indoor cycling but soon got bored of the four walls of my house. That's when the idea struck me," says Sathik, adding that VR cycling seemed an ideal way to beat boredom.

When his college announced the Toycathon competition a month later, Athik roped in two batchmates, and began to tweak the concept. They were mentored by Ponni M. The games needed an Indian connect and to highlight sanskaar, he explains. "India ranks low in creation of physical and digital toys. Most of the games played, don't personify Indian culture and are mostly made abroad," he adds.

The first monument adapted by the

Salem trio, was the Taj Mahal. It gives a 360-degree experience of the environment, featuring gardens, bridges and Vedic music as background score. The speed of the cycle in the game is fixed at a relaxed pace of 13 kilometres per hour. As one gets close to the monuments, there are pop-ups, making the experience informative as well as

The team is now modelling the Qutab Minar and India Gate for the upcoming games. As for ancient cities, they are focussing on Ayodhya and Varanasi. "We are searching for historical images to build 3D models and import them to the game engine," says Athik. Exploring the cities will take around 30

Plans are on to release Heritage Race on the App Store and Play Store.

The Hindu Cryptic crossword

Sudoku & other puzzles online scan the QR code.

Solution will appear

 $in\ MetroPlus\ dated$

Solution No. 13420

July 22, 2021.

SWETA AKUNDI

It is not just the protagonist's surname that Toofaan (2021) and Ali (2001) have in common. Two decades after actor and fitness expert Darrell Foster moulded Will Smith's Muhammad Ali into shape, he has done the same for Farhan Akhtar's Aziz Ali, in Toofaan.

Directed by Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra, this sports drama is set to release on Friday. Ahead of its premiere, Foster connects from his Los Angeles home to discuss the process of getting inside the mind and body of a boxer. He did that for Antonio Banderas and Woody Harrelson in Play It to the Bone, for Russell Harvard in Heart, Baby! and now, for Farhan Akhtar.

The Bhaag Milkha Bhaag star is no stranger to movies that demand rigorous fitness routines, but playing a National-level boxer brought new challenges. "We went over the pugilism fundamentals first: balance, footwork, hand and eyecoordination. Then we taught him to work on the heavy bag, the speed bag, to skip rope - everything necessary for him to portray his character," says Foster.

In the year that he trained Farhan, Foster designed for him a personalised lifestyle management programme that looked after his cardiovascular fitness, muscle strength and endurance, and flexibility. Since Farhan's character goes through an arc of losing weight, gaining it and then losing it again, the transformation was extreme. "When you have location issues, where you can't necessarily shoot where and when you want, it is quite taxing on Farhan to keep changing his look - to starve himself at some point and force feed sometime else," he says, applauding Farhan's commitment.

Prepping an actor for a sports drama or action is not just about extreme transformations or maintaining a high level of fitness,

Training

Celebrity fitness expert Darrell Foster on how he helped Farhan Akhtar get in shape for his role as a National-level boxer

in Toofaan



but also making sure the actor is in the right frame of mind, he says.

"You have to deliver dialogue with the right amount of emotion, it is a mental task. And your brain operates on glucose and oxygen, so I can't manipulate your carbo-hydration intake to the point that it begins to affect your ability to say your lines well. It requires training your intellect and your anatomy together, in congruence."

the ring. "It took time for me to understand whether it was simply a mood swing or whether it was his diet that was affecting his behaviour," he shares, about how he began to accurately assess if Farhan was "firing on all cylinders".

His fitness methodology includes what he calls Action Scene Analysis. "Say Farhan does an action scene outside the ring, where he has to run and jump over some tables and take off running down the beach. I will analyse sequence by sequence to understand what muscle groups will be involved and then set up an exercise programme to facilitate that," he says. The larger point being injury prevention.

To do this, he has to work closely with the director and cinematographer. "If I'm having him throw a lot of lateral punches or straight punches for a scene today, I won't have him doing weight training that involves shoulders. If he is sore from the upper body workout the day before, we will shoot from the waist below and get only the footwork. If we have a ring scene for which he needs to look great, and he has eliminated carbs and water for the day, I tell the director, let's keep it just physical and not shoot any dialogues."

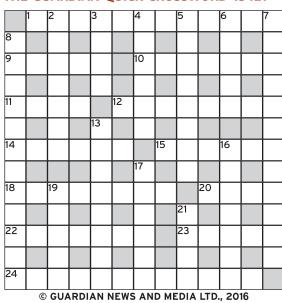
Foster appreciates the amount of control the director let him have over the shooting.

"They were humble enough to step back and let you do what you do, and then ask, 'Can I get this shot done today?'. That's what made it such a wonderful project to be a part of."



Which of course meant spending a lot of time getting to Farknow inside On body and mind A still from Toofaan; (top) Darrell Foster with Farhan Akhtar

THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13421



- Across 1 Large island part of Canada's most easterly 9 Large semi-aquatic
- pachyderm (abbr) (5) **10** Breed of cat (7)
- 11 Injure seriously, leaving permanent damage (4) 12 Gigantic statue that once

- stood at the Rhodes harbour entrance (8) 14 Not amenable to discipline
- 15 French female chorus line
- dance (6) 18 Tea flavoured with
- bergamot (4,4) 20 Provide with money (4)
- 22 Warren residents (7) 23 Relative by marriage (2-3) 24 Chips to stand (anag) -
- game played with coins (5-3-4)Down 2 Containing less (7)
- **3** Flat mass of floating ice (4) 5 Straight line on a slant (8) **6** Spaces covered by
- twodimensional surfaces (5) **7** Severe scolding (8-4) 8 Agatha Christie play (3,9) 13 Slow-moving (8) **16** People with their partners

17 Bible passage read during

19 Mechanical worker (5)

21 Decree – Italian car (4)

a church service (6)

Taliban seize border crossing with Pak.

Spin Boldak is the latest in a string of border crossings and dry ports taken by Taliban in recent weeks

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

The Taliban captured the strategic border crossing of Spin Boldak on the frontier with Pakistan on Wednesday, continuing sweeping gains made since foreign forces stepped up their withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Afghanistan's Interior Ministry denied the insurgents had taken the area even as social media was flooded with pictures of Taliban fighters relaxing in the fron-

Residents also told AFP it was in the Taliban's hands.

Spin Boldak is the latest in a string of border crossings and dry ports seized by the Taliban in recent weeks, with the insurgents looking to choke off much-needed revenue from the government in Kabul while also filling their own coffers.

Heavy fighting

The seizure of the border crossing follows days of heavy fighting across Kandahar province, where the government was forced to deploy commando fighters to prevent the fall of the provincial capital even as the insurgents inched closer to taking the frontier.

In a statement, insurgent spokesman Zabihullah Muja-

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Days after the Taliban cap-

tured a remote district in Af-

ghanistan's north, they is-

sued their first orders in the

form of a letter to the local

imam. "It said women can't

go to the bazaar without a

male companion, and men

should not shave their

beards," said Sefatullah, 25, a

resident of Kalafgan district.

banned smoking, he added,

and warned that anybody

The insurgents also



Creating a commotion: People wave Taliban flags as they drive through the Pakistani border town of Chaman on Wednesday. • AFP

luable for the Taliban.

hid assured traders and residents there that their "security is guaranteed".

But Afghan officials insisted they were still in control.

"The terrorist Taliban had some movements near the border area... The security forces have repelled the attack," Interior Ministry spokesman Tareq Arian said.

Strategic value Residents disputed the go-

vernment's claims, however. The border crossing is one of the most strategically va-

violating the rules "will be

huge advances across the

country as they capitalise on

the final withdrawal of fo-

reign troops - capturing dis-

tricts, seizing key border

crossings, and encircling

In some areas they are again

introducing the harsh inter-

pretation of Islamic rule that

earned them notoriety until

provincial capitals.

The Taliban are making

seriously dealt with".

It provides direct access to Pakistan's Balochistan province - where the insurgents' top leadership has been based for decades along with an unknown number of reserve fighters who regularly enter Afghan-

istan to help bolster their

Hours after the crossing fell, an AFP reporter on the Pakistani side saw around 150 Taliban fighters riding on motorcycles, waving insurgent flags, as they demanded

Insurgents back to old ways in newly seized territory

being overthrown by the US-

led invasion that followed

Last month they took Sher

Khan Bandar, a northern

customs post that connected

the country to Tajikistan ov-

er a U.S.-funded bridge that

fell, the Taliban ordered wo-

men not to step out of their

homes," said Sajeda, who

told AFP she worked in a lo-

cal factory at the time.

"There were many women

"After Sher Khan Bandar

spanned the Panj river.

the September 11 attacks.

Taliban issued orders to women not to step out without a male companion and men not to shave

to be allowed to cross into Afghanistan. Balochistan is a favoured destination for fighters regularly heading for medical treatment and hosts many of their families.

A major highway leading from the border connects to Pakistan's commercial capital Karachi and its sprawling port on the Arabian Sea, which is considered a linchpin for Afghanistan's billiondollar heroin trade that has provided a crucial source of revenue for the Taliban's war chest over the years.

and young girls doing em-

broidery, tailoring and shoe-

making... The Taliban's or-

istan from 1996 to 2001 ac-

cording to an interpretation

of the Koran little changed in

Women were ordered to stay

indoors unless accompanied

by a male relative, girls were

banned from school, and

those found guilty of crimes

Name of Work

ii. Estimated Cost (Lakh)

iv. Date & Time of availability of

bid document in the portal

i. Name & Address of the O.I.T.

Last date/time for receipt of

iii. Period of Completion

bid in the portal

2 - Estimated Cost

CAD-624

3. Class of Contractor

4. Period of Completion

5. Cost of Bid Documents for each work

6. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)

Place of opening of Tender

7. Availability of Tender in the Website

8. Date of time of opening of Tender

Banned from school

The Taliban ruled Afghan-

der has now terrified us."

Pullout is a mistake, says George Bush

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former U.S. President George criticised the Western withdrawal Afghanistan in an with interview broadcaster released on Wednesday, saying he fears that Afghan women and girls will "suffer unspeakable

Asked in an interview with Deutsche Welle whether the withdrawal is a mistake, Bush replied: "You know, I think it is, yeah, because I think the consequences are going to be unbelievably bad."

The war Afghanistan began under Mr. Bush after the September 11, 2001 attacks on the U.S.

The withdrawal of American and NATO troops is now nearing completion Taliban advances.

such as adultery were stoned

Men had relatively more

freedom but were ordered

not to shave, would be bea-

ten if they didn't attend

prayers, and were told to on-

ly wear traditional clothing.

servative and some rural

pockets of the country adh-

ere to similar rules even

without Taliban oversight --

but the insurgents have tried

to impose these edicts even

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER,

SUBARNAREKHA & BUDHABALANGA BASIN, AT/PO:-LAXMIPOSI, DIST: MAYURBHANJ

Government of Odisha "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Rs.1337.17 Lakh

15.07.2021 at 10 A.M.

Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj

BHUBANESWAR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

AKASH SHOVA BUILDING, SACHIVALAYA MARG, BHUBANESWAR - 751001

Visit us at : https://www.bda.gov.in

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

Invitation For Bids

The Engineer in Chief-cum-Engineer Member, BDA on behalf of Bhubaneswar Development Authority, Bhubaneswar invites percentage rate bids in double cover

system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for civil work as mentioned below

Rs.134.52 Lakh

"B" & "A" Class

06 (Six) Months.

Bid security declaration

Dt.02.08.2021 at 11.30 AM

Bid Identification No.771/EM/BDA/2021-22

03.08.2021 up to 5.00 PM.

Bid Identification No.- 04 /21-22 of CEBM, SBB, Lax

in more modern centres.

Afghanistan is deeply con-

to death.

12 killed in Pakistan bus blast, including 9 Chinese

China blames bomb attack, Pak. says gas leak caused blast

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Beijing said nine Chinese workers were among 12 people killed on Wednesday by a bomb attack on a bus in northwestern Pakistan and called for severe punishment, but Islamabad blamed the explosion on a "gas leak".

The bus was carrying around 40 Chinese engineers, surveyors and mechanical staff to a hydropower dam construction site in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

Islamabad is Beijing's closest regional ally, but the security of Chinese workers has long been of concern in Pakistan. Large numbers of them are based in the country to supervise and build infrastructure projects.

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry in a statement said the bus "plunged into a ravine after a mechanical failure, resulting in leakage of gas that caused a blast".



Wreckage: People stand next to the remains of the bus, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Wednesday. • AFP

Meanwhile, China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian expressed his "shock and condemnation over the bombing".

'Protect the Chinese'

He urged Pakistan to "severely punish" those responsible and "earnestly protect" Chinese nationals and projects. The Chinese Embassy in Islamabad also earlier said its nationals had come under "attack".

Both countries said nine Chinese workers and three Pakistanis had died in the disaster which happened at around 7 am.

Arif Khan Yousafzai, a senior government official in Kohistan district where the blast happened, said around 28 people were also injured.

They were all airlifted to hospital by the military, officials said.

Ethiopia PM vows to repel 'enemies'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE ADDIS ABABA

Minister Abiy Prime Ahmed on Wednesday vowed to repel attacks by Ethiopia's "enemies" after rebels in Tigray launched a fresh offensive to regain territory in the region.

Tigrayan forces this week claimed a series of battlefield gains in a renewed assault that comes two weeks after the federal government declared a unilateral ceasefire in the face of rebel advances.

The latest rebel push followed the stunning recapture of the regional capital Mekele last month from federal forces.

"Construction of Baisinga Branch Canal from RD 50.00 KM to RD 51.20 KM including all structures with Cement Concrete

O/o the CE&BM, Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin

Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi cebmsbb2019@gmail.com

: Development of Budhhajayanti Park at

Chandrashekharpur, Bhubaneswar.

: Rs.10,000.00 + 12% GST=Rs.11,200.00

Sd/- EIC-cum-Engineer Member, BDA, Bhubaneswar.

Protection to scoured on Devi left embankment, Providing 5nos

: From 19.07.2021 to 5.00 PM of 29.07.2021

: O/o - The E.I.C.-cum-E.M.,BDA,Bhubaneswar.

OIPR-32074/11/0004/2122

OIPR-13033/11/0013/2122

lining and Service Road,. (Package-XXIII)"

18 (Eighteen) Calendar Months

Chief Engineer & Basin Manager,

Cuba restores internet access after protests

Access to social media still blocked

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Cuban authorities restored internet access on Wednesday following three days of interruptions after unprecedented protests erupted over the weekend, AFP jour-

However, access to social media and messaging apps

nalists said.

सेवा में,

such as Facebook, WhatsApp and Twitter remained blocked on 3G and 4G.

One person has died and over 100 were arrested, including independent journalists and opposition actianti-government protests over the worst economic

crisis in decades broke out.

गरत सरकार / Government of India पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय / nistry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change एकीकरण क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, जयपुर/

कैम्प कार्यालय, केंद्रीय भवन, पंचम तल, सेक्टर–एच, अलीगंज, लखनऊ–226024 Camp Office, Kendriya Bhawan, 5th Floor, Sector-H, Aliganj, Lucknov Telefax-2326696 Email: rocz.lko-mef@gov.in, golmoefrolko@gma पत्र संख्या : 8बी / राज. / 06 / 29 / 2019 / एफ.सी. / 22

Online Proposal No : FP/Rj/Road/34665/2018

विषय: Diversion of 0.95 ha. of forest land in favour of Project Director, Nuclear Fue Complex, Rawatbata, District Chittorgarh for construction of approach road for NFC Kota Project Site to Sate Highway-33, at village & Tehsil-Rawatbhata District Chittorgarh, Rajasthan.

सन्दर्भ: शासन सचिव (वन), राजस्थान का पत्रांक — प.1 (42) वन / 2019, जयपुर, 20.08.2020

उपरोक्त विषयक शासन सचिव, वन विभाग, जयपुर के पत्रांक प.1 (42) वन / 2019 दिनाक—16.10.2020 का आशय ग्रहण करने का कष्ट करें जिसके द्वारा विषयांकित प्रकरण में वन (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1980 की घारा (2) के अंतर्गत भारत सरकार की स्वीकृति माँगी थी । इस कार्यालय के समसंख्यक पत्र दिनांक 03.03.2020 द्वारा प्रकरण के संबंध में विभिन्न बिन्दुअ पर चाही गयी जानकारी उपरोक्त संदर्भित पत्र द्वारा प्रेषित की गयी है। प्रस्तुत अनुपालना के परीक्षणोरान्त मुझे आपको यह सूचित करना है कि केंद्र सरकार उपरोक्त विषयांकित परियोजन हेत 0.95 हे0 वनभूमि के प्रत्यावर्तन एवं 167 वृक्षों (पोल्स-137, वृक्ष-30) के पातन की सैद्धान्तिक स्वीकृति निम्नलिखित शर्तों पर प्रदान करती है :— Legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged.

Compensatory afforestation shall be taken up by the Forest Department over 1.9 or 2.0 ha degraded forest land (Samlipatthar forest block, Compartment No. 18 Range Chittorgarh, District-Chittorgarh) at the cost of the user agency for plantation of 1670 plants. As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species shall be planted and monoculture of any species may be avoided.

The cost of compensatory afforestation at the prevailing wage rates as per compensatory afforestation scheme and the cost of survey, demarcation and erection of permanent pillars if required on the CA land shall be deposited in advance with the Forest Department by the project authority. The CA will be maintained for 10 years. The scheme may include appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years

The State Government shall charge the Net Present Value (NPV) for the 0.95 ha forest area to be diverted under the proposal from the user agency as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 30/10/2002, 01/08/2003, 28/03/2008, 24/04/2008 and 09/05/2008 in IA No. 566 in WP (C) No. 202/1995 and as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry vide letters No. 5-1/1998-FC (Pt.II) dated 18/09/2003, as well as letter No. 5-2/2006-FC dated 03/10/2006 and 5--3/2007-FC dated 05/02/2009 in this regard. Additional amount of the NPV of the diverted forest land, if any becoming due after the NPV of the diverted forest land, if any becoming the after the NPV of the diverted forest land, if any becoming the after the NPV of the diverted forest land, if any becoming the after the NPV of the diverted forest land, if any becoming the APV of the diverted forest land, if any becomes the NPV of the diverted forest land, if any becomes the NPV of the diverted forest land, if any becomes the NPV of the diverted forest land, if any becomes the NPV of the diverted forest land, if any becomes the NPV of the diverted forest land, if any becomes the NPV of the diverted forest land, if any becomes the NPV of the diverted forest land, if any becomes the NPV of the diverted forest land, if any becomes the NPV of the NPV of the diverted forest land, if any becomes the NPV of the NPV of

finalization of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on receipt of the report from the Expert Committee, Shall be charged by the State Government from the User Agency. The User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect.

User agency shall restrict the felling of trees of minimum number in the diverted forest land and the trees shall be felled under the strict supervision of the State Forest Department and the cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the state Forest Department.

The complete compliance of the FRA, 2006 shall be ensured by way of prescribed certificate from the concerned District Collector.

User Agency shall obtain Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the

Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if applicable.
The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of

. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land . Sufficient firewood, preferably the alternate fuel, shall be provided by the Use

Agency to the labourer after purchasing the same from the State Forest Department or the Forest Development Corporation or any other legal source of

2. The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be suitably demarcated on ground a the project cost, as per the directions of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer.

3.No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work. 14.The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of

lease to be granted in favour of the user agency or the project life, whichever is

15. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal 16. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be

transferred to any other agencies, department or person without prior approval o

17.DFO should submit a certificate, certifying that no work has been executed in violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in the said proposal 18. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as per the MOEF&CC

Guideline F. No. 11-42/2017-FC dt 29/01/2018. 19 All the funds received from the user agency under the project shall be transferred/deposited to CAMPA fund only through e-portal (https://parivesh.nic.in/). 20. The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (https://parivesh.nic.in/).

21. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate change ma

stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife. After receipt of the compliance report from the State Government on fulfillment of the conditions mentioned above, final/state-II approval of the Central Government, is accordance with Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, will be accorde

Unrest in South Africa stokes fears of shortages

72 died in protests, over 1,200 arrested

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Unrest raged in South Africa on Wednesday for the sixth day running, stoking fears of food and fuel shortages as disruption to farming, manufacturing and oil refining began to bite.

Seventy-two people have died and more than 1,200 people have been arrested, according to official figures, since former president Jacob Zuma began a 15month jail term, sparking protests that swiftly turned violent.

Looting has hit supply chains and transport links especially in the southeastern province of KwaZulu-Natal, sending a shockaround parts of the country.

wave to goods and services State-owned logistics operator, Transnet, on Wednesday declared a "force majeure" - an emergency beyond its control –

on a key rail line that links Johan-

Brazil's Bolsonaro taken

to hospital over hiccups

Bolsonaro was admitted to

hospital on Wednesday to

66-year-old far-right leader

had been complaining since

last week that he had been

suffering from the hiccups

implant on July 3. He was

following surgery on a dental

taken to a military hospital in

Brasilia "to undergo tests and

to investigate the cause of

the hiccups," said a

statement. AFP

investigate the cause of

persistent hiccups, the

government said. The

Brazil President Jair

BRASILIA



food stores and at fuel stations as early as 4 a.m. (0200 GMT) when the Covid night curfew ends, an

U.S. urges ASEAN to press for end

ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken asked his Southeast Asian counterparts Wednesday to press for an end to violence in Myanmar, its return to democracy and the release of all political prisoners in a video conference attended by the military-led nation's top diplomat.

Beijing in the sea disputes.

Mr. Blinken's meeting with the 10-nation bloc also addressed the coronavirus pandemic, State Department spokesman Ned Price said, as surging infections fill hospitals

In the meeting with foreign ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Mr. Blinken also underscored the U.S. rejection of China's "unlawful" territorial claims in the South China Sea and stressed that Washington stands with nations at odds with

to Myanmar crisis

and morgues

In the port city of Durban, people started queueing outside AFP photographer saw.

A factory burns on the outskirts of Durban as riots continue in South Africa on Wednesday. • AP nesburg to the coast because the "unrest and subsequent closure of roads has meant employees are not able to report for duty".

'Russia, U.S. have common interests on climate change'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Russian President Vladimir Putin told United States climate envoy John Kerry that Moscow and Washington have a shared interest in battling climate change, the Kremlin said in a statement on Wednesday, in a rare area of common ground between the rivals. "The climate problem is one of

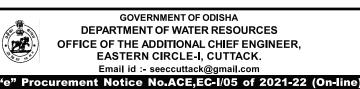
the areas where Russia and the United States have common interests and similar approaches," Mr. Putin said in a phone call with Mr. Kerry who is visiting Moscow, it said. The former Secretary of state is

in Russia this week to discuss climate change with officials and has called on the country to cooperate with the U.S. on the issue. Mr. Putin said Moscow "attaches



great importance" to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement and "advocates de-politicising" dialogue on climate change. The comments on a rare point of

cooperation between the two countries come after Mr. Putin met U.S. President Joe Biden for talks in Geneva last month. Moscow has welcomed Mr. Kerry's visit.



DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, EASTERN CIRCLE-I, CUTTACK. Email id :- seeccuttack@gmail.com

Further details can be seen from the website: https://tendersodisha.gov.in as well as in BDA website

https://bda.gov.in. Any addendum / Corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in th

		Bid Identification No. ACE,EC-I JID/05 of 2021-22.								
Total No. of Pa	ackages :	1 No. Package.								
Tender Paper	Cost :	Rs.10,000	.00 (On-line	payment)						
Bid Security	:	2019/8943	"Bid Security Declaration" as per F.D.O.M. No.FIN-COD-MISC0007- 2019/8943/F dated 18.03.2021. The bids without "Bid Security Declaration" will be summarily rejected.							
Other deta	ils are as	follows.								
rocurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Tender Cost (Rs. in Lakh)		Period of Comple-	On-lin	e for	Date of Opening of Technical			
		(Approx.)		tion	From	То	Bid (Cover-I)			
ditional Chief Engineer, Eastern :le-I, Cuttack	ACE, EC-I JID/05 of 2021-22	637.00 Lakh	637.00 Special & 09 (Nine) 19.07.2021 03.08.2021 04.08.2021							
d	Tender Paper Bid Security Other deta courement Officer litional Chief Engineer, Eastern	Other details are as rocurement Officer Bid Identification No. Solutional Chief Engineer, JID/05 of Eastern 2021-22	Tender Paper Cost : Rs.10,000 Bid Security : "Bid Security Side Securit	Tender Paper Cost : Rs.10,000.00 (On-line Bid Security : "Bid Security Declar 2019/8943/F dated 18.0 will be summarily reject Other details are as follows. Tocurement Officer Identification No. Tender Cost (Rs. in Lakh) (Approx.) Iditional Chief ACE, EC-I Engineer, JID/05 of Eastern 2021-22	Tender Paper Cost Rs.10,000.00 (On-line payment)	Tender Paper Cost : Rs.10,000.00 (On-line payment) Bid Security : "Bid Security Declaration" as per F.D.O.M. I 2019/8943/F dated 18.03.2021. The bids without will be summarily rejected. Other details are as follows. Tocurement Officer Identification No. In Lakh (Approx.) Contractor (Completion) Did (Approx.) Iditional Chief ACE, EC-I Engineer, JID/05 of Eastern 2021-22 Lakh Super Officer Did (Nine) Do (Nine	Tender Paper Cost : Rs.10,000.00 (On-line payment) Bid Security : "Bid Security Declaration" as per F.D.O.M. No.FIN-COD-2019/8943/F dated 18.03.2021. The bids without "Bid Security will be summarily rejected. Other details are as follows. Tourement Officer Identification No. In Lakh (Aprox.) Tender Cost (Rs. in Lakh) (Contractor (Aprox.) Tourement (Approx.) Toure			

Further detailed conditions can be seen from the Govt. website "www.tendersorissa.gov.in" Additional Chief Engineer, Eastern Circle-I, Cuttack

भवदीय, (प्राची गंगवार) उप वन महानिरीक्षक केंद्रीय/क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, जयपुर This pdf was originally uploaded to Brills Express Official (https://t.me/The_Hindu_Express) before anyone else. Don't forget to join backup channel Thehindu000

WARKE	I WAI	LH
	14-07-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	52,904	0.25
US Dollar	74.59	-0.13
Gold	47,024	0.36
Brent oil	75.11	-0.45

NIFTY 50		
		CHANGE
Adani Ports		
Asian Paints		
Axis Bank		
Bajaj Auto		
Bajaj Finserv		
Bajaj Finance		
Bharti Airtel	530.05	0.00
BPCL	448.70	-1.55
Britannia Ind	3485.75.	0.25
Cipla		
Coal India		
Divis Lab		
Dr Reddys Lab		
Eicher Motors		
Grasim Ind		
HCL Tech		
HDFC		
HDFC Bank		
HDFC Life		
Hero MotoCorp		
Hindalco		
Hind Unilever		
ICICI Bank		
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	431.05	1.9
Shree Cement		
Sun Pharma	685.95	2.9!
Tata Consumer		
Products Ltd.		
Tata Motors		
Tata Steel		
TCS		
Tech Mahindra	1078.50	28.35
Tech Mahindra	1078.50	28.3

Indicative direct rat except yen at 4 p.m.		
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELI
US Dollar	74.38.	74.70
Euro	87.77	88.15
British Pound	.103.14.	103.59
Japanese Yen (100)	67.31	67.60
Chinese Yuan	11.50	11.55
Swiss Franc	80.91	81.26
Singapore Dollar	54.87	55.11
Canadian Dollar	59.50	59.76
Malaysian Ringitt	17.70	17.79

...7118.05.....-10.80



Tata Motors unveils brand for fleet segment

Tata Motors unveiled 'XPRES,' an exclusive brand for the fleet segment that is expected to gain traction in the coming months with a high growth potential. Under the brand, the firm will unveil offerings catering to fleet-specific needs. The first vehicle to be introduced as part of the brand will be an electric sedan, called the 'XPRES-T' EV (T for Tata Tigor), the company said.

TCS plans to invest \$300 mn in Arizona MUMBAI

Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. (TCS) plans to expand its operations in Arizona, U.S. by investing more than \$300 million by 2026. The company said it would hire more than 220 employees by 2023 to meet the digitaltransformation needs of its customers. The company's flagship Phoenix Business Center, one of its 30 facilities in the U.S., serves more than 50 customers across Arizona.

Zomato oversubscribed on first day of offering

NEW DELHI Food delivery platform Zomato's initial offering was oversubscribed on Wednesday, the opening day, with retail investors bidding for 2.7 times the number of shares reserved for them. The offer received bids for 75.6 crore shares against an IPO size of 71.92 crore, data showed. Against 12.95 crore shares reserved for retail investors, 34.88 crore shares were bid for by 5 p.m. PTI

SAT restrains SEBI till Sept. 15 in Kochhar case

The Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) has restrained SEBI's Adjudicating Officer from proceeding till September 15 in a matter related to ex-ICICI Bank chief Chanda Kochhar. It pertains to a show-cause notice issued by SEBI to Ms. Kochhar on the basis of an analysis of a report by retired Justice B. N. Srikrishna on allegations of guid pro guo transactions in ICICI Bank. PTI

Infosys lifts revenue outlook as net jumps 23% on 'digital' deals

It forecast FY22 revenue growth at 14-16%; to hire 35,000 freshers this year

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Tech major Infosys raised its revenue growth guidance for FY22 to 14-16% from 12-14% forecast in April, and posted a jump in net profit as more clients signed digital transformation deals.

For the quarter ended June, Infosys registered a 22.7% rise in net profit to ₹5,195 crore. Revenue rose 18% to ₹27,896 crore.

'Landmark quarter'

"It has been a landmark first quarter for us," said CEO and MD Salil Parekh. "We have seen the fastest growth in digital transformation. We grew at the fastest pace in Q1 in a decade in constant-cur-



On a crest: Infosys signed 22 large deals in the first quarter, of which nine were in the BFSI space, says COO Rao. • REUTERS

rency terms. This gives us confidence to increase our revenue growth guidance to 14-16%." The quarter brought contracts worth \$2.6 billion to the company's deal kitty compared with \$1.74 billion a year earlier. Digital revenue

grew 42.1% in constant currency. "We signed 22 large deals in the first quarter, of which 9 were in the BFSI vertical while the remaining came from retail, manufacturing and other segments," said COO Pravin Rao.

On the issue of glitches in the income tax portal, he said Infosys had been working 'extremely hard' and had been 'successful in solving several issues'.

Infosys said it would hire 35,000 fresh graduates globally in FY22. It has already recruited 10,000 freshers while the rest would be onboarded in the next couple of quarters, said Mr. Rao.

Voluntary attrition rose 300 basis points sequentially to 13.9%. "As the demand for digital talent explodes, rising attrition in the industry poses a near-term challenge. We plan to meet this demand by expanding our hiring programme of [freshers]," Mr. Rao added.

PV wholesales double in June on low base

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The wholesale dispatches of passenger vehicles (PVs) more than doubled yearon-year to over 2.31 lakh units in June, driven by low base and easing of lockdown restrictions.

However, the auto industry has expressed concern over the sharp rise in fuel and commodity prices, chip shortage and a possibile third wave that may adversely impact demand and production.

"The auto industry is facing headwinds such as a steep rise in commodity prices, chip shortage, and the fear of a third COVID wave," said Kenichi Ayukawa, president of industry body SIAM.

RBI bars Mastercard from adding new users

'Issuer not compliant with data rules'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Wholesale price inflation

stayed high in June as cos-

tlier fuels and manufactured

products pegged the provi-

sional headline number at

12.07%, following May's re-

about the risks of sticky

wholesale prices pushing up

production costs, econo-

mists voiced concerns about

the spillover effect on retail

inflation and its impact on

monetary policy calibration.

Adviser in the Department

for Promotion of Industry

and Internal Trade attribut-

ed the 'high' inflation to a

low base effect combined

with the rise in prices of pe-

trol, diesel, naphtha and

ATF, as well as those of basic

metals and food products.

The Office of Economic

While industry fretted

cord 12.94%

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday imposed restrictions on Mastercard Asia / Pacific Pte. Ltd. from on-boarding new domestic customers (debit, credit or prepaid) onto its card network from July 22 for non-compliance with the regulator's directions.

"Notwithstanding lapse of considerable time and adequate opportunities being given, the entity has been found to be non-compliant with the directions on Storage of Payment System Data," the RBI said. The order would not impact existing Mastercard customers.

An RBI circular on Storage of Payment System Data



WPI inflation remains 'high'

June's print for wholesale price gains at 12.07%, fuels costlier

May's level, with the fuel and

power prices index rising

2.9% from the preceding

month, the most among ma-

and power in June was also

the highest among the WPI

constituents on an annual

basis at 32.8%, though it

Inflation in wholesale

food prices eased to 6.66%

from 8.11% in May, but price

gains in manufactured pro-

ducts accelerated slightly to

The spurt in raw material

10.88% from 10.83% in May.

and fuel and power prices

was affecting small business-

es already struggling from

the pandemic's impact and a

squeeze on working capital,

said PHD Chamber of Com-

merce and Industry presi-

slowed from May's 37.6%.

Wholesale inflation in fuel

jor groups in the index.

dated April 6, 2018, directed all system providers to ensure, within six months, the entire data relating to payment systems operated by them was stored only in India. They were to report compliance and also submit an audit report. In April, RBI had barred American Express and Diners Club from on-boarding new users on similar grounds.

The Wholesale Price Indent Sanjay Aggarwal. dex inched up 0.75% over

"We urge the Government to consider bringing petroleum products in the ambit of GST to rationalise prices," Mr. Aggarwal said, stressing inflation was affecting Indian industry's competitiveness locally and globally.

'Core inflation to rise' "While the core inflation hardened further to 10.4% in June, from 10% in May, the pace of the month-onmonth uptick in this index eased to a four-month low of 0.5%," said Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ICRA, who ex-

pects core inflation to rise

further in July, before com-

mencing a gradual downtrend from August. The WPI trend could inject 'uneasiness' into the RBI's policy tone by way of spillover risks, she added.

RBI releases draft circular on UCBs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Reserve Bank on Wednesday released a draft circular on 'Issue and regulation of share capital and securities - Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks' (UCBs), following the changes mandated by certain amendments to the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

The Reserve Bank of India has invited comments on the draft circular from Urban Co-operative Banks, other participants in the sector as well as other interested parties by August 31, 2021.

Feedback on the draft circular may be forwarded by email, the banking regulator added.

Unitholders' consent must for winding up mutual funds: SC

Court's ruling comes in Franklin Templeton plea hearing

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

The Supreme Court on Wednesday held that trustees of a mutual fund scheme have to obtain the consent of the unitholders who have invested their money before deciding to wind up the scheme or prematurely redeeming the units. Trustees cannot assume

the air of "domain experts" and treat the unitholders as mere "laypersons" whose consent was not necessary before winding up, it said.

"The argument that the unitholders are laypersons and not well-versed with the market conditions is to be rejected," a Bench of Justices



S. Abdul Nazeer and Sanjiv Khanna observed in a judgment. "Investments by the unitholders constitute the corpus of the scheme. To deny the unitholders a say, debilitates their role and right to participate," it added.

The Bench was hearing an appeal filed by Franklin **Templeton Trustee Services** Private Limited concerning the winding up of its six mutual fund schemes. The judgment harmoniously interprets Regulation 18(15)(c) with Regulation 39 (2) (a) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Mutual Funds) Regulations of 1996. The Supreme Court opted

for a middle path between

the two Regulations. "The Principle of Harmonious Construction should be applied in the context of the Regulations in question... This would mean that the opinion of the trustees would stand, but the consent of the unitholders is a pre-requisite for winding Justice Khanna

'Tax scheme for garments to continue'

RoSCTL will boost exports: official

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Union Cabinet has an proved the continuation of Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) scheme for apparels, garments and made ups with the same rates notified by the Ministry of Textiles in March 2019. According to an official

statement, the scheme would continue till March 31, 2024.

"Revised guidelines for continuation and implementation of the RoSCTL scheme shall be prepared by the Ministry of Textiles in consultation with the Department of Revenue with necessary flexibilities to fine-tune the operational implementation modalities and scheduling etc.," as per the statement.

Textiles Secretary Upen-



dra Prasad Singh told The *Hindu* that the continuation of the RoSCTL will make Indian garments, apparels, and made ups competitive in the international market and is expected to result in a 10% growth in export of these products this year.

Annual apparel and made ups exports are worth about \$22 billion. The decision to continue with the scheme has removed uncertainties for the garment and made ups exporters, he said.

on H-1B visas slides: Premji

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Wipro has become more global and more local today and dependency on H-1B visas has reduced dramatically as 75% of the employees based in the U.S. are locals, said Rishad Premji, chairman, at the 75th AGM on Wednesday.

On the firm's COVID-19 preparedness, Mr. Premji said the company had already vaccinated 87,000 of its employees and the

Mr. Premji further said, remote working was the future and Wipro settled well into the remote working mode with 97% of its staff working from home and 40% from home towns.

Dependence

number was still rising.

"We are expecting virtual, remote, communitybased and distributed models to be the future of work at Wipro," he added.

Enhance Your Olympics Quotient





Hatsun to raise ₹700 cr. for expansion

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Dairy-product maker Hatsun Agro Product Ltd. plans to raise ₹700 crore via private placement of equity shares by way off qualified institutional placement for funding ts expansion plans. On Wednesday, the

board also approved a proposal for increasing the company's borrowing limit to ₹1,800 crore from ₹1,500 crore, it said in a regulatory filing.

Hatsun reported an almost 4% growth in its net profit to ₹58.32 crore for the first quarter ended June. Revenue from operations rose 21% to ₹1,545 crore. The board declared an interim dividend of ₹6 per share for FY22.

Area under sugarcane cultivation rises a tad

'Sugar output likely at 309 lakh tonne'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

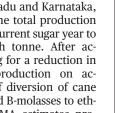
Area under sugarcane is expected to be almost 54.55 lakh hectare in 2021-2022 sugar season (October to September) or 3% higher than the current season's area, according to the Indian Sugar Mills' Association (ISMA).

Uttar Pradesh is estimated to have a sugarcane area of 23.12 lakh hectare against 23.07 lakh hectares in 2020-2021 season. Maharashtra's cane area has risen by about 11% to 12.75 lakh hectare. The area in Karnataka is 5.22 lakh hectare against 5.01 lakh hectare.

Sugar production so far during the current sugar season, that ends in September, is 307 lakh tonne.



expected to be produced during the special season in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, taking the total production at about 310 lakh tonne.



for the current sugar year to 309 lakh tonne. After accounting for a reduction in sugar production on account of diversion of cane juice and B-molasses to ethanol, ISMA estimates production in 2021-2022 season

For Print Subscription, visit www.thehindu.com/youngworld This pdf was originally uploaded to Brills Express Official (https://t.me/The_Hindu_Express) before anyone else. Don't forget to join backup channel Thehindu000

PRE-BOOK YOUR COPY

WITH YOUR NEWSAGENT TODAY

to receive this special issue along with your copy of The Hindu

For further queries, call 1800 102 1878 | For bulk bookings, email reach.youngworld@thehindu.co.in

Collector's

Edition @

I am stronger than I was at Rio: Sindhu

Hopes to go one step further than 2016 after working on her technique, fitness and mental skills

TOKYO OLYMPICS

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

HYDERABAD World champion P.V. Sindhu, who is gearing up for the Tokyo Games, feels she is an improved version of the player who claimed India's first badsilver at the minton Olympics.

"I am mentally and physically much stronger compared to the 2016 Rio Olympics where I won a silver," she told The Hindu. "I have been working a lot on my physical fitness and the mental aspects, improving my skills and technique."

The 26-year-old also said she was more mature and experienced. "The first objective will be to cut down unforced errors, consistency is very important. You will be watching new weapons for sure," she said.

"Training at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium has definitely helped a lot. [Better to] learn here and understand the court and shuttle control to be ready for the Olympics rather than take time to do the same in Tokyo in similar conditions," said Sindhu, explaining her move to the indoor stadium this February.

Asked about her coach Park Tae Sang, she said, "Every coach has a different mindset ... Park Tae Sang has been really good. He is supportive and motivating, we

Sindhu said the "biggest challenge in Tokyo" would be to stay "safe". "Getting tested every day, not meeting anyone is a different proposition altogether," she added.

Won't be easy

"Even though defending champion [Carolina] Marin is missing the Games because of an injury, that doesn't mean it is going to be easy. There are quite a few others who are equally good.

"I don't look at myself as the strongest contender for gold. Every player will be better prepared, with new tech-



Aiming higher: Sindhu says she has added weapons to her armoury. • FILE РНОТО

niques and strategies. We should be prepared for this," Sindhu said.

"This is the first time we spent a lot of time in training, improving strokes, which was not the case earlier because of a hectic tournament

schedule. Here, I must thank the Union Sports Ministry, Sports Authority of India, Badminton Association of India, the Telangana government and Suchitra Academy for ensuring I got all that I wanted," she said.

"Finally, I must say that I will miss the fans in Tokyo. But I hope they continue to support me and show their love. All I can say is that I will give my best and hope to be back with gold," Sindhu concluded.

'Tokyo Games will create new stars and legends'

Bach supports the strict measures

REUTERS

The postponed Tokyo Olympic Games will create new "stars and legends" despite a one-year delay, fragmented preparations and the absence of fans in the stadiums, International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach said on Wednesday.

"These Games will have high sporting value under the circumstances," Bach told an online media roundtable. "We have seen how the athletes persevered and adapted over more than one year...

"This challenge was the same for all of them. There we will nevertheless see great sport and like in any Olympics new stars will be born there, and new legends will be created."

Bach, who had a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga and Tokvo 2020 president Hashimoto Seikoto to discuss



Bach with Japanese PM Yoshihide Suga. • REUTERS

preparations, said he supported the strict measures imposed on the Games and its participants as it was necessary to help persuade the Japanese population that the Games would not become a super-spreader event.

'We are trying to address the concerns," he said. "We always knew there was scepticism among the population and that there are very special circumstances about which the population is concerned and which transferred to the Olympic Games.'

Herbalife to be a sponsor

 $\frac{\mathbf{ANI}}{_{\text{NEW DELHI}}}$

Nine days ahead of the upcoming Tokyo Olympics, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on Wednesday roped in global nutrition company Herbalife as one of its sponsors.

"Herbalife has confirmed a sponsorship of ₹2.25 crore," said Rajeev Mehta, secretary-general,

Deal with MPL

This came a day after IOA entered into a sponsorship agreement with MPL Sports Foundation as the 'principal sponsor' covering the Tokyo Olympic Games, 2022 Asian Games, Commonwealth Games.

MPL will pay a total of ₹8 crore to IOA in addition to the sports-kit for the 2022 Asian Games and Commonwealth Games Indian contingent. The IOA said Parth Jindal, CEO, JSW, has confirmed a sponsorship amount of one crore to the governing body.

SHORT TAKES

Sports Minister launches Cheer4India song

NEW DELHI Sports Minister Anurag Thakur on Wednesday launched the 'Cheer4India' song of the country's Olympic contingent and urged the public to wholeheartedly rally behind its athletes during the Tokyo Games. Grammy Award winner composure A. R. Rahman and young singer Ananya Birla collaborated to present the official song of the Indian contingent for the Tokyo Olympics, titled Cheer4India: Hindustani Way.

Opening ceremony: six to take oath this time

The number of oath-takers at the Olympics opening ceremony has been doubled from three to six for the Tokvo Games to ensure gender parity, the IOC said while announcing that the oath has also been reworked slightly to incorporate "inclusion and equality" in it. The Olympic oath is taken by an athlete from the host county, on behalf of all the competitors and the ceremony also includes one coach and a judge. This time, Japan will pick two

- one male and one female -

for taking oath, PTI

ARCHERY

Men: Tarundeep Rai, Atanu Das, Pravin Jadhav

Women: Deepika Kumari Events will be held from July 23 to 31



Men: Avinash Sable

(3000m steeplechase) M.P. Jabir (400m hurdles); M. Sreeshankar (long jump); Tajinderpal Singh Toor (shot put); Neeraj Chopra and Shivpal Singh (javelin throw); K.T. Irfan, Sandeep Kumar and Rahul Rohilla (20km walk), Gurpreet Singh (50km walk): Amoj Jacob, Arokia Rajiv, Muhammed Anas, Naganathan Pandi, Noah Nirmal Tom (4x400m relay); Sarthak Bhambri, Alex Antony (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); V. Revathi, V. Subha and (4x400m mixed relay)

July 30 to August 8

BADMINTON

Men's singles: B. Sai Praneeth Women's singles: P.V. Sindhu Men's doubles: Satwiksairaj

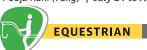
Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty July 24 to August 2



BOXING

Men: Amit Panghal (52kg), Manish Kaushik (63kg), Vikas Krishan (69kg), Ashish Kumar (75kg), Satish Kumar (+91kg)

Women: Mary Kom (51kg), Simranjit Kaur (60kg), Lovlina Borgohain (69kg), Pooja Rani (75kg) | July 24 to August 8



Fouaad Mirza | From July 24



C.A. Bhavani Devi (sabre) | From July 24



Men: Anirban Lahiri, Udayan Mane Women: Aditi Ashok

July 29 to August 1, August 4 to 7

Pranati Nayak | From July 24

India at the Tokyo

The list of sportspersons who will carry India's hopes at the Tokyo 2020 **Olympics from July 23** to August 8



MEN'S SQUAD Goalkeeper:

P.R. Sreejesh

Defenders: Harmanpreet Singh, Rupinder Pal Singh, Surender Kumar, Amit Rohi-

das, Birendra Lakra Midfielders: Hardik Singh, Manpreet Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Nilakanta Sharma, Sumit

Forwards: Shamsher Singh Gurjant Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay,

Mandeep Singh

WOMEN'S SQUAD Goalkeeper:

Defenders: Deep Grace Ekka, Nikki Pradhan, Guriit Kaur, Udita

Savita

Midfielders: Nisha, Neha, Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam, Monika, Navjot Kaur, Salima Tete

Forwards: Rani, Navneet Kaur, Lalremsiami, Vandana Katar

Sharmila Devi July 24 to August 6

Dhawan's motto: keep the flock together



Sushila Devi Likmabam (women's extra-lightweight, 48kg)



Arjun Jat and Arvind Singh (men's lightweight double sculls)

July 23 to 30 SAILING

Vishnu Saravanan (Laser Standard). KC Ganapathy and Varun Thakkar (49er) Nethra Kumanan (Laser Radial)

July 25 to August 4



10m Air Rifle: Divyansh Singh Panwar, Deepak Kumar

Chaudhary, Abhishek Verma 50m Rifle 3 Position: Sanjeev

10m Air Pistol: Saurabh

Rajput, Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar **Skeet:** Angad Vir Singh Bajwa, Mairaj Ahmad Khan

10m Air Rifle: Apurvi Chandela,

Elavenil Valarivan 10m Air Pistol: Manu Bhaker,

Yashaswini Singh Deswal 25m Sports Pistol: Rahi Sarnobat,

50m Rifle 3 Position: Anjum Moudgil, Tejaswini Sawant

10m Air Rifle Mixed Team: Divyansh Singh Panwar and Elavenil Valarivan, Deepak Kumar

and Anjum Moudgil 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team: Saurabh Chaudhary and Manu Bhaker, Abhishek Verma and

Yashaswini Singh Deswal July 24 to August 2



Srihari Nataraj (100m backstroke)

Women: Maana Patel (100m backstroke) | July 24 to August 1

TABLE TENNIS

Men's singles: Sharath Kamal, G. Sathiyan

Women's singles: Manika Batra, Sutirtha Mukheriee

Mixed doubles: Manika Batra and Sharath Kamal July 24 to August 6



Women's doubles: Sania Mirza and Ankita Raina July 24 to August 1



Mirabai Chanu (Women's 49ka)

July 24 to August 4



Women: Seema Bisla (Freestyle, 50kg), Vinesh

Anshu Malik (Freestyle 57kg),

Sonam Malik (Freestyle 62kg) August 1 to 7

ICC confirms new points system

WTC2 fixtures HOME **AWAY** SA WI Pak SL Australia Eng Ind Bangladesh WI SL NΖ England SA NZ Pak WI Aus NZ India Aus Ban Eng SA **New Zealand** Ban SL Pak Ind SA Eng Eng ΝZ Ban WI Pakistan Aus SL **South Africa** WI Ban Aus Eng NZ Sri Lanka Aus Pak Ban NZ Ind SA SL **West Indies** Pak Ban Eng Aus

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

NEW DELHI The International Cricket Council on Wednesday said the next World Test Championship will have a 'simpler' equal points system to decide the finalists after the previous system came under criticism.

Each match will now earn 12 points for a win, four for a draw and six for a tie, the ICC said in a statement. It further said that percentage of points won will be used to determine the standings.

The ICC switched from the original system of total points to percentage of points won midway through first championship which was severely disrupted by COVID-19.

The second championship will kick off with a five-Test series between host England and India in August and September. The top nine Test nations will play six series each, three home and three away before March 31, 2023. "We received feedback

that the previous points system needed to be simplified," ICC chief executive Geoff Allardice said. "The Cricket Committee took this into consideration when proposing a new, standardised points system for each "During the pandemic we

had to change to ranking teams on the points table using the percentage of available points won by each team, since all series could not be completed."

Kane Williamson's New Zealand beat India in the first WTC final and both teams will be among the favourites again.

Will regroup: Kohli India captain Virat Kohli said: "We will regroup with new energy for the next cycle starting with our series against England."

'We have a lovely bunch of boys, great support staff, and have worked earlier too' INDIA IN LANKA



An honour: Shikhar Dhawan is proud to be leading the Indian side. • AP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thrust into the leadership role for the Sri Lanka tour, Shikhar Dhawan wants to keep the flock together and in a good state of mind. Sri Lanka's limited-overs

tour, comprising three ODIs

and as many T20s, will begin on July 18 in Colombo. "It is a big achievement for me that I have become the captain of the Indian side. As a leader, my idea is to keep everyone together and happy – that is the most important thing," Dhawan said on Star Sports show

"We have got a lovely bunch of boys, great support staff, and we have worked earlier as well."

On his equation with legendary Rahul Dravid, who is the head coach for the series, Dhawan said, "I have a good relation with Rahul Bhai. When I started playing Ranji Trophy, I played against him, and I have known him since then. When I went to play India-A match, I was the captain, and he was the coach, so

there was interaction. "When he became the director of NCA, we used to go there for around 20 days, so we had a lot of interaction, and now we have good chemistry. And now we have the chance to play six matches together, so it will be great fun, and I think we all sync nicely," he said. The selectors have picked

many uncapped players, including the likes of Ruturai Gaikwad and Chetan Sakariya, and Dhawan wants the youngsters to enjoy their journey. "Happy to get the youngsters in the team and see their dreams come true. It's

a big thing that these youngsters have come from their respective home towns with certain dreams, and their dreams are getting fulfilled.

"And now, they should enjoy the journey," he said.

Smriti takes India to 153

AGENCIES CHELMSFORD

Opener Smriti Mandhana's stroke-filled 70 (51b, 8x4, 2x6) powered India to 153 for six in 20 overs in the third and final T20I against England here Wednesday.

After losing partner Shafali Verma in the first over and Harleen Deol in the fourth, Smriti added 68 for the third wicket with skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (36, 26b, 5x4, 1x6). The scores:

India 153/6 in 20 overs (Smriti Mandhana 70, Harman-



Smriti... on the go. ■REUTERS

preet Kaur 36, Katherine Brunt 2/27, Sophie Ecclestone 3/35)

Anand draws first blood

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

Viswanathan Anand defeated Vladimir Kramnik at his own game at Dortmund on Wednesday. In the No-Castling Chess contest, designed by the Russian, Anand won convincingly to

take a 1-0 lead in the four-

game match for the Sparkassen Trophy.

The first game didn't disappoint the curious chess fans, as the two battled it out for 66 moves. Anand, with white, was a piece up and in a winning position, but Kramnik tried his best to delay the inevitable.

Gukesh advances

RAKESH RAO

NEW DELHI

D. Gukesh punished Switzerland's Pawel Teclaf for an error of judgement on the 21st move and went on to clinch a decisive victory in the first-round rapid tiebreaker of the chess World Cup in Sochi on Wednesday. In the second rapid

game, Gukesh easily got a

1.5-0.5 triumph and entered the second round. Magnus Carlsen begins his campaign along with 49

draw in just 34 moves for a

others on Thursday. The results (first round: tiebreaker): Rapid (Game One):

Pawel Teclaf (Pol) lost to D. Gukesh: (Game Two): Gukesh drew with Teclaf (Gukesh wins 1.5-0.5).

Ashwin sounds Messi, Barca agree deal in principle

BARCELONA

'Follow the Blues'.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Barcelona has reached a

Argentine veteran to remain

with the Catalan club for

deal on principle with

Lionel Messi for the

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

a warning

R. Ashwin sounded a warning for the England batsmen ahead of the five-Test series with a superb matchturning spell of six for 27 as Surrey bundled out Somerset for 69 in its second innings in the County championship on Wednesday.

another five years, but on a reduced wage, Spanish Looking to get match media reported on practice before joining the Wednesday. Indians in Durham on Messi, who finally landed a major international trophy Thursday, Ashwin did more than enough with 58 with Argentina when it beat overs under his belt and a Brazil to win the Copa match-haul of seven for America, "will sign a

release clause of €600 million (\$709 million)," according to Catalan sports daily L'Esportiu. "The player will reduce his wage by 50%. Now it just

remains for the lawyers to

five-year contract with a

Spanish media says he is expected to sign a five-year contract

look over the agreement and give it the go ahead. Once that happens, his contract extension will be official," said Madrid-based sports daily Marca, confirming L'Esportiu's



Bolt returns on track as part of

exhibition, clocks 2:40 in 800m

Usain Bolt came out of retire-

ment for one day on Tuesday

here in Jamaica for a promo-

tional race - trying his fa-

mously fast stride for the first

The world record holder

in the 100m and 200m and

an eight-time Olympic gold

medallist clocked an unoffi-

cial time of 2:40 in what was

Fans had high expecta-

tions going into the race, but

they did not get the result

they hoped for as Bolt main-

successful campaign in Tokyo

The Indian squad is a blend of youth and experience

Kuldeep Malik. ■TWITTER

fence. Five years ago, four

men – two each in freestyle

(after the suspension of Nars-

ingh Yadav due to doping)

and Greco Roman - and three

women had qualified for the

Rio Games. Sakshi Malik had

emerged as the first woman

wrestler from the country to

Encouraged by the in-

crease in the number of quo-

ta places for women, Malik

expects a better show from

get an Olympic medal.

Kuldeep Malik confident of another

a relaxed, fun atmosphere.

time in the 800m.

tained his easy gait for the

entire race. While the race had a light-hearted feel, Bolt

broke a full sweat, saying his

lungs felt like "fire" after. "In

my mind, I thought it would

be easier. It's not," Bolt said.

ners. But for me, I enjoy a

challenge," Olympics.com

quoted Bolt after the exhibi-

I did a lot of cardio" to get

ready, Bolt added. Asked if

this was the start of a come-

back, Bolt was quick to res-

pond: "No, no, this is a one-

the squad, which has a mix of

"We are medal contenders in

all four weights. Since Sonam

and Anshu are young, they

don't fear anything. Vinesh

and Seema are experienced.

All of them are focused only

on winning," Malik told The

Malik, who recently re-

including

turned from camps in Poland

and Estonia, counted the be-

those who have qualified for

the Olympics, from nearly 10

countries were there. Apart

from sparring, we gathered a

lot of ideas about our

12-day camp which began on

Malik will now oversee a

nefits of the exposure.

"Wrestlers,

opponents."

youth and experience.

Medal contenders

tion race."

time thing."

"Hats off to the 800m run-

British Open set to tee off today

Packed galleries expected as U.S. Open champion Rahm starts favourite

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

The British Open returns after a two-year hiatus caused by the coronavirus pandemic on Thursday with galleries of up to 32,000 fans allowed in to savour a sight of the world's best golfers at Royal St. George's.

Ireland's Shane Lowry will defend the Claret Jug in the 149th Open Championship, but despite the return of play and patrons, CO-VID-19 still casts a shadow over the final Major of the

Masters champion Hideki Matsuyama, two-time Major winner Bubba Watson and former British Open winner Zack Johnson have all withdrawn after either testing positive for COVID-19 or being deemed a Covid close contact.

Strict rules

Tournament organisers the R&A recently informed players that the championship will "operate under strict government overwith guidelines which prohibit players from going to bars, restaurants

Golf: The Open Champion-

ship, Eurosport (SD & HD), 11

a.m. & 9.15 p.m. **Tour de France**: Eurosport

TV PICKS

(SD & HD), 5 p.m

IN BRIEF

Mushfiqur to miss rest

of Zimbabwe tour

Wicketkeeper-batsman

Bangladesh's tour of

Mushfiqur Rahim will leave

Zimbabwe on Wednesday for

family reasons, the national

miss Bangladesh's three ODIs

Morgan returns to lead

Foin Morgan has been cleared

Pakistan it was announced on

Wednesday after he missed

the team's ODI clean sweep

outbreak within the hosts'

Wasim Jaffer named

Wednesday named the chief

side. "He (Jaffer) will be the

coach of the Odisha senior

head coach. He has been

given a two-year contract,"

Subrata Behera, CEO, Odisha

Cricket Association said. PTI

Odisha chief coach

Wasim Jaffer was on

camp. The three matches of

the T20I series will be held on

England in T20I series

to lead England in an upcoming T20I series against

following a COVID-19

July 16, 18 and 20.

BIRMINGHAM

board said. Mushfigur will

and as many T20Is. AFF

Getting ready: Jon Rahm practising his chip shot on the eve of the British Open. • AFP and supermarkets during tournament week.

Spain's Jon Rahm is the bookies' favourite thanks to his scintillating form that saw him claim his first Major at the U.S. Open last month and briefly move to World No. 1 before being deposed by Dustin Johnson.

Rahm admitted his surprise at the size of the galleries given Britain's series of strict lockdowns and restrictions on foreign travel.

"I did not expect this tournament to be the first one we're going to have full crowds, just because of the lockdown and limitations and all," said Rahm. "I am very excited. We've missed

Home support

Tommy Fleetwood can count on home support as he aims to become the first English champion since Nick Faldo in 1992 and believes players are now used to dealing with the complexcoronavirus protocols.

Rory McIlroy will be hoping there is more luck for

Northern Ireland in Sandwich, where Darren Clarke won his only Major when the Open was last played at Royal St George's 10 years

four-time Major champion has struggled since returning to links courses in recent weeks, finishing in a tie for 59th at the Irish Open and failing to make the cut at the Scottish

It is seven years since the 32-year-old last won a Major but McIlroy has five top-10 finishes at the British Open.

Vince's century helps England sweep series

PAKISTAN IN ENG

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE BIRMINGHAM

James Vince hit a maiden One-Day International century and Lewis Gregory made 77 as England defeated Pakistan by three wickets at Edgbaston on Tuesday to complete a 3-0 series

Set a challenging 332 to win, England, without most of its first-choice players, was faltering at 165 five.

Big partnership

But a partnership of 129 between Vince, who made 102, and Gregory turned the

England won with two overs to spare when Brydon Carse, who had earlier taken five wickets, drove Shaheen Shah Afridi for a

The scores: Pakistan 331/9 in

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

tember 15.

After the resounding success of the first Online

Olympiad, world chess go-

verning body FIDE has an-

nounced the schedule of its

second edition. It will be

held from August 13 to Sep-

Last year, more than

1,500 players had competed,

representing 163 countries.

India and Russia were de-

clared the joint champions,

though in controversial cir-

India had lost the final,

but it lodged an appeal to

FIDE, pointing out that it

was due to an internet out-

age that India lost two



50 overs lost to England 332/7 in 48 overs (James Vince 102, Lewis Gregory 77, Haris Rauf 4/ 65). England won by three wickets with 12 balls to spare, clinches three-match series

Player-of-the-match: James Vince: Player-of-the-series: Sagib Mahmood

Seeded seventh, India ended up as joint champion last year

games. FIDE president Arka-

dy Dvorkovich decided that

the gold should be shared.

Some of the Russian players

were not happy with that de-

cision and even went public

Nobody could have had any

dispute about India's fine

show in the tournament,

though. A star-studded team

Anand, Vidit Gujrathi, P. Ha-

rikrishna, K. Humpy, D. Ha-

rika, R. Vaishali, Bhakti Kul-

karni, Nihal Sarin, R.

Praggnanandhaa, Aravindh

Chithambaram, Bhakti Kul-

karni, Divya Deshmukh and

Vantika Agrawal, had put up

a great display right through

after beginning its campaign

as the seventh seed.

Viswanathan

with their displeasure.

Fine show

Wimbledon:

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

year's Wimbledon are being investigated by the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) over potential irregular betting patterns.

The ITIA, which is responsible for safeguarding the integrity of professional tennis worldwide, received two alerts from the betting industry during the grass-court Grand Slam.

The matches were reported by German newspaper Die Welt to be an early-round singles tie and a men's doubles contest.

"I am looking forward to

the second edition of the On-

line Olympiad," Humpy told

The Hindu on Wednesday. "I

hope we will able to field all

the strong players that we

She said the format - a

team is required to field

men, women and juniors -

suited India well. "We have

some of the world's best

young players in Nihal,

Praggnanandhaa and Vaish-

ali, and they had made a big

difference last year," said the

"It felt great to be the joint

champion in such a strong

event in which most of the

world's best players took

part. I think we should be

able to do well in this year's

could last year.'

World No. 3.

tournament too."

two matches being probed

Two matches at this

shakes or hugs. Online Olympiad to begin next month

Help yourself to the medals!

OLYMPICS

Ramkumar

SPORTS BUREAU

loses in doubles

INDIANS ABROAD

Ramkumar Ramanathan,

in partnership with Aisam-

Ul-Haq Qureshi of Pakis-

tan, was beaten 1-6, 7-5,

[10-7] in the doubles pre-

quarterfinals by the Japa-

nese pair of Yoshihito Nish-

ioka and Yasutaka Uchiya-

ma in the \$535,535 ATP

tennis tournament on

Other result: \$15,000 ITF

gles (first round): Bruno Pu-

jol Navarro (Esp) bt Adil Ka-

grass here on Tuesday.

lyanpur 6-3, 4-6, 6-1.

WRESTLING

For the first time, more wo-

men wrestlers are going to re-

present the country in the

Olympics than their male

counterparts, and women's

squad chief coach Kuldeep

Malik is confident of another

Four women – Seema Bis-

la (50kg), Vinesh Phogat

(53kg), Anshu Malik (57kg)

and three freestyle men

wrestlers - Ravi Kumar Dahi-

ya (57kg), Bajrang Punia

(65kg) and Deepak Punia

(86kg) - have made it to the

Olympics this time after the

suspension of Sumit Malik

(125kg) due to a doping of-

and Sonam Malik (62kg)

campaign in

Y.B. SARANGI

Tokyo.

REUTERS

токуо Olympic champions at the Tokyo Games starting next week can forget about having their medals hung around their necks as they stand on the podium, shaking hands with dignitaries and soaking up their success.

Instead, the three medals will be presented on a tray to the athletes on the podium and they then have to hang them around their own neck in front of the empty stands. There will also be no hand-

"The medals will not given around the neck," International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach told a virtual media roundtable on Wednesday.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

An official of the Internation-

al Olympic Committee's

(IOC) refugee team has test-

ed positive for COVID-19

here, leading to a delay in its

travel plans for the Tokyo

Games even though all oth-

ers have returned negative

"...the IOC Refugee Olym-

'Welcome Experience' in

pic Team came together for

Doha, Qatar. Twenty-six of

the 29 athletes and 11 offi-

cials participated," the IOC

poll of 28 countries showed,

amid concerns over CO-

VID-19 in Japan and withdra-

wals of high-profile athletes,

with the host country among

kvo-olympics-draw-muted-

the most disinterested.

"On taking COVID-19 PCR

muted: Ipsos poll

results for now.

statement read.

REUTERS



Rewarding excellence: The medals that will be given out at the Tokyo Games • REUTERS

"They will be presented to the athlete on a tray and the athlete will take the medal him or herself.

"It will be made sure the person who will put the medal on the tray will do it with

IOC refugee team official tests positive

tests before leaving for To-

kyo, the test of an official re-

turned positive. A follow-up

test confirmed the result,

while the tests of all other

members of the team (ath-

letes and officials) returned

take part in the 'Welcome

Experience' in Doha and

two of them – Ahmad Alikaj

(judo) and Abdullah Sediqi

(taekwondo) - are due to ar-

rive in Tokyo on Wednesday.

by coach Alireza Nassraza-

dany. All three are coming

directly from their respec-

"They are accompanied

Three athletes could not

negative," it added.

disinfected gloves. "Presenters and athletes will wear a mask. There will be no handshakes and no

hugs during the ceremony,"

pan because of fears it will even though no spectators will be allowed into sports venues and there are strict health measures in place for

tive training camps," the IOC

The official, who has been

isolated by the Qatari Public

Authorities, is considered

asymptomatic and doing

vaccinated and followed all

COVID-19 countermeasures

prior to departure and dur-

ing the Welcome Expe-

"As a consequence, it was

decided that the team would

currently not travel to Tokvo

and will continue their train-

ing in Doha while being test-

measures. Spectators have

been barred from attending

all Olympic events in Tokyo

and surrounding regions and

ed daily," it added.

rience," the IOC stated.

"The official was single-

stated.

The Olympics has lost much public support in Ja-

trigger a surge of infections all participants.

Mohun Bagan Ratna for Shibaji

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Former India goalkeeper Shibaji Banerjee, who stood out against Pele-led Cosmos Club in an exhibition match here in 1977, will be conferred with Mohun Bagan Ratna posthumously, the club an-

nounced on Wednesday. The executive commit tee members also unanimously adjudged Fijian striker Roy Krishna as the best footballer of 2020-21, having guided ATK Mohun Bagan to the runner-up finish in the Indian Super League.

Bengal skipper Abhimanyu Easwaran was chosen as the best cricketer, while Bidisha Kundu, who won the 100m hurdles and high jump in the National championships, was named the best athlete.

TOUR DE FRANCE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Tadej Pogacar won stage 17 of the Tour de France on Wednesday atop the 2,200m summit finish of Pyrenean giant the Col du Portet, followed by Jonas

Ecuadorian Carapaz launched a blistering attack from 1.5km but was reeled in as the Slovenian champion took his second victory on this Tour to keep his five-and-a-half minutes lead over Dane Vingegaard.



Iapanese officials are asking residents to watch the Games on TV to keep the movement of people to a minimum. Tokyo Governor Yuriko

Koike said a sufficient number of hospitals combined with a speed-up in the CO-VID-19 vaccination roll-out among the elderly meant the city will be able to hold "safe

Pogacar pulls off another win

SAINT-LARY-SOULAN

Vingegaard and Richard

Tadej Pogacar. • REUTERS

Bromell bounces back to win 100m

ATHLETICS

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE GATESHEAD (UK)

US sprinter Trayvon Bromell won the men's 100m at the British Grand Prix here on Tuesday as Olympic champion Elaine Thompson-Herah took the honours in the women's 200m.

Bromell, the fastest man in the world this year, won in 9.98 seconds, with Britain's Chijindu Ujah second in 10.10 at the Diamond League

It was a welcome return to form for Bromell, 26, who



Trayvon Bromell. • AFP

has a fastest time of 9.77 in 2021 but trailed home in fifth place at the Monaco Diamond League meeting on

Canadian Andre De Grasse, who won 100m bronze and 200m silver at the Rio Games, was fourth.

Jamaica's Thompson-Herah, who won gold in the 100m and 200m at the 2016 Olympics, triumphed in the 200m in 22.43, with British world champion Dina Asher-Smith absent due to a tight

Dutch athlete Femke Bol won the women's 400m hur-

Stars absent

The event was without a host of stars but dozens of British athletes were combefore flying to peting Tokyo.

DUBAI

the West Indies. In the ICC Men's ODI

Allen's T20I ranking jumps

West Indies spinner Fabian Allen on Wednesday moved into the top 10 of the ICC Men's T20I player rankings. The 26-year-old left-arm spinner has gained 16 spots to reach 10th position in the bowlers' list after grabbing three wickets in the first three matches, which have all been won by

player rankings updateBabar Azam has consolidated his position at the top. This pdf was originally uploaded to Brills Express Official (https://t.me/The_Hindu_Express) before anyone else. Don't forget to join backup channel Thehindu000

but excitement varied across markets, with less than 35% Global interest in the Tokyo Olympics is muted, an Ipsos Only 22% of Japanese say

Global interest in Tokyo Games

the Games should go ahead, the Ipsos survey showed.

Concern over infections

The pandemic-hit Olympics, due to start in nine days, has The poll https://www.iplost public support amid linsos.com/en-us/news-polls/togering concerns over infection risks and a state of emerinterest released on Tuesday gency being declared in found a global average of Tokyo, despite organisers 46% interest in the Games, promising strict coronavirus

and secure" Olympics.

Wednesday at the Sports

Authority of India (SAI)

Centre in Sonepat. Seema,

Anshu and Sonam will take

part in it. The wrestlers will

leave for Tokyo on July 26. Vi-

nesh, who has been training

with her personal coach

Woller Akos in Hungary, will

Malik, who had lifted

Sakshi on his shoulders after

she bagged a bronze medal in

Rio, said he would do so

again if anyone won a medal

pray for such success again. I

do not lift a wrestler on my

shoulders, it is the whole

country which lifts her up...

We are among the best of the

best and our opponents now

fear us," said Malik.

"Definitely. We should all

join the squad directly.

in Tokyo.