on Sunday

India got a defence policy only after Modi became PM: Amit Shah



New academic session in universities to begin on October 1: UGC



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Nasheed asks Solih to course-correct before it is too late

India takes on Sri Lanka in ODI series from today

Page 14



NEARBY



No CET, DU admissions to begin on Aug. 2

Delhi University on Saturday announced that registration for its undergraduate courses will begin from August 2. Admissions to undergraduate courses will be based on merit and not Central Universities Common Entrance Test as speculated earlier. **CITY** ▶ PAGE 3

Hold fresh U.P. local polls, demands Priyanka

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday demanded that fresh elections be conducted in those block pramukh seats which witnessed violence, and alleged that candidates had been intimidated. She met two women who had been assaulted during the nomination process. NEWS ▶ PAGE 6

BJP expels former **Rajasthan Minister**

The BJP on Saturday expelled former Rajasthan Minister Rohitash Sharma from the party for six years. The BJP had recently issued a show-cause notice to Mr. Sharma for speaking out against the State leadership. NORTH & EAST ▶ PAGE 5

MAGAZINE ▶ 8 PAGES **CLASSIFIEDS** ▶ PAGES 4

Taliban won battles, we will win the war: Ghani

Focused on political solution, says Afghanistan President

of force in

ASHRAF GHAN AFGHANISTAN

is over

SUHASINI HAIDAR TASHKENT

The Afghan national forces will prevail over Taliban militants who are making advances on towns and border checkposts, Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani has said, conceding, however, that the Taliban had won some battles thus far.

In an interview, shortly after a fiery speech accusing Pakistan of failing to prevent "jihadi" fighters from crossing the border and for not pushing the Taliban hard enough on talks, Mr. Ghani said he would keep dialogue open with Islamabad and continue the intra-Afghan negotiations with the Taliban in Doha.

"Winning battles is not winning the war. They [the Taliban] have won battles. But they are going to lose the war, and we are determined," Mr. Ghani said, when asked about recent Taliban gains, particularly on the border with Pakistan at the Spin Boldak-Chaman crossing, where Indian photojournalist Danish Siddiqui was killed on Thursday.

Mr. Ghani, who condoled the death, said there might be a need to "rebalance" the situation to win the war militarily but the larger goal of his government was to arrive

This [defeating Taliban] is our job. The period of international engagement, or use Afghanistan

at a political settlement in Afghanistan.

The President stressed that he would want to avoid the fate of countries such as "Algeria, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Yemen" that continued to see strife.

As a result, after several changes in its plans, an Afghan delegation, led by High Council chief Abdullah Abdullah, travelled to Doha on Saturday to begin "high-level" talks with Taliban leaders in an effort facilitated by the Qatar government and other countries to restart the stalled intra-Afghan dialogue.

Asked if he felt abandoned by the West, after the abrupt U.S. pull-out and after comments by the British Defence Secretary that the

New quad group to focus on connectivity

The U.S., Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan have agreed in principle to establish a new quadrilateral diplomatic platform focused on enhancing regional connectivity, the Biden administration has said. ▶ PAGE 9

U.K. was prepared to engage with the Taliban if it came to power in Afghanistan, he said, "No, no, I don't. We have an engagement."

'India a true partner' Mr. Ghani emphatically de-

nied having asked India for military assistance in the face of the Taliban's advances. India was a "true partner" in Afghanistan's development, he said.

"This [defeating Taliban] is our job. The period of international engagement, or use of force in Afghanistan is over," he told The Hindu during his visit to Dushanbe to attend the Central and South Asia connectivity conference on Friday.

INTERVIEW ▶ PAGE 7

Sidhu may captain Congress in Punjab

Amarinder says he will abide by Sonia's decision

VIKAS VASUDEVA CHANDIGARH

The decks seem to have been cleared for the appointment of former Punjab Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu as president of the Pradesh Congress Committee after Harish Rawat, All India Congress Committee's State in-charge, held a meeting on Saturday with Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, who said he would abide by the decision of party president Sonia



On the front foot: Navjot Singh Sidhu leaving for Amritsar from his residence in Patiala on Saturday. • PTI

Gandhi. Amid the power tussle between Capt. Singh and Mr. Sidhu ahead of the 2022 Assembly election in the State, Mr. Rawat flew to

Chandigarh from Delhi to meet them and settle the 'differences".

Mr. Rawat tweeted, "I have just returned to Delhi

after meeting @capt_amarinderji. I am happy that many things which are being discussed outside have proved to be completely baseless and Captain Sahib has again reiterated his important statement.. In which he has said that whatever decision will be taken by honourable Congress president regarding the post of Punjab president, that decision will be acceptable to him, I will respect it."

"#Thankyou_Captain for your great statement," he added.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 6

Uttar Pradesh cancels annual Kanwar Yatra

SC had frowned upon govt.'s nod for it

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT LUCKNOW

The Kanwar Yatra in Uttar Pradesh has been cancelled, the State government said on Saturday. The announcement comes days after the Supreme Court took suo motu cognisance of the State's move to allow the yatra.

"On the appeal of the government, the Kanwar Sanghs cancelled the yatra," said Navneet Sehgal, Additional Chief Secretary, Information. The government earlier said it was going ahead with a pared-down "symbolic" version.



The annual Kanwar Yatra was scheduled to start on July 25. • FILE PHOTO

The court had said it could not allow the U.P. government "to hold the physical Kanwar Yatra in view of COVID-19".

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 6

SC with people to protect civil liberties: CJI Ramana

Justice Chandrachud flags intolerance

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana on Saturday asserted that the Supreme Court would stand by the people to protect their civil liberties, while Justice D.Y. Chandrachud cautioned that any semblance of majoritarian tendencies or clampdown on civil or religious freedoms would upset a sacred promise made to the ancestors who accepted India as their Constitutional Republic.

The judge observed that the "danger to our freedoms



Chief Justice N.V. Ramana

may not only originate from those who are tasked to govern but also originate in the intolerance of persons in society as well".

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 6

Sharad Pawar meets PM, submits letter

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Saturday had an over 50-minute meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He also wrote to Mr. Modi on the problems with the new Union Ministry of Cooperation, which is headed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

"Rajya Sabha MP Shri Sharad Pawar met PM Narendra Modi," the PMO tweeted with a photo of the meeting

The timing of the meeting

has raised questions, two days ahead of the monsoon session of Parliament. There are reports of a strain in the Maha Vikas Aghadi government in Maharashtra.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 6

'Delta variant found in most **COVID** cases

in the Capital'

NEW DELHI

Over 88% of 92 samples from Delhi, for which genome sequencing was done in June, had the Delta variant of COVID-19. In May, out of 745 samples, 83.4% were found to have the Delta variant, which was first found in India, according to Delhi government data shared with *The Hindu*.

The Delta variant became dominant in April (55% of 1,967 samples) when the city witnessed a deadly second wave and the daily new cases were reported as high as 28,000.

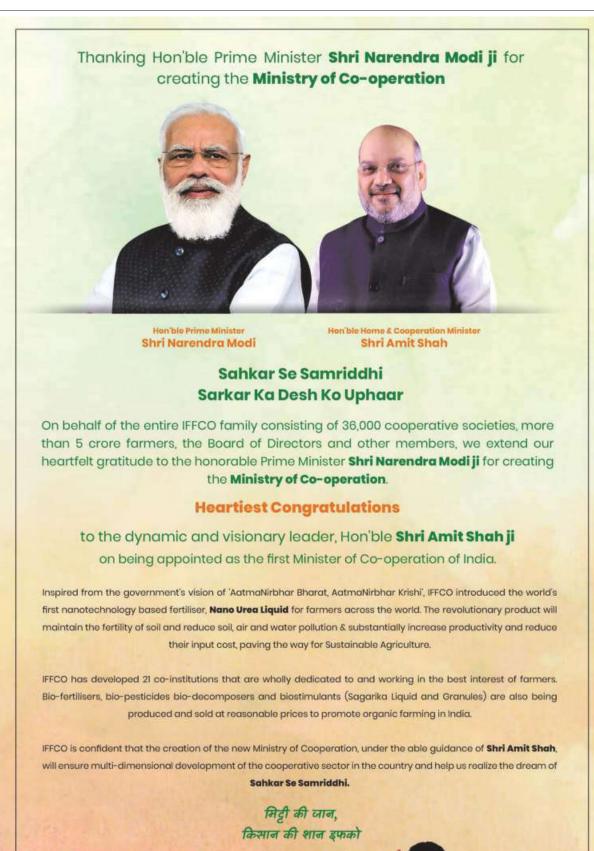
Also, the percentage of Alpha variant of the virus, first found in the U.K. and a dominant strain in the city earlier, fell from 47.4% in March to just 3.3% in June.

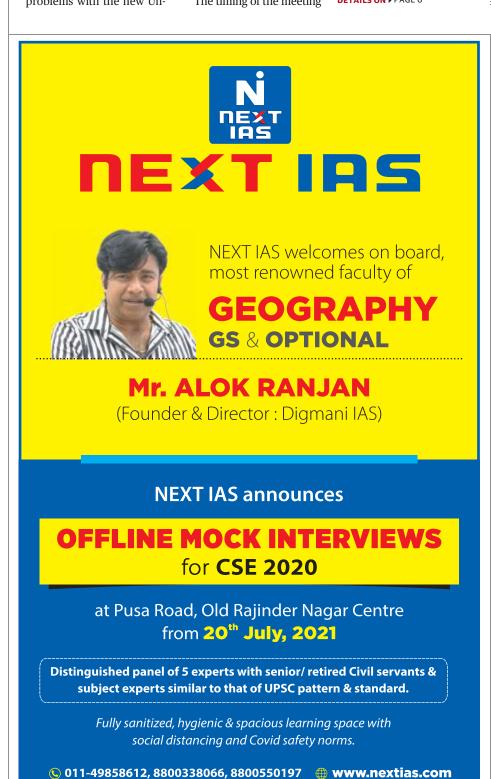
"The Delta variant is the dominant strain of the virus in Delhi at this moment. It has seen a steady rise in the past few months. Also, till now, there is no Delta Plus variant of the virus reported here," a Delhi government official said. Results of more samples from June are awaited, the official said.

The data is based on genome sequencing of COVID positive blood samples from Delhi by the National Centre for Disease Control.

"The data show that the second wave in Delhi was in a way due to the Delta variant. This variant is highly infectious and that's why Delhi registered a sudden spike in cases," said Jugal Kishore, head of Community Medicine Department, Safdarjung Hospital. He said a similar trend was observed in several other States as well.

"Now the percentage of Delta variant may fall and another variant could become dominant. That is what happens during pandemics," Dr. Kishore said.





ASHOK KUMAR

t has been more than two years since the local health department abandoned the dilapidated district civil hospital building in Old City in April 2019, but the wait for the proposed 500-bed hospital could be longer.

"It will take at least three years to complete the building after the construction starts. At present, the designs for the proposed building are being prepared by the architecture department. The designs would then be sent to our client, the Health Department, for final approval before the rough budget estimates are prepared and cleared by the government," said Sandeep Singh, executive engineer, Gurugram, Public Works Department (Buildings & Roads).

Land dispute

Manoj Bhardwaj, junior engineer, Civil Hospital, blamed the delay on the dispute over the four-acre land of a government school adjoining the hospital building.

"Initially, the Health Department had proposed to encompass the adjoining school land for the hospital project. The Public Works Department prepared a design for the new hospital premises spread across nine acres, including 5.73-acre land of the existing old hospital, but the Education Department refused to part with the entire land parcel," said Mr. Bhardwaj.

The matter was finally resolved and the government recently gave in-principle approval to use the two-acre school land for the project and the PWD was directed to prepare the designs.

In another twist to the tale, the Civil Surgeon again wrote to Director General, Health Services on July 2 this year to try and encompass the entire four-acre land belonging to the government school for the hospital project. If this is cleared, the PWD will have to work on the project ab initio, further delaying it.

But the dispute with the Education Department over the land is not the only hurdle. The Health Department may also need to seek relaxations from the Indian Public The abandoned building of district civil hospital in Old City, (below) CT scan and MRI facility is still being run at the building. • MANOJ KUMAR

Fate of hospital

project hangs in the balance

Gurugram residents suffer due to lack of

adequate health facilities, especially during the

ongoing pandemic, as the proposed govt.

hospital is yet to see the light of day

er because of lack of adequate

health facilities, especially during

the ongoing pandemic. Maneesh

Rathee, Deputy Civil Surgeon at Ci-

vil Hospital, Sector-10, said the 200-

bedded hospital running from the

old building was shifted to the pre-

sent building, which earlier housed

a mother and child care unit, as a

stop-gap arrangement. "Our doc-

tors attend to 1,700-1,800 OPD pa-

tients daily across a dozen depart-

ments, besides the routine



surgeries, Ayush OPD, and roundthe-clock maternity services," said Dr. Rathee.

Hospital burdened

The hospital infrastructure, which was not enough for the pre-COVID daily load of patients, has been further burdened due to the pandemic outbreak. "We now run a round-the-clock flu OPD, COVID laboratory and also carry out CO-VID sampling as an added job. Though the number of paramedical staff, lab technicians and nurses has gone up, the number of doctors remains the same," said Dr. Rathee.

Though the hospital has been shifted to a new building, CT scan and MRI facility through publicprivate mode continues to run from the old building forcing patients to run between the two buildings located at a distance of around 30 minutes.

Waiting in the OPD service queue at Sector-10 hospital, Ramesh Kaushik, a resident of Patel Nagar, grumbled that Gurugram was a medical hub with world-class health facilities and fancy hospitals, but a large section of its population, including migrants, could not afford the expensive treatment and suffered due to lack of good quality health facilities in government setups. "Not just that the Sector-10 hospital is not centrally located unlike the old civil hospital, the physical infrastructure and manpower, too, are far from adequate at this hospital to cater to the growing population," he said.

Terminal 2 to reopen on July 22

DIAL expects to process around 25,000 passengers daily

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) on Saturday said flight operations at Indira Gandhi International Airport's Terminal 2 will recommence from July 22.

Flight operations from T2 were suspended on May 18 following a significant drop in domestic air traffic.

Gradual rise

The decision to resume operations was taken after the airport started witnessing gradual rise in passenger footfall post relaxation in lockdown and travel norms by various States since June.

Services will initially start with around 200 air traffic movements (100 departures and 100 arrivals) per day and increase to around 280 by the end of August.

Operations will resume with IndiGo's 2000-2999 series flights and GoAir. Around 25,000 passenger footfall per day are expected in the initial phase. About 27 counters, 11 for



Flight operations from Terminal 2 were suspended on May 18 following a significant drop in domestic air traffic. • FILE РНОТО

GoAir and 16 for IndiGo, will be open.

The first plane to take off will be a Kolkata-bound Indigo flight, which will depart at 3 a.m.

Safety measures

DIAL said it has taken several safety measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 and ensure the safety of passengers without "compromising their comfort and experience".

"Teams have worked round-the-clock to sanitise the terminal. DIAL will encourage passengers to wear face masks and maintain social distance while at the airport," said Videh Kumar Jaipuriar, CEO, DIAL.

Arrangements have been made for thermal scanning. To avoid close contact and crowding at the check-in counters, passengers are encouraged to use e-boarding facility, and the security hold area has been expanded for adequate seating arrangements and enhanced retail options.

New NMRC timings from tomorrow

Metro services will be available between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m

peak hours - 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Noida Metro Rail Corporation (NMRC) on Saturday announced a revised sche dule of operations and said services will be available between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m from July 19. Metro services will continue to remain suspended on weekends due to imposition of a partial curfew in Gautam Buddha Nagar.

NMRC officials said trains will be available at an interval of 10 minutes during

and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., and at intervals of 15 minutes during non-peak hours.

Curfew timings

"The NMRC has decided to reschedule its metro train services as night curfew timing in Uttar Pradesh has been revised to 10 p.m.-6 a.m. against the earlier 8 p.m.-7 a.m. As weekend curfew is in effect in Gautam Buddha Nagar, train services will not be available on Saturday and Sunday," said Ritu Maheshwari, NMRC managing director.

Officials stated that the Noida-Greater Noida Aqua Line was seeing an increase in ridership since resumption of services on June 9. The highest ridership recorded was on July 12 when 9,489 passengers travelled on the corridor.

According to NMRC data, 8,895 commuters travelled on the corridor on July 16,

Python rescued near

Saket metro station

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE



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Himachal Pradesh Government Jal Shakti Vibhag *NOTICE INVITING TENDER*

Health Standards (IPHS) guidelines

which say that a minimum of 16-

acre of land is required for a 500-

acre land at the present location. So

we have decided to go vertical. With

regard to relaxations from IPHS gui-

delines, it is the responsibility of the

Health Department," said Mr.

Even as the fate of the project

hangs in balance, the residents suff-

"It is almost impossible to get 16-

bedded hospital.

Sealed item rate tender forms 6 & 8 is hereby invited on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from the approved/ enlisted contractors n Jal Shakti Vibhag for execution of following job so as to reach in the office of Executive Engineer, JS Division Salooni on or before 24.7.2021 upto 11.00 AM . The tenders will be opened on the same day at 11.30 AM in the presence of contractors or their authorized representative who may wish to be present. The tenders documents should can be had from the office of the Executive Engineer JS Division Salooni at any time in working days upto 11.00 AM upto 23.07.2021 on cash payment of cost of tender form (Non-refundable) as mentioned against work. The tender's document should accompany earnest money in the shape of saving nstruments, bankers/cheque "demand draft or fixed deposit, duly pledged in favour of Executive Engineer JS Division Salooni". The tender without earnest money will be summarily rejected. The offer shall remain valid upto 120 days. The undersigned shall have the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason:-

Cost

Name of work

Estimated Earnest | Cost | Time

form

money

BIRTH CENTENARY				l		
Birth Centenary	1.	Remodeling & Augmentation of WSS Wangal Kumandi in GP Wangal, Simni & Ohra, Tehsil Salooni Distt. Chamba (HP) (SH:-Excavation , Laying & Jointing of pipes 32mm dia RD 0 to 2300 & 25mm dia RD 2300/0 to 2300/300 &20mm dia RD 2300/0 to 2300/700) phase 8		7000/-	250/-	Six Months
Gomathi Seetharaman 18.07.1921 First child of M. Subbulakshmi & L. Achutha lyer Remembered with love, A. Rajalakshmi Achutha Krishnamurti and The ACHUTHANS	2.	Augmentation of source level of drought affected WSS Schemes of Salooni Manjeer, Sundla & Devi Diur Area of Dalhousie Constituency under WSS Chandra in GP Dighaie Tehsil Salooni Distt. Chamba (SH: Providing & Fixing of house hold connection under JJM) (Habitation Ahni-I,II,III & IV Bhandar I,II,III Deghai I,III Bhadog, Indreshwar, Jainsari, Mantu, Shalla, Tukred, Parjna, & Shalaie) 200HH	354800/-	7100/-	250/-	Six Months
For enquiries on announcements in this section, please contact our office at the following number between 10a.m. and 8p.m. New Delhi: 011- 43579797 Rate for New Delhi: (Minimum Rs. 320/- 2 Lines	3.	Augmentation of source level of drought affected WSS Schemes of Salooni Manjeer, Sundla & Devi Diur Area of Dalhousie Constituency under WSS Gumera Guthan phase-II Tehsil Salooni Distt. Chamba (SH:- Providing & Fixing of house hold connection under JJM)Habitation Ghundera, Kamled, Salooni, Gangla, Kandolu, Chari, Anderwal, Kaila Mandroga & Sutah) 97HH		4300/-	250/-	Six Months
Extra Line - Rs.160/-) (B/W Display): Rs.60/Per Sq.cm (Clr Display) : Rs.70/Per Sq.cm	4.	Remodeling & Augmentation of WSS Wangal Kumandi in GP Wangal, Simni & Ohra, Tehsil Salooni Distt. Chamba (HP) (SH:-Excavation, Laying &		3400/-	250/-	Six Months

Terms and conditions:-

to 1600) phase-I

Jointing of pipes 25mm dia RD

0 to 1300 & 20mm dia RD 1300

Before offering the rates the terms and conditions attached with the schedule of quantity may be gone through carefully Conditional tenders will be out rightly be rejected.

The contractor shall enclose his enlistment/Renewal order with his application for obtaining the tender documents. Latest Income Tax clearance certificate as well as Pan No. and

GST No. must be attached with the application failing which the documents will not issued to those contractors. The contractor shall produce registration of labour license from

the competent authority under Contract Act. 1970 failing which no tender shall issued to him.

(Er. Hemant Puri) Executive Engineer JS Division Salooni

Capital likely to receive rain today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

details are as follows:

Estimated cost (Rs.)

Tentative quantity (kWp)

Period of contract

Date of publication of NIT on website:

http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Date & time of Pre-bid meeting

EMD (Offline)

Technical Bid Opening Date

Name & address of office inviting tender

Contact no. of procurement officer

Helpline no. of e-procurement

गिरिडिह जिला अंतर्गत सरिया प्रखण्ड में प्राथमिक

स्वास्थ्य केन्द्र सरिया का अवशेष कार्य।

6 निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय —31.07.2021 अपराहृन 2:00 बजे I

2 वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि — 20.07.2021

PR 249791(Energy)21-22*D

. कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी

अपराहन ०५:०० बजे तक ।

देखा जा सकता है।

सं०

8 Last date & time for receipt of online bids

9 Submission of original copies of Bid fee &

Monsoon activity over the Capital is likely to resume on July 18. After receiving show-

ers for two consecutive days, the temperature started rising. On Saturday, the maximum temperature was 38.8° Celsius. The forecast

Ph.: 0651-2491161, Fax: 0651-2491165,

E-mail: info@jreda.com; Website: www.jreda.com

e-Procurement Notice

Tender reference no.: 02/JREDA/SPV/AIRPORT/21-22 Dated: 16.07.2021

Online bids are invited for the work of Design, Manufacture, Testing, Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 600 kWp of Grid connected SPV Power

Plants including five years Comprehensive Maintenance Contract (CMC) on

Turnkey basis for solarization of 5 different Airports in Jharkhand. The

corrigendum/addendum can be seen on website:

http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in & www.jreda.com. Further details can

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण विकास

विशेष प्रमंडल, गिरिडीह

ई-अति अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई- अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सo-RDD/SD/GIRIDIH/04/2021-22

4. ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, गिरिडीह / मुख्य अभियंता कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रक्षेत्र, एफ0 एफ0 पी0 भवन

धुर्वा, राँची में निविदा शुल्क, अग्रधन की राशि एवं Affidavit जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय 30.07.2021

.निविदा खोलने का स्थान – मुख्य अभियंता कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रक्षेत्र, एफ0 एफ0 पी0 भवन, धुर्वा, राँची ।

७. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल

) निविदा शुल्क राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक द्वारा निर्गत ड्राफ्ट या बैकर्स चेक जो कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाईट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पट्ट

3.ई—निविदा प्रकोष्ट का दूरभाष सं० — 94370308011 (संबंधित कार्यपालक अभियंता का दूरभाष नम्बर)

प्राक्कलित

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Design, Manufacture, Testing, Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 600 kWp of Grid connected SPV Power

Plants including five years Comprehensive Maintenance

Contract (CMC) on Turnkey basis for solarization of 5

Rs. 12,75,00000.00

06 (Six) Months

5 years and 6 Months

16.07.2021 (Friday)

26.07.2021 (Monday) at 2.00 P.M.

10.08.2021 (Tuesday) upto 05:00 PM

10.08.2021 and 11.08.2021 up to 5.00 P.M.

12.08.2021 (Thursday) at 3.00 P.M.

Director, Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development

Agency(JREDA)3rd Floor, SLDC Building, Kusai, Doranda

Ranchi- 834002 (Jharkhand)

0651-2491163/67/61

Sd/-

JREDA, Ranchi

परिमाण विपत्र कार्य पूर्ण करने

का मूल्य

10000.00

कार्यपालक अभियंता

ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, गिरिडीह

की अवधि

12 माह

Director,

different Airports in Jharkhand

for July 18 reads "generally cloudy sky with moderate rain/thundershowers. Heavy rain is likely at isolated

NGO also rescues monitor lizard places in afternoon/evening.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT A six-foot-long python was Govt. of Jharkhand Energy Department Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (JREDA) rescued by Wildlife SOS af-

3rd Floor, S.L.D.C. Building, Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi-834002.

Wildlife SOS 24x7 said after receiving a call on its emergency helpline number, a team of two rescuers from the NGO was dispatched to the location.

the busy area to a halt.

Equipped with necessary equipment, the team carefully transferred the python into a snake bag, much to the relief of the onlookers.

The NGO also rescued a monitor lizard from the tracks at Shastri Park metro depot. It took nearly 20 minutes for the Wildlife SOS rescuers to safely transfer the monitor lizard into a transport carrier.



The reptile was spotted crossing the busy road near the metro station. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Kartick Satyanarayan, CEO and co-founder of Wildlife SOS, said, "We are thankful to the DMRC authorities for considering the well-being of the reptile and contacting our team. Monitor lizards are non-venomous but can bite or even use their strong claws in retaliation if threatened or provoked."

MATTH EASTERN RAILWAY

E-Tendering Notice Divisional Railway Manage

Electrical) North Eastern Railway, President of India, invites Online E-Tendering) "open tender" for the following work.
S.no: 1, Tender reference no:

-Tender-L-07-21-22, Name of vork: Corrective Maintenance Contract (CMC) of RMPU and other allied equipments of EOG Type LHB AC Coaches for a period of hree years coaching depot of Varanasi Division, Approx. Cost 36149896.45, Completion period: 36 Months. Date & time of Closing Tender: 10.08.2021 15:00 Hrs., Date & time of Opening Tender: 10.08.2021 15:30 Hrs.

• Full details of E-Tendering shall be een in Website www.ireps.gov.in.
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer CPRO /EL-24 General, Varanasi About any passenger amenity complain SMS on Mobile No. 09794845955

02-07-2021.

er travel on roof and foot boards

Man held for selling salt

IN BRIEF

under noted brand name

A 33-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly running a salt factory and packaging it in counterfeit packets of a noted brand, in Outer North Delhi's Barwala. DCP (Outer North) Rajiv Ranjan Singh said the accused has been identified as Mahesh alias Tony, a resident of Barwala. "The packing was so intelligently printed that if the customer scanned the QR code printed on the duplicate packing, it would lead to the brand's genuine website," he said

ASSAM POLICE HEADQUARTERS ULUBARI, GUWAHATI

Corrigendum 1

Refer this office NIT No. S/V-684/2018-19/CCTV/All Dist/8 dtd.

The BoQ has been amended due to technical error. Further, the bid submission start and end date & time is also extended as below.

24-07-2021 from 5:00 PM Bid Submission Start Date 02-08-2021 upto 2:00 PM Bid Submission End Date Bid Opening Date (Technical Bid) 02-08-2021 at 4:00 PM

The other terms and conditions of the NIT remain the same

Janasanyog/C/2296/21 Dy. Inspector General Of Police (A)

PR 249807 Rural Development(21-22)#D 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

प्रमंडल, गिरिडीह के पदनाम से देय एवं गिरिडीह में भुगतेय हो देना होगा।

3.ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय - 29.07.2021 अपराहन 5:00 बजे तक ।

Timings **DELHI**

SUNDAY,	JUL. 18	
RISE	05:36	SET 19:20
RISE	13:28	SET 00:16

MONDAY, JUL. 19 RISE 05:36 SET 19:20 RISE 14:34 SET 00:53 TUESDAY, JUL. 20

RISE 05:37 SET 19:19 RISE 15:43 SET 01:36

Delhi Weather Delhi City Safdarjang

Delhi Palam Today 35°C Moderate to heavy rain or thundershower likely at some places with gusty winds and lightning strike

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 31°C Few spells of light to moderate rain and thundershower likely at some places

THE HINDU

Over 7,000 families got ownership rights: Puri

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

A total of 7,329 families have been conferred ownership rights while over 4.1 lakh people have registered till date for the PM-Unauthorised Colony in Delhi Awas Adhikar Yojna (PM-UDAY), Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Puri said on Saturday.

PM-UDAY was launched on October 29, 2019, to confer ownership rights to residents of 1,731 unauthorised colonies in Delhi. A total of 4,19,485 people have registered under PM-UDAY, Mr. Puri tweeted. He also shared a DDAvideo that offered a step-by-step explanation for people to register

Sisodia asks Baijal not to take decisions in matters falling under govt. ambit

Stop meeting officials, he tells L-G

STAFF REPORTER

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Saturday wrote to Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal, saying it has come to his notice that for the past many months, the latter has been giving directions to government officials on matters, which are under the ambit of the Delhi government, without consulting with the Ministers.

He also urged the L-G to not take any decisions on subjects falling under the Delhi government's ambit.

"It has also come to my notice that you have been issuing directions to officials in meetings about matters that fall under the amof the elected government of Delhi. Also, officials from L-G office pressure governement officials for implementing those decisions," Mr. Sisodia wrote

Mr. Sisodia said it is a

chance for Mr. Baijal to take a stand. He said in the future, people will remember him as someone who took a stand "against the BJP" and protected democracy.

'Murder of democracy'

"I want to request you with respect to please stop taking decisions on matters, which are under the ambit of the elected government of Delhi. Please stop calling meetings with officials on these matters and giving them orders. These meetings and the decisions being taken in these meeting are not just unconstitutional, but against the orders of the Supreme Court," the letter read. Mr. Sisodia also termed it as a "murder of democracy".

"Whatever political pressure you may have, being on the post of L-G, you should do only what strengthens democracy," the letter said.

No common entrance test, DU admissions to begin on Aug. 2

Applicants under ECA, sports quota can upload certificates from last four years

SHINJINI GHOSH

Delhi University on Saturday announced that registration process for its undergraduate courses will begin from August 2 while that of postgraduate courses will commence from July 26.

Senior university officials said admissions to the UG courses will be based on merit and not Central Universities Common Entrance Test as speculated earlier.

Cut-offs in September The cut-offs are expected to be out by early September,

officials said. P.C. Joshi, the acting Vice-

Chancellor of DU, said: "We had an intensive meeting with our admissions committee and came up with the dates for admissions. The process, like last year, will be completely online."

Mr. Joshi announced that the registration process for M.Phil and Ph.D courses will begin on July 26 and end on



Students at Delhi University's School of Open Learning on

August 21, the same as the postgraduate schedule. The last date of registration to UG courses will be August 31, Mr. Joshi added.

65,000 seats

Around 20,000 PG seats and 65,000 UG seats are on offer at the university this year, said officials.

Applicants interested in applying under the ECA and Sports quota can upload certificates from the last four years, instead of three years, as a special measure during the pandemic, they said.

Rajeev Gupta, Chairperson of DU Admissions, said: "All trial-based admissions for sports and ECA [Extra-Curricular Activities] will be based on certificates. The only modification this year is that students will be able to upload certificates from the last four years instead of three years. Due to the pandemic, it might be possible

that students were not able to participate in events. So, this year, they will be given the option to select the three best certificates from the last four years."

"The admission process will be online, and no student has to visit any centre or college for any purpose. There will be a dedicated portal for admissions that will have details about all colleges, courses and fee structures. The idea is to integrate everything to assist students. The admission committee has taken a conscious call to not change any eligibility criteria or the fee structure," he added.

Senior officials said webinars and tutorial videos will be released by DU to facilitate students in the registration process. Mr. Joshi said, "We will ensure that the admission process is smooth and hassle-free. My advice to students is to not be anxious as we are here to facilitate their easy admissions."

Release funds for 12 colleges, **DUTA writes** to Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi University Association Teachers' (DUTA) on Saturday wrote to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal urging the government to release required funds for the 12 DU colleges that are fully funded

government. In the letter to Mr. Kejriwal, DUTA said the grants released last year for the colleges insufficient.

"Owing to that, the first quarterly Grants-in-Aid released in April 2021 was just about enough to cover salaries up to May. Some colleges, owing to a greater gap, could not release full salaries for May. Most colleges do not have funds for the salaries of June. Any delay in the release of the second installment of Grants-in-Aid to the 12 colleges will create a crisis for the employees of these colleges," DUTA president Rajib Ray said in the letter.

A bright star



Journalists light candles to pay tribute to Pulitzer prize-winning photojournalist Danish Siddiqui in New Delhi on Saturday. The Reuters photographer was killed on Friday while he was covering a clash between Afghan forces and the Taliban near a strategic Pakistan-Afghanistan border crossing amid the continuing withdrawal of U.S. and NATO troops. • AP

From office desk to Olympic badminton court

Gautam Buddha Nagar District Magistrate Suhas L.Y. will be representing India in Tokyo

ANUJ KUMAR

"My reach in the court is my strength," says Suhas L.Y., Gautam Buddha Nagar District Magistrate and parabadminton player who is going to represent India in the upcoming Tokyo Olympics. "Reaching the shuttle is crucial in badminton. It is as important as reaching the spot as an administrative officer," chuckles Suhas, who has been consistently performing in the international circuit.

Describing the selection as a "huge honour and a dream come true", Suhas says he has "no words" to express his joy. "As I am ranked third in the world in the SL4 category, I was sure that I would be selected and was preparing every night," says Suhas, who emerged



as a champion player when he won back to back gold medals in Asian Championship-2016 in Beijing and the Turkish Open in 2017.

"I played at the Olympic stadium court in 2017 when I won the silver at the Japan Open. It has high air volume. So the moment I got the call, I shifted my preparation to Greater Noida stadium which also has high air volume," says Suhas, who takes to the court at 10 p.m. every night.

"I have some strong spar-

ring partners," he adds. When asked whether his

schedule becomes hectic, the 2007-batch IAS officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre replies: "It is just like watching a movie after a tough day. The time spent in court helps me relax. Badminton is a skill sport and that doesn't require you to be on the court the whole day."

He counts top-ranked Lucas Mazur of France as his biggest threat. "He has a better win-loss record against

me. Being 6 feet 3 inches, he has the advantage of height but I have my plans. When you are playing in the Olympics, you need to have an allround game," says the 5' 10" tall player.

Started as a cricketer

Hailing from Hassan in Karnataka, Suhas, who counts his father as his inspiration, says he started as a cricketer but soon fell in love with badminton.

"It is a social concern that in our country sports and studies could not be taken together. So much so that when someone excels in both, it becomes news. As a society, we have broken many glass ceilings and I feel this is one waiting to be smashed."

Spotted by SAI coaches at the IAS Academy in Mussoorie, he maintains that badminton complements his work as an IAS officer.

"It is like the more you chisel the pencil, the sharper it will write. Mental and physical fitness is crucial for excellence in any field, and sports provides that. As badminton requires skill and thoughtful preparation, my experience as an administrator also helps in planning on the court, but I would say badminton informs my daily job more than the other way round."

When COVID-19 cases were on the rise during the first wave, Suhas was handpicked by the U.P. Chief Minister for Noida as he liked his performance as the district magistrate of Prayagraj during the Kumbh Mela. Suhas says he has tried to be "fair and transparent".

'Legal action taken against Gambhir, his foundation'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Delhi Drugs Control Department (DDCD) has told the High Court that it has launched prosecution against Gautam Gambhir, his foundation, and AAP MLAs Imran Hussain and Praveen Kumar, before a court for allegedly illegally stocking and distributing COVID-19 drugs.

Based on inquires made by the investigating team, a prosecution in the court of law was launched against the foundation, its trustees and CEO on July 8 for "contravening the provisions of Section 18(c) read with Section 27(b)(ii) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940", the DDCD said in a status report. Cricketer-turned-politician and BIP leader Mr. Gamb hir is one of the trustees.

Section 18(c) prohibits manufacture, sale, distribution of drugs without a licence; and Section 27(b) (ii) makes sale, distribution without valid licence punishable with imprisonment for a term, not less than three years but may extend to five years and with fine.

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT

Mr. N SELVA KUMAR

PH: 9820350726

selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in

THE HINDU India's National Newspaper

Vaccine stock to last less than a day, says Delhi govt.

City sees 59 new COVID cases, 4 deaths

STAFF REPORTER

The number of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered daily in the city is still less than before due to another shortage, as per Delhi government data.

The vaccine stock will last for only less than a day, as per a vaccination bulletin released by the Delhi government on Saturday. The city has faced a similar situation on Monday and a day later. The Health Minister had said 500 vaccination centres were shut due to shortage in the city.

Only 87,249 doses of vaccine were administered in the city on Friday compared to 1,29,054 doses on Tuesday. On Saturday morning, the city had only 47,000

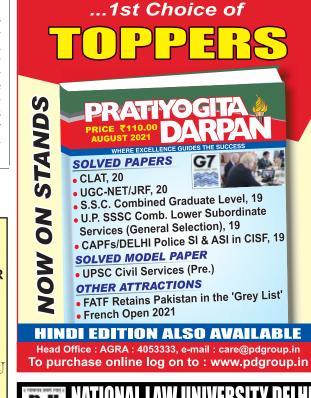


Vaccination under way at Dhaka village on Saturday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

doses of Covishield and 2,20,000 of Covaxin, as per the data.

The Capital reported 59 new COVID cases and four + deaths in past 24 hours. The total number of cases stands at 14,35,478 while fatalities at 25,027.

A total of 69,212 tests were done in a day and that RPR was 0.1%.



(A University of Law Established by Act No. 1 of 2008 of NCT of Delhi) Sector-14, Dwarka, New Delhi-110078 **ADMISSION ANNOUNCEMENT FOR**

LL.M.(Professional) 2021-22 Last Date For Submission Of Applications: 20th August, 2021

The NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY DELHI invites applications for admission to the LL.M.(Professional) Programme for the Academic Year 2021-22 commencing from September, 2021. The Programme will be conducted through a mixed mode of distance education and contact learning.

Eligibility: Candidates who have completed their graduation in any discipline, with a minimum of 50% marks and have been in service or having professional experience will be eligible to enroll for the programme

Fee: ₹1,25,000/- (Rs. One Lakh Twenty Five Thousand only) for Indian Citizens and \$3,500/- (USD Three Thousand Five Hundred only) for Foreign Nationals. Interested candidates should apply online only, on payment of ₹3,050/- (Rs. Three Thousand and Fifty only) for General Category,

₹1,050/- (Rs. One Thousand and Fifty only) for SC, ST and PwD categories along with copy of requisite Certificates. For further details, please visit university website http//www.nludelhi.ac.in Note: LL.M.(Professional) shall not qualify a candidate to the academic and other professional benefits obtainable from a regular

LL.M. Course. This is equivalent to a P.G. Diploma Programme PROF. (DR.) ANUPAMA GOEL

REGISTRAR

Retired justice Shabihul Husnain appointed as new DERC Chairman

Govt. grants 10% discount on purchase of bus ticket via its app

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday approved the appointment of retired justice Shabihul Husnain as the new Chairman of Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC).

Mr. Kejriwal stressed the fact that the Delhi government is committed to providing an uninterrupted power supply and there has been great improvement in the power sector in the last

Jain on power supply 'We are very confident that

DERC will set new and significant milestones under the exemplary leadership of the newly appointed Chairman. Delhi government is committed to provide sufficient and reliable power supply in the Capital region," said Power Minister Satyendar Jain. Also, tickets booked

through Delhi government's e-ticketing app will get a 10% discount on DTC and cluster buses, the government said. "Delhi Cabinet approves

the grant of 10% discount on the purchase of bus ticket through government's e-ticketing app. The app supports e-ticketing, estimated time of arrival (ETA) of buses and information about the nearest available EV charging station," an official statement



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

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THE MARKHINDU MATRIMONIAI

HINDU, MBBS, Indian Revenue Ser-

vice (IRS) Bride seeks Bridegroom. Caste / State No bar. Contact

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NAIR GIRL, Age: 37 Thiruvonam, Msc

MALAYALAM DOCTOR Hindu Ezhuva Girl Makayiram 27/154, MBBS, MD (Paedi-atrics) Fair, Good Looking base in Chennai settled in Mavelikara Ker-ala Rich Educated family seeks al-

DOCTOR GROOM USMLE Passed match

from a decent family for a beautiful, slim, charming girl to USA Citizen and valued family. she is

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar Girl Fair

Good Looking, 03–04–1986 born 152cm / M.Sc M.Phil, working as As-

sistant Professor in a Reputed Wom

en's College, Mount Road, Chennai Both Parents Doctors (Private)

Suitable Alliance, Employed / Set-tled in Chennai / With Clean Habits from Same Community. Con-

RC CHRISTIAN 36yrs/167cms Software Egr Unmarried Udayar Fair Good looking. Seeks suitable unmarried

CHRISTIAN NADAR well settled fam

ly from Chennai seeks alliance for their elder Daughter 28/ 5.3

Height, MBA Looking for a God fearwith Good job or Business. Ct: 7811999777

CHRISTIAN GIRL 31 years Engineering

Graduate working in Chennai Wanted an Engineering Graduate Groom from

a decent literate family 9444325317

Ct:joseph154@gmail.com

tact: 9841182514

groom. 9943084508

Unmarried.Caste

gmail.com

proposal Ct. 9444752894, Chennai

encumbrance seeks educated groom. Subsect no bar. 9283433069/ 9840329160

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9443622400, 8925019776

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7305329667/

Tel:

9176251309.

anandtr1972@gmail.com

MATRIMONIAL

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

INDEX OF MATRIMONIAL

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED BRIDES WANTED

BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED

Classification common for Brides, Bridegrooms, Brides & Grooms

Assamese

Awadhi Bengali Bhojpuri

Bihari

Chhattisgarhi English

Gujarati Harvanv

Hindi Kannada

Kashmir Konkani

Malayalam Manipuri

Marathi Marwari

Nepali Oriya

Parsi Punjabi

Saurashtra Sindhi

Tamil Teluqu Tulu

Urdu Advocate

Defence Doctor

Engineer

Business

Finance/ Banking

Government/ Quasi-Govt. IAS/ Allied Services

Information Technology

MBA/ CA/ ICWA NRI

Cosmopolitan Divorcee

Physically Challenged

MARRIAGE BUREAUS

WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS

NAIR GIRL, age 46,US citizen, Phd, Assistant Professor Chicago. Caste, Language no bar. Alliance invited from US settled boys. Contact 9895824803

PQM (DOCTOR/ Engineer/ Civil services) for 1988 born. 5'3" MD DM Brahmin girl. Upper caste no bar. 9872073702

FAIR/ MUDALIYAR Girl 30/162 10th No issue, seeks suitable groom, bar, Chennai only. 9840353368

AP, WG Dist well Settled, Brahmin 34Yrs N. Pushyame / Slim Good look fair M.Sc.,- AU (Divorcee) Rq any Brahmin Good look Boy & Good Job / Good Package. Age Gap 4 Yrs, Direct Contact: 8309610955

RC CHRISTIAN, MBBS MS (OBG), Reputed School, College, 26 yrs, Fair, Good looking, Affluent, lives in Chennai, Parents well educated, Father own industry with 200 employees, Seeks doctors from God fear-ing family. WhatsApp Profile 7550065082 ID jesuschrist0014@gmail.com

DOCTOR 24 yrs fair, Tamil, Affluent doctor parents ECFMG shortly proceeding to USA for residency

BALIJA NAIDU M.B.B.S Kettai, Viruchikam 23/165 fair good look-ing girl, Kanchipuram seeks Doctor (or) Higher qualified from same caste Contact: 9443380196, 9442202555

FAIR PRETTY Doctor girl 31/165 completing final MD Anesthesiology August 2021. Chennai based affluent amily seeks smart, handsome Doc tor groom MD MS MCh DM prfd Ker-ala, TN, Bangalore.Ct: 9840050381/ 9840985383

MALAYALAM EZHAVA MBBS, 29, Atham. Chennai Settled. Seek Groom from U.S, Canada, UK, Chennai, Banga-

NAIR GIRL MBBS /24/163 /Revathi/ caste.Ph:7358232767/9445359921

1L PM Working in Chennai seeks suitable Groom KA Raman Nadar

NADAR, DIVORCEE, 35 yrs, MCA MBA, with male child, from affluent family, seeks professional / family, seeks professional businessman between 35 to 43 yrs

RC SC 31/152 BE Good-looking rain Slim Disciplined Settled Working for TN Govt. UPSC aspirant Divorcee No children Preferring the Ct:7708487103, ame Ct:7708487103, Seeks Suitable Groom. Con-

TAMIL GIRL 28/172cm BE, LLB(IIT) SSE in Railways seeks PQM Gud fami-

tiful from affluent family, divorcee looking for civil servants/ Caste no bar Ct: Settled 8838052540 HINDU NADAR 33 BE MS 180cm 6Lac

Monthly Working in Canada Seeks Suitable Groom KA.Raman Nadar NAIDU 26/154. State Govt 'B' grade 9380791999

HINDU ADIDRAVIDAR Kongu Parayar 30

Suitable proposals invited. Husband expired in 2016. No kids. 9387222086, BE, M.Tech, Ph.D Seeks Educated Profnl Groom. 8760883559/ 8973345370. NAIR GIRL Revathi 27/153, BE Chennai settled, employed, seeks Chennai settled Nair family. 9500012855 SC-AD BDS 25 /160 cm medium complexion seeks BDS/MBBS Chennai based teetotaler groom Ph

9444301934

RC NADAR, M.A.,37/155cms, Railways, ICF-Chennai. Seeks suitable Match. 7305411849/ chella.ranis@gmail.com

MUDALIAR /PILLAI 5.1, 33yrs Fair,

PILLAI, 26/160, Fair, Beautiful,

HINDU NADAR 26, BE/MS 180cm Sal: HINDU YADAVA Girl 35/155 cm

MBBS, MD Doing, Doctors Family Well Settled, CNB. 7299576644

Ct:9865216100

ing for groom working / settled in USA from Same Community .Contact Mob-9566605164.

officer. Works in CBE. Anusham. Suddha jathakkam, Seeks employed

KAMMA NAIDU Telugu Girl 24/160 B.Tech Fair and Good Looking em-ployed in Chennai Seeks Alliance Same Community Boy Preferably Ca-reer Oriented in India. Send Biodata to ravi.gkfam@gmail.com

GROOMS WANTED ELITE (NAIDU) 22/M.E (own 4 Petrol Bunk Chennai) Rich

amily Seeks Groom Ph -98845 1076

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GROOM, WELL qualified and well settled in USA, 178cm, fair, 1980 seeks smart professional unmarried & born brahmin seeks alliance from divorced below 27yrs 9003173041 qualified,employed or non employed in India or in USA. For more personal details contact 044 22292426/ **RC, 29** / B.E., Cognizant 1 Lakh (PM) seeks Bride – 98845 10869 email shyamalahome172@gmail.com.

VANNAR 29 BE Software Engineer in Bangalore Seeks working G Preferably BE. Contact: 7598951763

DKV 32/173/73 B.E, Hastam, Manager. Govt bank seeks bride from edu cated family. 9940507235

HIGH NETWORTH Individual Parsi Bachelor 40, Double Post Graduate from UK.Kind Hearted,Loving,Loyal. Looking for a similar bride willing to stay in Pune.Any religion previously unmarried.Please reply previously unmarried.Please reply with picture to kindheart_81@

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29YR SURGEON, MS, MCh (AIIMS, Delhi) ,5'11", intercaste (Vokkali-ga/ Vishwakarma) , seeks kannada/ tamil hindu doctor bride (MBBS,MD/ MS). Mb:8618607705.

Airport AGM 36 5'10"Veg PKD Divorcee issueless int.caste Ezva-bramin NAIR GIRL, Age : 37 Illiluvoriani, mode Bioinformatics Currently working at a research Institute in Bangalore(Ready to relocate). Seeks alliance from protorelocate). Seeks alliance from professionally well employed seeks suitable groom Ph:9150331377

NAIDU 29 / 170 cm, Fair Good Looking, MDS in SRMC, Seeks Suitable grish seeks suitable groom Ph:9150331377

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NAIDU 29 / 170 cm, Fair Good Looking, MDS in SRMC, Seeks Suitable grish seeks suitable groom Ph:9150331377 parents exprd cases accp'ble, s'ple or regd marr'ge preferred. cont.9446552834 9400786834

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Professional, Family is affluent, Looking for an amiable well educated match from the same community. Contact: 6366448343

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Chennai, Family is affluent, Looking for a suitable well

educated match. Contact: 6366448346 PILLAI/CASTE NO BAR, 33, 183 cms, Professional Bachelors in Engineering. Lives in Bangalore. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded well

educated match, Contact: 6366448346 UDAYAR/CASTE NO BAR, 30, 173 cms Professional, Masters in Engineering. Lives in USA. Father is retired. Looking for a compatible well

educated match. Contact: 6366448345

THEVAR/CASTE NO BAR, 30, 168 cms Professional, Masters in Engineering. Lives in USA Father is an affluent Businessman with a good net worth. Looking for an affable well educated match from any community. Contact: 6366448345

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CSI Nadar Girl 29 yrs/151cm/Doctor

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ROMAN CATHOLIC Sozhia Vellala ASST. PROF. TULUVA VELLAL MUDALIAR Tamil Girl 45 /158 /MBA / Good looking Girl 33 (Uthirat-Wheatish, Good Looking, Unmarried, Employed, Earning Handsome Salary Seeks Suitable Groom Preferably bar.Contact Arokiava Mari 9840022828 between 7 7550245659

VANNIYAR PADAYACHI girl 27, M.

HINDU TAMIL Pallan / 44 / BE Comp / Works in Public Sector Bank seeks from the same caste equal S(USA) Data Analyst 163cm picked up for H1B Visa, parents seeking suitable groom. Ct: 9843017020/ suitable groom. 9585531773 age, Computer Engg. foreign deputa-tion employment delayed marriage HINDU/SC-AD M.Com, M.Phil, 28 yrs

/165 cms, Asst. Professor/Vellore, SOZHIA VELLALA 40/167 Uthratadi BE seeks groom from Hindu SC-AD family MBA empld SW Chennai Divorcee no only. Ct.9626047279.

56,PG, Wrkg in Govt.PSU, Divorced, seeking same caste (unmarried/Widower)Edu,PQM,good habits,<38yrs,settfluent, seeks well settled groom. cNB. 9489935653

HINDU TAMIL Doctor 32/ 158 seeks caste age 33-36yr 9884202884

HINDU SC PR Kongu 1984 MBBS NADAR MBBS, DGO, 27yrs, Fair Bride DCH Doctor, working in Govt Hospital / Seeks Doctors Groom or Rich Othseeks suitable groom.CT:94436-80973 ers. Ph: 7338812126

GROOM WANTED

Seeks

seek suitable alliance for their daughter 24 years of age. Bridegroom preferred from a tamil brahmin business family based out of Chennai. Please contact in confidence @

80150 08221

MA (Eng)., B.Ed.,(TET-Passed) Seek Suitable Groom Ct: 6381234800.

7299576666

KONGU VELLALAR Gownder 24yrs BE, (MBA), Senior Analyst Pvt Chennai. Seeks Groom in Same Caste.

HINDU VANNIAYAKULAKSHTRIYA Coimbatore F 25 / 163.5CM MBA from middle Class family, Brother studying in USA Seeks Software Engineer look-

AGAMUDI MUDALIAR (Vellore), Elite
Family, 29/165, PG, Working HR in
MNC Seeks MS/ M.Tech Groom
9176780777

TAMIL BRAHMIN Iyer girl, B.E.,
Vadamal Bharadwajam Thiruvadirai,
25 yrs / 165 cms / Suddha jathagam
Chennai, seeks Professionally
(Chentered Accountants) qualified / Chartered Accountants from same community. Subsect no bar. Please send details and horoscope to asvaralakshmi31@gmail.com

groom from settled family in CT: 8122347357.

MCA uper midle class setted Chennai seeks profly qulfd Groom pany seeks suitable Groom from Educated/Decent Family. Mob 9600163283 cated bride. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

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BRAHMIN, 27, 180 cms, Professional, Masters in

good net worth. Looking for a suitable well educated match. Contact: 6366448343

educated match. Contact: 6366448343

working Professional, Looking for a like minded well

GUPTA BOY, 5'6",1983 born Scientist in CSIR New Delhi,Group A

Gazetted officer.17LPA,7544884177,

RELIGION NO Bar. Alliance invited for

Christian boy, 31/170cm, Management professional, BTech, MBA, working in

Govt. service, residing at Trivandrum. Father Advocate, mother retired Go-

employee.

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Age35, PVT Bank Legal Manager. Owr

WELL SETTLED Menon Family in Chen-

nai Seeking Alliance for their only Son (Star Magam) 31 years old, BTech, MBA Employed in a MNC, also

pursuing an executive MBA from tier one B School, height 5.9 inch-

es, Fair, Non Smoker. Alliance invited from Similar Families. Ph: 9840553400

US WORKING smart Handsome Boy 30/

37, SOFTWARE Eng, 5'5.5, Athletic,

VISWAKARMA 29/155 maham Ph.d scien-

tist well settled in newyork, seeks

bride studying /working in usa or indian doctor willing to settle in

usa.caste nobar.ct 7200771188

seek

bride based in USA 9840847736

shaadi1290@gmail.com

Needs Good looking working

House No Brokers Ct. 9840699500

vernment 9495729510

9415900702 sadhu@gmail.com

HINDU SADHU Chetty, 27/174cm, BALIJA NAIDU Widow No encumbrance

Good looking Girl 33 (Uthirat tathy, Meenam, Ph.D(Physics) Fami ly Seeks Alliance from First & Un married Bachelor Bridegroom Aged 33 – 36 Yrs, Employed, Caste No Bar. CT: After 7 PM: 9940840760,

B.Tech M.B.A. DOB: 3/4/1991, Divorced, Contact: 9348633455

MBBS MD age 25 Christian Good Looking, Well Settled. Need Dr / BE any Proceed, Contact: 9348633455

MBBS MD age 25 Christian Good Looking, Well Settled. Need Dr / BE any Proceed, Contact: 9348633455

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HINDU MUDALIAR Girl 37 Divorcee U.S.A (HINDU Nadar) 25 / B.Tech seeks 40+/ Employed or Business in working US. 5 Lakh PM. Seeks US India or Abroad Broks xcuse. Alliance 98845 10869

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well to do 51/ 5.7 seeks Eucated, Well settled Telugu Widower / Di-vorcee. Ct: 8807703450 WANTED

Padmashali 25 yrs. 5'7", MBBS, MS Reproductive Medicine -IVF

OBG), Fellowship in Homerton Unversity,

GROOM

London), Doctor parents having 150 beds own Hospitals. Reg: Only from well settled Affluent Family Caste: BC /OC

@9030113135

Kamma girl Age(27)B.E.,M.B.A(IIM B) 5.4 ft, Ayilyam belongs

to a reputed business family seeks kamma boy well educated, Business profession / service commission, with clean habits from Elite, affluent family. Contact No.

94433 35699

SMU DAUGHTER, fair, 28 years, m, M.Phil., working. Parents suitable, professionally qual ified and settled groom under 33 vears with clean habits. aghouse022@gmail.com, 9884587114 SMU . Divorce Girl M. E. 33/174.Na-

mazi seeks pious divorce Groom min graduate decent job, within TN, with or without issue 8939447800, khader090837@gmail.com URDU MUSLIM, 38yrs Divorcee, Govt. Asst Prof, Fair, Issueless. Seeking Chennai Based Groom. 9025067019

SMU GIRL 24 yrs/160 cm MBBS prepa ing for higher studies in parents seek suitable MBBS/MD/MS UK. contact 9444054109 / 9442554109 SMU. 33/165 BE. MBA. MNC employed SOWRASTRA -PALCAR Hastam Kanni 35 seeks Religious, MNC working Groom. 9791108599/ snzglobal18@

B.Com MBA Pvt Manager Chennai 90K Pm (Ragu Kethu) Deg. Bride 9381725577

tions Welcome. Caste no bar. Visit-ing India this week, Ct Parents in Chennai 9994418154 Whatsapp CANADA 0016475737315 HINDU NADAR 32, 6.3" software En-

gineer, Dubai onsite, 45 lakhs P.A. Makaram-Avittam 2, well settled family seeks suitable Bride in same caste. Contact: 94438 60983, 94429 84922. HINDU, AGE:29, Kongu velalar Gounder Chadayam, Ragu Kethu dosam, Lead Engineer, HCL, Chennai Well settled in Coimbatore.Ct: 94875

CANADA PROFESSOR 48, BE ME PhD

Rich, Own properties. Issueless Divorced sought good-looking Christian born again, RC, Protestant unmarried or divorced bride below 38 years without kid. All denomina-

71375 ISAI VELLALAR 26,170cm, well settled MNC 12L PA Seeks suitable

Edu.Fair working Girl (s/w) CNB 9487132799 **AGE 52**, Central Govt. Job, Salary Rs.65,000/- p/m, Caste No Bar. Call: 9385827109

> ce. Seeks French nationality grr/ Working in France or abroad/Doctor or M Arch in India. Interested Contact: 9444719042, 04142-289042 WE ARE looking for a BRAHMIN GIRL or Any Veg. Caste Girl for our SON whose Qual: M. Com, 5ft 8" and fair. Mob: 8527903874 / 9539244401.

B.E., M.S (France). Working in France. Seeks French nationality girl

TAMIL IYER Ashtasahasram Haridha Gothram Ayilyam 31/180 Fair Hand-some B.Tech MS (USA) S/W Developer IBM Cloud Austin Texas invites equally qualified USA employed Alance sub sect no bar. Whatsapp

HINDU NADAR Boy, 28/185cm, Fair, Handsome, B.E, MS (USA), Business prefers Educated, Good looking, Affluent family background Girl from same community. Ct: 94438 01558. MUDALIYAR, 29YRS 175cms, Father in

44309 SENGUNTHA MUDALIAR BE(EEE) Age:31,Suddha Jhatakam Natchatram: Anusham, Rasi:Virutchigam, Project Engineer, Work:Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Salary:Two Lakhs. CT:94423-52011.

years, M.tech, salary 1.2 LPM, Sud-hajathakam: Simmam-Magam, We ex-pect the bride from the appropri-ate horoscope, Trichy. CASTE NO BAR - 7418084180 / 9443158169 TAMIL, PILLAI, 33,176,fair hand-some B.Tech, MBA from premier in-stitute working in Mumbai, 15L per

ISRO'S SCIENTIST, Hindu: SC-AD, 36

ing girl from a well-to-do family 9894352794 38 Years, KONGU VELLALAR, M. Sc IT, UK 8 Years, Phone Contact: 9384900519

annum seeking a good-looking work-

Divorce Any BC, Unmarried Wanted Thanjavur Dis 9443191812-

PILLAI AGE 34. Qul:BE.MS. Bank Em-

VISWAKARMA, 33 Yrs, B.Tech., MS, Mirugashirisham, Rishabam, 18L per annum seeks suitable bride. Contact: +91 8825530897

HANDSOME BOY, 29Yrs 185cm, M, S in

U.S.& Employed in U.S.A for 4Yrs, Now working in Dubai last 9months & well settled family.Star Hastham & BC.Seeks Educated Hindu Bride (Cast No Bar) for their only SENGUNTHAR MUDALIAR, Chennai Na

SENGUNTHAR MUDALIAN, live, living in Mandaveli, Age 36, 180cm, Magam, Simma Rasi, MBBS M.D. Pediatrician MRCP, working in Blace Hospital Chennai seeks KERALA BASED Anglo-Indian boy set-tled in chennai,MCA graduate,30 yrs,175 cm,working in MNC ct:9042206638,9444985328. a Prime Hospital Chennai seeks preferably Doctor Bride. Father is also Doctor, MRCP, FRCP. Ct: 044-24938959 9445195689,

> MUDALIAR 38yrs High Status Inno-cent divorcee govt 12LPA. Simple edu-cated bride FC,BC,MBC. 8778934848 PILLAI/MUDALIAR, KARUNFEGAR 30/

178, NV, employed at BGL, 9 lakh: p.a contact:9422310570,9443715310

HINDU SC Adidravidar, 33, MTecl Civil Engineer, Thiruvonam Maga ram, Working in Dubai. Ph: 96003

SENGUNTHAR / Pillai (CNB) 165cm 36years B.E., Middle Class, Settled Chennai, Seeking Good Family Bride Ph: 8838909035 / WhatsApp -9952906501

MUDALIAR,1972/180CM UTHIRADA

Makaram, M.E., Ph.D, Asst Prof, Di

vorcee seeks Divorcee/ Widow with

out Child. Ct: 9840371485 AGE 29 5' 11 BE, MBA IT Profession Seeks suitable Girl Pillai / Mu daliar Contact 9710515019

MUDALIAR PH.D 35.suddha Jathakam

Uthiradam, Rasi Danusu, Profession-HOD, 9.6L/annum, Chennai, expect ed ucated or working bride with suit horoscope, Caste no bar MUDALIAR SAIVAM 6ft. 28. BE TCS SWE 6L/PA. Hastham, Upper Class Seek Suitable Graduate Girl 9629276108

HINDU, SC AD 40/157, Swathi JUDGE, TN Govt M.L.,M.A.,LL.M. Own House, Disciplined Groom seeks suitable Good Looking Bride bet 30 & 35. Caste no Bar Ct: 9840984398/

VANNIYAR 34/162 B.Com Aviation pro- MUSLIM BOY 28/178cm, BE(ECE),

fessional Govt. job,seeks suitable MBA, proj mngr MNC. 24L P/A, well to bride,caste no bar(Hindu) do family in Chennai.9445556810

PILLAI, 28/183, Handsome, MBBS, MD Doing, Doctors Family, Well Set-tled Family, CNB. 7299576644, Seek any Brahmin Girl. Contact 9444740544 / 9444958511

MUDALIAR 29, M.Tech, MBA,16L P.A, 176cm, Smart, Well Settled Family Seeks Bride CNB 8778514465/

BRAHMIN VISAGAM groom(29)B.Com(CA) BAR. PH: 6374244648. Kowsikam, Logistics Manager. 6.2 pa. OwnHouse in Chennai BRAHMIN, 40, ASSOCIATE Project Manager HCL Technologies Madurai, Seeks any Brahmin Girl, Ct:

9487851429 IYER, VADAMA, 40YEAR. Self Employed Chartered Accountant. Right slightly short. He can walk drive vehicle normally. Need leg and

IYER VADAMA Native Trichy 42, Fair, Emloyed in Chennai, Clean Habits, Only Son. 9791453205 / 9962917322

able Bride. Call 9994934568

57YS TAMIL lyer Bachelor Chennai Healthy Elec. 40K Sks blw 51ys Pure Veg. Only. Widow Slight De-fect Ok. Divorce pl. Excuse – 9840846524

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IYER ATHREYA Swathi 29/176 B.

Our Son 46 Yrs USA Working 2 Mas- SUNNI MUSLIM Urdu. New York emters Engineering, Canadian Citizen, Seeks Brahmin Girl 35-38 Contact 9488761825

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168cms IT Professional Never Mar-ied No Dependents Seeks Suitable

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9841003125 VANTED BRIDE Age 39, Vellalar Pillai, BE, ECE, 171/68 kg, working as

Software Architect in to Business, Chennai. Family is af-fluent. Looking for a compatible and well educated Affluent bride International Bank Singapore, Tanjore origin, well from any community. Ct: 99406 settled, wedding function void (annuled). Expected bride with a degree, good

> status no bar). Contact: +918220007064

family background (caste &

Son:

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Family Invites Suitable

and well - Disciplined

Bride & Groom for

their

B.E., M.TECH., MBA, 27 Yrs (80kg, 6'ft), Athletic body type

Daughter: **B.E., MBA (NIT), MSW.** 24 yrs (50 kg, 5.5'ft),

Slim & Fair. hare bio data & photographs to: luckybommi31@gmail.co **Call & Whats app : 6374077405**

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SMU 31Y 6ft khula no issue B.E own

MUSLIM BOY 28/178cm, BE(ECE)

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SMU PARENTS seek suitable alliance

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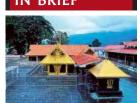
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FACTORIES & SITES



for five-day puja

Devotees have begun trekking to Sabarimala after a brief gap. The Lord Ayyappa temple opened on Saturday for the five-day puja in the Malayalam month of

BCs, SCs, STs get half of Chairperson posts in A.P.

The Andhra Pradesh government has allocated 56% of the 135 nominated posts of Chairpersons of corporations to party leaders from the backward communities, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and minorities. Of 135 posts, 68 were given to women.

'Kokapet auction drove away bidders'

Telangana Congress chief Revanth Reddy asks government to call for fresh tenders

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD

Telangana Congress chief A Revanth Reddy has claimed that the auction of Kokapet lands in Ranga Reddy district of Telangana exposed how those close to the government had secured land "cheaply", driving away national bidders.

At a press conference here on Saturday, he questioned the huge variation of price for each acre of land in the same place. "One acre is sold at ₹60 crore but the majority at ₹30 crore per acre. All these plots have same quality of roads abutting them. There can't be such a huge variation," he said, alleging that "this itself exposes some secret dealings".

"I will lodge a complaint



Serious charges: Telangana Congress chief A. Revanth Reddy at a press meet in Hyderabad on Saturday. ■G. RAMAKRISHNA

with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to investigate the auction. I will also provide them with all the evidence. I want to see whether the State BJP leaders take this forward," he said.

He demanded that the go-

five companies participated in the bidding and national bidders had been threatened to not participate or else they would face administrative problems, making the

there is some underhand

Mr. Reddy claimed only

dealing," he claimed.

bids financially unviable. "A Collector working in a district close to the twin cities personally intervened to prevent their participation." Mr. Reddy claimed the five companies that had bought

the lands were close to those in power, and the powerful ruling party leaders and their relations were known to all. He said Aqua Space Developers Private Limited, which bought 17.684 acres at ₹663.54 crore, belonged to the sons of a top realty group promoter, "who is very close to the ruling dispensation", he alleged.

Similarly, Raj Pushpa Properties Private Limited, which bought 9.405 acres for ₹428.14 crore belongs to the family of a Collector, he said, adding that the Collector's son was also a director in the company. Another 7.721 acres was bought by the brother of a Telangana Rashtra Samithi MP.

Mr. Reddy further alleged that Varsity Education Management Private Limited bought 7.575 acres for ₹296.94 crore while Prestige Estate Projects Limited bought 7.564 acres for ₹285.92 crore.

"Both these companies are close to a senior Minister." he claimed.

No change in leadership: Yediyurappa

Benga

STAFF REPORTER

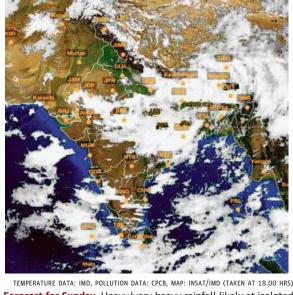
Amidst speculation over his "offer to resign" and a possible change by the month-end, Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa on Saturday vehemently dismissed them all as baseless

Speaking on reports in a section of the media that he had offered to resign during his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, he said: "Not at all... there is no truth to it." He insisted that "not a word was discussed on the issue" with Central

Political circles were July 26

leadership rumours.

abuzz with talk that a leadership change would be effected in the State after



Forecast for Sunday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Harvana, Uttarakhand, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Telangana, coastal Andhra Pradesh, central Maharashtra, coastal Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe

ala	4633.325.8	Kozhikode	29	.28.8	23.5
dabad	0.435.427.3	Kurnool	3	.32.5	24.6
l	0.824.019.0	Lucknow		.31.6	29.1
bad	38.529.9	Madurai		.36.0	25.7
ıluru	1.328.220.7	Mangaluru	44.4	.27.2	23.2
ıl	36.325.8	Mumbai	31	.29.7	25.0
neswar	35.826.5	Mysuru	4	.28.8	20.0
ligarh	39.129.6	New Delhi		.38.8	28.2
ıai	6133.523.8	Patna		.30.3	27.6
atore	32.722.1	Port Blair	5	.29.5	24.6
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	95 27.6 22.9	Raipur		.36.2	26.6
hati	31.826.9	Ranchi			
alli	26.022.0	Shillong	47	.23.2	18.1
abad	232.623.6	Shimla		.27.0	21.3
ıl	830.422.0	Srinagar		.34.2	20.5
	0.839.026.7	Thiruvananthapuram.			
	33.4 31.0 23.2	Tiruchi			
ıa	25 26.4 18.2	Vijayawada	0.4	.34.4	25.4
	5 35.6 28.3	Visakhapatnam			
		• • • • •			

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

..3 .33 113 ..9 .17 .68 ..292 .141 ..2 .63 .1718 ...33 Visakhapatnam 13 .34 .36

One killed by Army men A 30-year-old man, Rohit Kumar, was killed at village

Langah here on Friday night

allegedly by an Army

Mukerian SHO said.

unidentified accomplice,

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

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

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

Readers discuss news coverage at The Hindu's virtual open house

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The virtual Open House, an interactive session with the readers hosted by The Hindu on Saturday, served as a platform for readers from different regions to exchange their views on news coverage and the impact of digital media. Moderated by Readers'

Editor A.S. Panneerselvan, the meeting had many participants who gave their suggestions about news coverage and the areas that could be improved. Alan Herbert, one of the readers, felt the newspaper must balance between positive and negative news. He noted that the sports pages had more "positive" news.

Responding, Editor of The Hindu Suresh Nambath said the newspaper does not segregate news as "good and readers wanted a creative bad news". But it presents news that is in the public

"We have news that highlight achievements and point out deficiencies in policies so that corrective measures are taken by those in power," he said.

Many participants, who introduced themselves as ardent readers of The Hindu, appreciated the newspaper for its authentic news coverage. Some of them, including Arun Jee from Patna and Simon from Bengaluru, suggested that more space be allotted for regional and local

There were also queries and suggestions on content in the Sunday Magazine and supplements and change in the font size and look of the newspaper. While some writing section to be started, some participants wanted pocket cartoons to be

To a question from George Mathew, a reader from Kerala who wanted to know how the newspaper manages "irrational commands from those in power and minimise sensational news," the Editor said the newspaper does not yield to pressure from those in power or the advertisers.

On Abishek Bisnoi's query on extensive coverage about cricket in sports pages, it was pointed out that this reflected readers' interest and that the newspaper also covered other sports as well.

The readers were told that all suggestions would be taken up with the editorial

Thiruvananthapuram labour camps under lens

Police nab two in trafficking racket

STAFF REPORTER THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

vernment call for fresh ten-

ders, the base price as ₹60

crore per acre (the highest

bid for an acre) under the

"Swiss challenge method".

"This will ensure the govern-

ment earns an additional

₹1,000 crore. If the CM

doesn't respond, it means

Labour camps in Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram district are likely to come under the scanner, with the Assam police nabbing two migrants and rescuing nine others in the State capital during a joint operation held a day ago to bust an inter-State human trafficking Raids were conducted on

the basis of a recent investigation in Hojai district of Assam. Several girls were suspected to have been trafficked from the northeastern State to the city at various points of time.

After zeroing in on the whereabouts of the two accused with assistance from the cyber cell here, an eightmember investigation team

The rescued women hailed from various places,

respectively.

from Assam flew down and

apprehended the racketeers

fied as Muffazul Haque and

Rakbul Hussain, natives of

Hojai and Nagaon districts,

including Hojai, Nagaon, So-

nitpur, Morigaon and Kam-

The accused were identi-

from two lodges on Friday.

Rescued from lodge While most of the victims were rescued from a lodge in Thampanoor, three were found in another under the Medical College police station limits.

Law enforcement agencies are bringing labour camps under close watch in an attempt to rein in illicit

NORTH & EAST

BJP expels Rajasthan ex-Minister AAP leader criticises PM for

Raje loyalist Rohitash Sharma removed for 6 yrs. for 'breach of party discipline'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Saturday expelled senior leader and former Rajasthan Minister Rohitash Sharma from the party's primary membership for six years on the ground of breach of party discipline.

Show-cause notice

The party had recently issued a show-cause notice to Mr. Sharma for speaking out against the State

Vehicles of **BJP** leaders attacked

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party continue to face the farmers' backlash on the Centre's farm laws.

On Saturday, a group of protesters allegedly attacked and damaged vehicles in which Chandigarh mayor Ravi Kant Sharma and senior party leader Sanjay Tandon were travelling. Both the leaders were returning after attending an event in Sector 48 of the city. They, however, escaped unhurt.

Mr. Tandon, who is coincharge, BJP Himachal and Chandigarh, said the protesters blocked their vehicles and smashed the windscreens.

The protesters were shouting slogans and raising black flags as a mark of protest against the BJP and the controversial farm laws. The Samyukt Kisan Morcha in an official statement said the farmers held a peaceful protest against the BJP leaders, but the police detained over a dozen of them without any reason.

The charges of indiscipline against Rohitash Sharma were proved correct after an SATISH POONIA

leadership.

Considered close to former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje, Mr. Sharma had accused the party's State leadership of running the organisation "from

within [the] office rooms" during the COVID-19 pandemic and not visiting the

Fissures and rivalry

The remarks indicated to the fissures within the Opposition party and rivalry between the factions supporting and opposed to Ms.

of indiscipline against Mr.

Raje. BJP State president Satish Poonia said in a brief statement here that the charges

rect after an inquiry. "Mr. Sharma has been expelled with immediate effect for a period of six years," he said.

Mr. Sharma, elected from Bansur constituency in Alwar district, was the Transport Minister in the BJP re-

Sharma were proved cor-

He had also held the party's State leadership responsible for the defeat at two of the three seats where the Assembly by-elections

silence over journalist's death

ANUJ KUMAR GHAZIABAD

Criticising Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Aam Aadmi Party's Rajya Sabha Member Sanjay Singh said on Saturday that it was surprising that the PM didn't express condolences over the death of award-winning photojournalist Danish Siddiqui during a Taliban attack in Afghanistan. "I condemn the PM for not saying a word of condolence for the ponsibility of the PM," he

Mr. Singh was in Aligarh for a party meeting as part of the membership drive in the State ahead of the Assembly elections. "Afghanistan's president expressed remorse, Chief Ministers of the country condoled his death, but the PM remained quiet. Is he scared of the Taliban," asked Mr. Singh.

Aiming to make one crore party members in Uttar Pradesh in one month, Mr. Singh said the recent panchayat elections in the State proved that the CM had established the rule of goons and corruption. "There has been a scam in the purchase of ventilators," he alleged.

He said the State needed transparent governance and the Kejriwal model. "It includes free electricity, education and water, free travel for women in buses. and timely payment to farmers.'

16.07.2021. Last Date o Submission of Tender: Upto 11:00 hrs. on **30.07.2021**. The Complete information of above e-Tender Notices is available ove vebsite https://www.ireps.gov.in

Bids other than e-bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders. Divl. Railway Manager (Engg.

CPR/10/91 S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspur South East Central Railway 🕒 @secra

Government of Himachal Pradesh

Jal Shakti Vibhag **Notice Inviting e-Tender**

The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Paonta Sahib invites online bids on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following work(s) through e-tendering process

Name of Work:- Providing Decentralized Community Owned stand alone Sola Powered Water Supply Scheme i various villages (under Jal Jeeva Mission) of Paonta Constituency in Tehsi Paonta Śahib Distt. Sirmour HP.

Estimated Cost: - `7,98,68,881/-Earnest Money: -`7,98,700/-

Cost of Tender:- `2500/-Fime of completion: - Six (6) Months

Last date of filing/ uploading the tender through e-tendering 26/07/2021 up to 9:00 AM. he tender forms and other detailed

conditions can be downloaded from the ebsite www.hptender.gov.in or fror office of above Executive Engineer up to date specified above. **Executive Engineer**

> Jal Shakti Division Paonta Sahib, Distt. Sirmour HP

Information Commission upset over pension delay

Rajasthan depts. acted only after the State panel intervened

MOHAMMED IQBAL

The Rajasthan Information Commission has expressed displeasure over the failure of government departments to provide information about the release of pension to the heirs of deceased emplovees. The departments acted in two such cases only after the Commission intervened and issued notices.

Information Commissioner Narayan Bareth said the pension given to an employee was a mark of respect for the services rendered by him. In the event of death of a retired employee, his dependants should not be harassed in getting their entitlement, he

The widows of two government employees had moved the Commission following the refusal of the departments to part with the information about the action taken to release pensaid it was "most unfortunate" that the widows were forced to approach the Information Commission for getting their right.

sion to them. Mr. Bareth

'Be prompt, sensitive'

In one of the cases, Revati Devi, 80, of Alwar district's Sanoli village had sought information about her family pension after her husband's death in 2018. Her application was sent from one wing to another without any relief and the department acted only after the Information Commission issued a

In another case, Shashibala Sharma, widow of an employee of Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati University, Ajmer, had sought information about her family pension and her husband's payslips. Following the notice, the university acted fast and provided the information running into 147 pages to Ms. Sharma.

The Information Commissioner said the university administration should seriously examine its work

were held in April this year. journalist. Isn't it the res-Odisha SHGs to get aid of ₹453.50 crore

STAFF REPORTER BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha government has announced ₹453.50 crore assistance for women selfhelp groups (SHG) as part of a comprehensive COVID-19 package.

While ₹169 crore has been earmarked for the construction of block-level buildings for the women's SHG federations, ₹84.50 crore will be made available as a revolving fund. The members of the groups will undergo training and can sell their products at the new buildings, which would be known as 'Mission Shakti Bhawans'. The State government will provide ₹200 crore towards interest subvention, which is likely to help women SHGs pay back loans provided to them.

Mission Shakti

Products purchased

in the financial year 2021-22.

"Mission Shakti is an organisation comprising 70 lakh women of Odisha. They are a development force," said Chief Minister A separate department called 'Mission

Shakti' has recently been carved out of the Child Development Women and Department.

from women SHGs. Mission Shakti Secretary Sujata Karthikeyan said women SHGs would be provided bank loans to the tune of ₹6,000 crore

In the past two years, different products

worth ₹2,800 crore have been purchased

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Office of the Executive Engineer, (Jal Shakti) PHE, Ground Water Division, Nowshera, Sgr. Gist of e-Tender.

e-N.I.T. No:- PHE/GWDS/ 20 of 07/2021 For and on behalf of lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders are invited in two cover system from registered Water Well Drillers/Contractors as per the details given in tender document.

S. No	Name of Work	No. of Hand Pump Wells	Est. Cost Rs. in Lacs	Cost of Tender Document	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	Programme
1	Construction of 125mm dia Machine Drilled Hand Pump Well at Govt. Schools of Handwara Constituency of District Kupwara	20 No's	Rs. 63.00 Lacs	Rs. 1000/-	70 days	125 mm dia Pump Wells	JJM
2	Construction of 125mm dia Machine Drilled Hand Pump Well at Govt. Institute viz Government Aanganwadi Centers/First Aid Centres and Other Govt. Buildings of District Kupwara		Rs. 37.80 Lacs	Rs. 1000/-	70 days	for Drilling illed Hand F	JJM
3	Construction of 125mm dia Machine Drilled Hand Pump Well Panchayat Ghars of District Kupwara	15 No's	Rs. 47.25 Lacs	Rs. 1000/-	70 days	Registered Machine Dr	JJM

1.	Publishing Date	15-07-2021 (11:00 AM)
2.	Period of Downloading of Bids	15-06-2021 (11:00 A.M) to 27-07-2021 (01.00 P.M)
3.	Period of Submission of bids	15-06-2021 (11:00 A.M) to 27-07-2021 (01.00 P.M)
4.	Date of opening of Tender.	27-07-2021 at (3:30 P.M)
5.	Tender Receiving Authority: Executive I 190011	Engineer , (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Srinagar Kashmir-
6.	Document Cost : Non-Refundable in	the shape of Treasury Challan/receipt deposited to Account

Critical Dates/Information.

DIPK- 4845/21

Bid Validity Period: 180 Days The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on $\underline{www.\,Jktenders.gov.in}$ The bids of only those agencies shall be accepted who posses valid registration certificate o construction of 125mm dia machine drilled Hand pump wells. However due to Pandemic the renewa Registration for 2021-22 is waived off for a period of 6 months from 01-04-2021 to 30-09-2021.

Instead of EMD the firm has to furnish "Bid Security Declaration", format of the declaration is mentione

Saddar Treasury Srinagar) (The firm shall specify the name of work for which apply)

Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar(a

Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Ground Water Division

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

FROM PAGE ONE

Sidhu may captain the Congress in Punjab

Capt. Singh had been reportedly annoyed with the proposal of Mr. Sidhu being appointed party chief. Sources said that at the meeting, he firmly conveyed it to Mr. Rawat that unless Mr. Sidhu apologised for his unpleasant remarks against him recently through tweets, he would not meet the latter.

A day after he met party president Sonia Gandhi, Mr. Sidhu on Saturday met State party leaders, MLAs and Ministers in an effort to take everyone along. He met party's State president Sunil Jakhar, besides Minister Sukhjinder Randhawa and Balbir Singh Sidhu. He also met MLAs Raja Warring, Kulbir Zira, Darshan Brar and Barindermeet Singh Pahra among other leaders.

'A foregone conclusion' A senior party leader told The Hindu that it was a foregone conclusion that Mr. Sidhu would be the next PCC chief. "An official announcement is merely a formality now. Mr. Sidhu has been asked by the high command to start working. Meeting party leaders to seek their support and cooperation is what Mr. Sidhu has started with," he said. The party leader added that it was only "out of respect" that Mr. Rawat held a meeting with the Chief Minister. Otherwise the decision on Mr. Sidhu had been finalised by the central

Mr. Jakhar said Mr. Sidhu paid him a courtesy visit at his residence. "Strength lies in unity and Mr. Sidhu should strive to work with everybody in whatever position he holds.. While no official announcement has been made, he [Sidhu] should take everybody along," he told *The Hindu*.

The party leadership is desperate to resolve the stand-off between Capt. Singh and Mr. Sidhu, who had been at loggerheads since the 2019 Lok Sabha

How it began

It started with Mr. Sidhu's wife, Naviot Kaur Sidhu, accusing Capt. Singh of blocking her Lok Sabha ticket from Chandigarh. Later, the Chief Minister alleged that Mr. Sidhu did not handle his Local Bodies portfolio well which, he claimed, resulted in the Congress's "poor performance" in urban areas in the general election.

Capt. Singh later divested Mr. Sidhu of Local Bodies and allocated him the Power and New and Renewable Energy Sources portfolios. Mr. Sidhu then quit the Cabinet and since then, the stand-off between them has

Uttar Pradesh govt. cancels Kanwar Yatra

The court stressed that sentiments, including religious ones, are subservient to the right to life.

On July 9, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath even convened a meeting for the preparation and security arrangements for the yatra.

Possible third wave

The shrawan month according to the Hindu calendar starts from July 25 and Mr. Adityanath had instructed officials to make all preparations in time. He had directed officials to ensure that ly followed. The yatra was scheduled to start on July

The Uttarakhand government has already called off the Kanwar Yatra citing

of a possible third wave of the pandemic and the risk posed by such gatherings. The yatra goes on till the

fears expressed by experts

first week of August and sees thousands of Shiva devotees called 'kanwariyas' travelling mostly on foot from neighbouring states, including Uttar Pradesh, Harvana and Delhi to collect water from the Ganges in Haridwar.

The Centre had told the top court that the State governments must not permit any kind of Kanwar Yatra because of the pandemic and arrangements should be made for water from the Ganges to be available through tankers at designat-

ligious freedom, a promise

of equality between per-

sons, irrespective of sex,

caste or religion, a promise

of fundamental freedoms of

speech and movement with-

out undue State interfe-

rence and an enduring right

to life and personal liberty,"

ed that conflicts were un-

avoidable in any society. But

with conflicts, there was also the need to develop me-

chanisms for conflict resolu-

tion. The CJI took a leaf from

the Mahabharata to illus-

trate that peace through

amiability was better than

violence. "Mahabharata, ac-

tually provides an example

of an early attempt at media-

tion as a conflict resolution

tool. Lord Krishna attempt-

ed to mediate the dispute

between the Pandavas and

Kauravas. ... failure of me-

diation led to disastrous

It was both "uncharita-

ble" and an "overstate-

ment" to blame pendency

on judicial delay. Even a

case filed a day back was ad-

ded to the oft-quoted pen-

dency statistic of 45 million

cases. One of the chief rea-

sons for delays was "luxu-

rious litigation", he pointed

out. "It is a specific type of

litigation, wherein parties

with resources attempt to

frustrate the judicial process

and delay it by filing numer-

ous proceedings," he said.

consequences," he said.

Chief Justice Ramana not-

he stressed.

(With PTI inputs)

'SC with people to protect civil liberties'

The CJI said the people of India knew that "when things go wrong", the Supreme Court, as the guardian of the largest democracy, stand by them".

The Constitution, together with the immense faith of the people in the judicial system, brought to life the Supreme Court;s motto Yato Dharma Sthato Jaya. "Where there is dharma, there is victory," CJI Ramana stated in the keynote address to a global audience at the Indo-Singapore Mediation Summit of 2021.

Majoritarian tendencies

At a separate event to commemorate the 101st birth anniversary of his father and longest-serving CJI Y.V. Chandrachud, Justice Chandrachud, who is line to be the CJI, stated: "Majoritarian tendencies, whenever and however they arise, must be questioned against the background of our constitutive promise. Any semblance of authoritarianism, clampdown on civil liberties, sexism, casteism, otherisation on account of religion or region is upsetting a sacred promise that was made to our ancestors who accepted India as their Constitutional Republic."

"Our nation was forged and united, with a promise of certain commitments and entitlements to each and every citizen. A promise of re-

Saturday had an over 50-minute meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He alleadership. so wrote to Mr. Modi on the problems with the new Union Ministry of Cooperation, which is headed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah. "Raiva Sabha MP Shri Sha-

rad Pawar met PM Narendra Modi," the PMO tweeted with a photo of the meeting. The timing of the meeting

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NCP chief Sharad Pawar on

has raised questions, two days ahead of the monsoon session of Parliament. There are reports of a

strain in the Maha Vikas Aghadi government led by the Shiv Sena in Maharashtra, of which the NCP is a key con-Earlier this week, Mr. Pa-

war's meeting with political strategist Prashant Kishor triggered a rumour that he might be a candidate for the presidential election sche-



Pawar meets PM, submits letter

Meeting two days ahead of monsoon session of Parliament raises questions

Surprise visit: NCP chief Sharad Pawar with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Saturday. • PTI

duled for next year. Mr. Pawar had denied the specula-

'Baseless yarns'

NCP spokesperson and senior leader Majeed Memon said unnecessary and baseless yarns were being woven about the Pawar-Modi meeting. The meeting should not be viewed from the political perspective alone, he said.

"I do not understand why eyebrows are being raised

about today's meeting. A leader of Mr. Pawar's stature has many issues to discuss and resolve. Should he not meet the Prime Minister of India, just because he happens to be on the other side of the political fence?" he re-

Mr. Pawar raised various issues from the Ministry of Cooperation, farmers' agitation, Maratha reservation and so on, he added.

In his letter to Mr. Modi,

Mr. Pawar flagged concerns at the amendment to the Banking Regulation Act that seeks to bring in changes in the functioning of "cooperative banks".

The letter pointed to the constitutional provisions that clearly lay out that the cooperative societies come solely under the purview of the State governments. "The Amended Act does little to promote the well-being and growth of the cooperative sector as envisaged by the government," the letter stat-The growth of the cooper-

ative sector was crucial for the holistic development of the country. It was also attuned to Mr. Modi's own call for "Atmanirbhar Bharat" since the cooperative banks have the expertise of lending to first-time borrowers and contributing more than 23 per cent of their total advances to small and micro in-

Suspended policeman Sachin Vaze seeks bail

'No chargesheet filed within 90 days'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Suspended Assistant Police Inspector Sachin Vaze, who is lodged in the Taloja Central Jail, has filed for bail at a special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court in connection with the death of Mansukh Hiran, linked to a car found next to industrialist Mukesh Ambani's residence.

He sought bail on the grounds that the Central agency had not filed a chargesheet in the case within the mandated 90 days under the Code of Criminal Procedure.

NIA seeks more time

The NIA opposed the plea, saying the case involved serious charges and it needed more time to file a chargesheet. The case was adjourned to July 22.

An SUV with 20 gelatin



Sachin Vaze

ary 25. The police said the car was stolen from Airoli-Mulund Bridge on February 18. The car's owner, Hiran, an auto parts dealer, was found dead on March 5 in Kalwa creek. The case was transferred from the Maharashtra police to the NIA on March 8.

Mr. Vaze was arrested on March 13 for his "role and involvement in placing the explosives-laden vehicle near Carmichael Road." March 12, a court in Thane rejected Mr. Vaze's pre-arrest bail in Hiran's murder.

Freelance journalist's bail rejected

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A special court on Saturday rejected the bail application of Rajeev Sharma, a freelance journalist who was recently arrested by the Enforcement Directorate on money laundering charge. The accused was arrested by the Delhi Police last September for allegedly supplying confidential information to Chinese intelligence officials. The court in its order

said, "the investigation is at a crucial juncture as the complete money trail is yet to be traced and releasing the applicant/accused on bail at this stage would not be salubrious to the cause of justice, as the applicant/ accused would attempt to wipe off the footprints and cover up the traces".

It is likely to be

SHIV SAHAY SINGH

taken up during

monsoon session

There are high hopes and

some concerns surrounding

the Trafficking in Persons

(Prevention, Care and Reha-

bilitation) Bill, 2021, likely to

be tabled in the monsoon

ficking organisations, la-

wyers and researchers have

welcomed the draft of the

Bill which states that the le-

gislation is aimed at prevent-

ing and countering traffick-

ing in persons, especially

women and children, to pro-

vide for care, protection,

and rehabilitation to the vic-

tims, while respecting their

rights, and creating a sup-

aircraft skids,

Trainer

pilot safe

Several anti-human traf-

session of Parliament.

'U.P. polls led to population debate'

India will have an ageing population by 2031, says Jairam Ramesh

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Ahead of the monsoon session of Parliament where the BJP MPs are expected to bring in a private members Bill on population control, senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh quoting from government documents pointed out that by 2031, India would already have an ageing population to contend with. Ravi Kishan (BJP) in the

Lok Sabha and Rakesh Sinha in the Rajya Sabha are expected to move the Bills. The move comes close on the heels of the Uttar Pradesh Law Commission putting up a draft Bill on population control on its website, inviting suggestions from the public till July 19. It says people having more than two children in Uttar Pradesh will be

portive legal, economic and

social environment for

them, and also to ensure

prosecution of offenders.

NIA to be nodal agency

The draft Bill also states that

the National Investigation

Agency (NIA) shall act as the

national investigating and

coordinating agency respon-

sible for prevention and

on the feedback and criti-

cism that the Ministry of Wo-

By Modi Sarkar's own estimate in the Economic Survey 2018-19, some States will have to prepare for an ageing population by 2031, not growing population. This will be driven by existing policies to empower women, family planning programmes and socio-economic changes

debarred from contesting local body polls, applying for government jobs or receiving any kind of subsidy.

Mr. Ramesh said the U.P. Assembly election in 2022 was the trigger for this "ill-informed" debate started by the BJP. In a long tweet thread, he explained the futility of bringing such a law since the majority of the States had crossed the crucial tipping point when the decline in population starts. Kerala was the first to achieve it in 1988, followed by Tamil Nadu five years la-

"By now, a large majority of States have achieved replacement levels of fertility. By 2026, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh will also do so with Bihar being the last by 2030.

Taunting the ruling party, Mr. Ramesh wondered how many in the BJP were aware

compensation independent

Experts working in the

area of human trafficking

said the draft Bill, which has

been put on website of Mi-

nistry of Women and Child

Development, is not clear

about how the NIA as a nodal

agency will gather informa-

tion and intelligence through

anti-human trafficking Units

(AHTUs) at the district and

State levels. The Ministry of

Home Affairs had mandated

the AHTUs for conducting

inter-State probe in cases of

human trafficking and allo-

of criminal proceedings.

of the basic facts that the Modi government's own 2018-19 Economic Survey had presented in Parliament in July 2019.

The 2018-19 Economic Survey, which Mr. Ramesh quoted in his tweets, says States will start transitioning to an ageing society by the 2030s. It also pointed out that the 0-19 age bracket has already peaked in many States due to sharp decline in total fertility rates (TFR).

"By Modi Sarkar's own estimate in the Economic Survey 2018-19, some States in India will have to prepare for an ageing population by 2031, not growing population. This will be driven by existing policies to empower women, family planning programmes and socio-economic changes," Mr. Ramesh

cols except the "reason to

believe" by a police officer

not below the rank of a sub-

inspector, "This makes the

role of AHTUs unclear in the

rescue and post-rescue pro-

about absence of communi-

There are also concerns

Representatives of Dur-

bar, the largest sex workers

collective based out of Kolka-

ta, have said that the Bill criminalises sex work and the

choice of sex work as a pro-

fession. "The Bill mixes up

the issue of trafficking and

sex work," said a statement

from Durbar. Prostitution

the two women, who had re-

cently also met Samajwadi

Party president Akhilesh Ya-

dav in Lucknow over the in-

cident, to know that all the

women of U.P. and the coun-

racy," she said, adding that a

situation had come where a

woman going to file nomina-

claimed victory in 635 out of

the 825 seats in the block

pramukh elections. The Op-

position parties led by the

Samajwadi Party accused

the BJP of misusing adminis-

trative machinery to intimi-

date candidates and of or-

chestrating violence to

The ruling BJP had

"This is a fight for democ-

try stood by them.

tion gets beaten up.

cesses," Mr. Gupta said.

ty-based rehabilitation.

Dutch citizen of Indian origin DEVESH K. PANDEY

ED arrests

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday arrested Shivlal Pabbi, a Dutch national who allegedly ran 'hawala' operations in the garb of readymade garments trade in the Netherlands. The accused got the proceeds of the crime laundered via some Pakistan nationals based in Dubai.

Mr. Pabbi was allegedly trying to flee the country by a flight to Paris when the agency arrested him at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi on money-laundering charge. He was produced before a special court that sent him to the Enforcement Directorate's custody till July 23.

The ED initiated the money-laundering against him on the request of the Netherlands government. He is originally from Phagwara in Punjab.

Centre's hand seen in ED probe: Sawant

STAFF REPORTER

The Maharashtra Congress on Saturday asked why the Enforcement Directorate (ED) had not yet arrested the bar owners who claimed they had paid money to former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh via the dismissed Mumbai Police officer Sachin Waze.

State Congress general secretary Sachin Sawant said, "Our suspicion gets strengthened that all these selective actions are at the behest of the Modi government and politically motivated to defame the Maha Vikas Aghadi government."

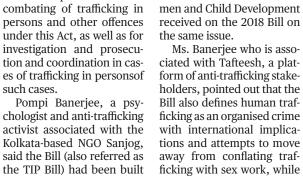
Congress leader meets women roughed up and prevented from contesting

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

A trainer aircraft skidded off the runway while taking off from the Dhana airstrip in Madhya Pradesh's Sagar district on Saturday afternoon. The trainee pilot who was flying solo did not suffer any injuries, the police said.

The Cessna 172 belonged to Chimes Aviation, a private institute which had once been banned from using the airstrip, 20 km from here, after one of its aircraft crashed last year and two people onboard were killed. The ban was lifted later.

Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said a probe team was being sent to the spot.



Concerns remain over anti-trafficking Bill

ficking with sex work, while upholding the right of survivors to rehabilitation and

cated budgets to them. **Rescue protocol**

Kaushik Gupta, a Calcutta High Court lawyer who has taken up several cases of human trafficking, said the draft Bill at present was largely silent on rescue proto-

and pornography have been added to the definition of exploitation and are considered to be trafficking, while the issue of consent has been made irrelevant, the statement said.

> **Editors Guild** pays tribute to Siddiqui Ms. Vadra said she wanted

> > PRESS TRUST OF INDIA The Editors Guild of India

(EGI) on Saturday condoled the death of Pulitzer Prize-winning Indian photojournalist Danish Siddiqui in Afghanistan, saying his demise was "an irreloss" placeable journalism.

In a joint statement, the Press Association and the Indian Women Press Corps said Siddiqui's death while on duty has highlighted the poor safety conditions of scribes.

They also condemned the "hateful campaign" being run against Siddiqui on social media after his demise.

Hold fresh U.P. local polls: Priyanka

OMAR RASHID

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday demanded that fresh elections be conducted in those block pramukh seats which witnessed viodidates had

Kheri district and met two women - Ritu Singh and Anita Yadav – associated with the Samajwadi Party who had been assaulted and humiliated during the nomination process for the block pramukh polls. Ms. Singh, the candidate, had her nomination papers and garments



violence at a village in Lakhimpur Kheri on Saturday. • PTI

Ms. Yadav's sari was pulled had been deprived of her in broad daylight. BJP workconstitutional right to file ers were accused in the case. After meeting the women, election.

Ms. Vadra demanded that the election to all such seats in U.P. be annulled and fresh polling be conducted. She said the woman candidate

nomination and contest "Can someone get 10 goons, beat up people and

win elections? Is this our degress leader asked.

capture these rural body

lence, and alleged that canintimidated. Ms. Vadra, on the second day of her Uttar Pradesh tour, drove to Lakhimpur

torn while her supporter,

mocracy today," the Con-

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

'Our goal is to reach a political settlement that will ensure lasting peace'

Afghanistan needs Pakistan for peace, and it wants an enduring and predictable relationship with the neighbour, says the Afghan President

SUHASINI HAIDAR

Afghanistan is facing a "Battle for the Republic's values", says President **Ashraf Ghani**, referring to the Taliban's advances and a desire to establish an Islamic emirate in the country. He conceded the militants had won some battles, but remains confident the Afghan forces would prevail.

The situation at the border with Pakistan seems to be getting more and more violent, and an Indian photojournalist has been killed. Pakistan has denied it threatened missile strikes on the Afghan Air Force if it tries to clear Taliban from the area. Could you give us some clarity on the situation there?

■ I cannot give you any clarity, because I've been in non-stop meetings from early morning [in Tashkent], and that clarification will have to come from Kabul. But I would like to give my deepest sympathies to the family of the Indian journalist, to the journalistic community of India, and to all to journalists around world.

There were some strong words at your speech at the connectivity conference here, especially as you named the Pakistan PM for making promises on the Taliban that haven't been kept, right as he was sitting a few feet away. Why do you feel so disappointed?

■ We need Pakistan for peace. We need an enduring relationship, a predictable relationship with Pakistan. We are a plain-speaking people. And I need to reflect with logic and rigour, about the emotions of our people... because if they are not given expression, they will find other channels, and I don't want further destructive relationships between us.

The Taliban have made

gains on different towns, different border checkposts as well. Do you think the **Afghan National Defence** and Security forces (ANDSF) are going to be able to hold them back, or do they need to change tactics?

■ Firstly, winning battles is not winning the war. They [the Taliban] have won battles. But, they're going to lose the war, and we are determined. We need to rebalance [the situation], but our goal is not winning the war militarily. Our goal is to arrive at a political settlement that will ensure a just and lasting peace. I don't want my country to become Algeria or Iraq, or Syria, or Lebanon or Yemen.

But does the ANDSF have enough equipment, training they need?

■ If we went on a needsbased assessment, the world would not be able to fulfil our needs. Because what do we not want? This is a "Kennedy

moment" for us combined with a "Lincoln moment". A "Kennedy moment" because we have to give for our country, and a "Lincoln moment" because like Lincoln in 1861, we're now facing the Battle of the Republic, which is for the values that the Islamic Republic [of Afghanistan] stands for. I don't want the world to look at Afghanistan through the perspective of that America was here. It's

What is your expectation from India at this time... has We're now facing the Battle of the Republic, which is for the values that the Islamic Republic [of Afghanistan]

stands for

Afghanistan asked for military support of any kind?

■ No, it has not. India has been a remarkable partner. I have the best of relations with the Prime Minister [Narendra Modi], who is wise.

He has not asked of us something that will result in sacrificing our short, medium or long-term interests. India is a true partner. It's the country with which we have a positive balance of trade. And what India stands for is the Salma dam, is the parliament building, Shahtoot dam, transmission lines. And India is going to be booming. We want to be a participant in the immense shift that India is witnessing in terms of leadership of the fourth industrial revolution.

Do you feel that Afghanistan becomes a casualty to the hostilities between India and Pakistan?

■ We hope that India and Pakistan will be able to reach a resolution because that will change all of Asia. But accusations are often made, that India is in every corner of Afghanistan, or there are 21 Indian consulates....

[interrupts] A former Pakistani Minister just said India had seven bases in Afghanistan...

■ It has none. None. And when [Pakistani leaders] engage in that kind of fabrication, there is no credibility.

The U.S. has said it is pulling out its troops, and along with NATO has nearly completed that pullout from Afghanistan. Britain says it will engage whoever comes to power in Afghanistan is acceptable, suggesting that even a Taliban government by force and the Islamic emirate would be acceptable. Do you feel abandoned?

■ No, no, I don't . We have an engagement. As I mentioned, the assets that are left behind [by U.S.], the capabilities that are left behind, the immense transformation that has taken place in our lives, is a product of these 20 years of [Afghan-U.S.] partnership. But so is the other side of the equation, the violence, the disenchantment,

etc. President Biden's decision [to pull out troops] was not a surprise to me. We've respected it and I have the very best of relations with President Biden.

The U.S. also had a proposal which saw you step aside for a government of consensus. Would you be willing to do that?

■ My condition is that my successor be elected by the people of Afghanistan. It's the greatest honour of my life to serve them. I will serve them till it's necessary. At this moment, they need a Commander-in-Chief and that's what they've got.

If the Taliban come in by force, do you think that the international community should come back to help?

■ No. This is our job. The period of international engagement or use of force in Afghanistan is over.

Full interview at https:// bit.ly/GhaniInterview

Independent defence policy in place now, claims Amit Shah

'Before Modi became Prime Minister, it was influenced by foreign policy'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said the country had an independent defence policy under Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Delivering the Rustamji Memorial Lecture at the 18th Investiture Ceremony of the Border Security Force (BSF), he said that before Mr. Modi became the Prime Minister, India did not have an independent defence policy. It was influenced by, or overlapped with, the foreign

Mr. Modi provided an independent defence policy and this was a major achievement. India intended to live in harmony with others, but if anyone challenged its sovereignty and threatened its borders, the country would respond in the same language. The government had implemented this policy on the ground.

Border safety was at the core of the national security policy, Mr. Shah pointed out and listed infiltration, drugs/ weapons trafficking and drones as challenges before the BSF. Agencies such as the Defence Research and Development Organisation were



Proud moment: Home Minister Amit Shah at the BSF's 18th investiture ceremony in New Delhi on Saturday. • PTI

working on developing an anti-drone mechanism.

Drones were used to trigger explosions inside the Air Force Station in Jammu last

New challenges

Mr. Shah said there was a need to develop a long-term strategy for countering the possible use of artificial intelligence and robotic technology from across the border. As suggested by the Prime Minister during the last year's DGP conference, hackathons should be organised by paramilitary forces to

find indigenous solutions to such challenges with the help of technical experts.

Earlier this month, the BSF held one such event in coordination with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. The Ministry of Home Affairs was planning to making it a regular practice, he noted.

Border fencing

Before 2022, all the gaps in border fencing would be plugged. A pilot project of the Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System had been implemented for effective surveillance along the border. A new model was also being developed with certain modifications.

Several measures were being taken to prevent the exodus of people from bordering villages. It was vital for border security. The paramilitary forces had been made nodal organisations for the implementation of government projects in those villages. Infrastructure development works were being undertaken to provide basic services to the residents. They should be made aware of their rights, he said.

Compared with about 3,600-km road stretches constructed along the border from 2008 to 2014, the Modi government laid 4,764 km of roads from 2014 to 2020.

Funds to the tune of ₹44,000 crore were allocated for road construction, as against ₹23,000 crore during the previous regime. The length of bridges constructed had now doubled. In place of just one tunnel, six had been constructed. The pace of border road resurfacing and associated works along the India-China border had also doubled, he added.

Chaotic House adds to gloom: Venkaiah

Ensure smooth session, he urges all members

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A dysfunctional Parliament adds to the prevailing gloom, Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu said on Saturday, urging the Opposition and the Treasury bench leaders to ensure a smooth and productive monsoon session.

Mr. Naidu was speaking at an all-party meeting he chaired at his residence in Delhi, ahead of the session beginning Monday.

The meeting was attended by floor leaders of all major Opposition parties and 15 Ministers. "A dysfunctional Parliament adds to the prevailing gloom and hence, all sections of the House should ensure a smooth and productive session as it offers an opportunity to address the concerns of the people af-



The monsoon session will begin on July 19. ■PTI

fected by COVID-19," he said. Minister of Parliamentary

Affairs Pralhad Joshi said the

government had identified

Opens on: 19th July, 2021

Date of Computer based tes

21-08-2021 (Saturday)

WEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (JIPMER)

Competitive Examination (Stage-I) for Recruitment to the post of **Senior Residents** for August 2021 for JIPMER Puducherry and JIPMER Karaikal

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can be seen on the Institute website. Selection will be done by an online computer based tes

Online Registration and applications

Duration of Examination

10.00 AM to 11.00 AM

mportant: For prospectus, number of post, eligibility criteria, detailed information etc. please visi

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ead very carefully the tender documents before submitting the bid only through on lin on website www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in.

NOTE: Interested bidders please note that in future any other notices /informatic regarding amendment /corrigendum/addendum/dates extension of bid submission etc for above tender will only be available on website www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in

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Date for interview will be announced and informed by email to shortlisted candidate

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(CBT) followed by Interview (Stage-II) of shortlisted candidates through videoconferencing.

Online applications are invited from Indian citizens as per Govt. of India Reside

29 Bills for the session.

Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjuna Kharge said the House should discuss the impact of the pandemic on the economy and the possibility of a third wave. The Congress also wants discussions on the farmers' agitation, cooperative federalism, China's actions along the border and Jammu and Kashmir.

Trinamool leader Derek O'Brien called for more scrutiny of Bills by the parliamentary committees.

Closes on: 09th August, 2021

Examination Cities

Delhi/NCR, Mumbai, Kolkata

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

No. F.7 (601)/PPP/SHA/WB/2021-22/D-335

NIT No. 12/2021-22

On behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Rajasthan, PWD, Rajasthan

invites sealed bids in specified format from interested Bidders for Package No WB/RSHDP II/Annuity/02 Development, Operation & Maintenance of (i) Neem Ka Thana - Khetri Section of SH-13

from km 55+300 (at Junction with SH-37 B - Village Sirohi) to km 102+450 (at Junction with NH 311 at Jasrapur Mod near Khetri) total length 45.850 km and (ii) Jhunjhunu - Rajgarh Section of SH-41 from km 49+750 to 83+000 in Jhunjhunu district and 28+000 to 0+000 (Ch 0/0 at Rajgarh) in Churu district total Length 62.730 km, in the state of Rajasthan under RSHDP-II, to be financed by the World Bank on Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM) through Two Envelope e-Procurement bidding through National Competitive Bidding process as per the World Bank Guidelines. The Bidding documents can be viewed or / and downloaded from website http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, http://www.pwd.rajasthan.gov.in and http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in from 15.07.2021; any furthe amendments shall only be viewed on above websites.

UBN No. PWD2122WLOB03357

DIPR/C/6884

(V K Singh) ACE (PPP), PWD, Jaipur

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer, Projects Division Yalahanka Zone, Bengaluru -560 092. No: EE(PR)/Tend(CORG)/01/2021-22

Sub: Regarding Short Term notice inviting for Invitation for Tenders (IFT) (Short Term Tender) No: BBMP/YNK/EE(Project) /TEND/02/2021-22, Dated: 21.06.2021.

This is for the information of all the concerned and intending contractors in particular that in the above tender notificatior published in Vijaya karnataka and The Hindu on 23.06.2027 has been postponed due to Technical Reasons of E-Portal The Calendar of Events are as below. Original Date Proposed Date Description

Last date & time for Receipt of Tenders	19.07.2021 upto 4:00 pm	23.07.2021 upto 4:00 pm			
Opening of Technical Bid	20.07.2021 at 4:30 pm	26.07.2021 at 11:00 am			
Opening of Financial Bid	22.07.2021 at 4:00 pm	28.07.2021 at 4:30 pm If Possible			
Sd/- Executive Engineer Project Division, Yalahanka Zone					
STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.					



Office of the Executive Engineer, Shivajinagara Division, Queen's Road, Bengaluru-560 052. No: EE/SJN/TEND/04/2021-22

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only) (Two Cover)

The Executive Engineer, (Shivajinagara Division), BBMI Bengaluru, invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES/National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the construction of works detailed

Name of the Works	of work (₹. in Lakhs)			
Hafiziya BBMP School new construction Broad -way Shivajinagara in Ward No-92	650.00			
Construction of BBMP Hafeezia School in Ward No-92.				
As nor the Commissioner order No: Comm/DD/E 0251/				

2020-21, Dated: 30.01.2021 EMD exemption has given for this tender

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded n the e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka from 19.07.2021 (2) Tenders must be submitted online through -procurement portal on or before 02.08.2021 upto 4:00 pm (3) Pre-bid Meeting will be held in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Shivajinagara Division, Queens Road, Bengaluru -52 on 30.07.2021 at 12:00 noon. (4) Technical Bids will be opened in he Office of the Executive Engineer, Shivajinagara Division BBMP, Bengaluru on 03.08.2021 at 4:30 pm if possible or next working day. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Shivajinagara Division



'Ravi Shankar Prasad ousted for corruption in BharatNet' Thousands of crores diverted, says Cong. after CAG report

NEW DELHI

Flagging a preliminary report by the Comptroller and Auditor-General (CAG) on the BharatNet project, the Congress on Saturday alleged that large-scale corruption was the primary reason for shunting out Ravi Shankar Prasad from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. In its preliminary finding,

the CAG has said the Narendra Modi government's BharatNet programme, which intends to connect six lakh villages with high-speed Internet, failed to take off due to financial irregularities.

At a press conference on Saturday, senior Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera demanded an independent, high-level and time-bound inquiry into the findings.

Poor maintenance In a 94-page draft report, the

CAG said despite a huge payment to the common service centres (CSCs) set up by the Ministry, the maintenance of cable and other infrastruc-



ture was not found efficient in various circles. This resulted in poor quality of service at the gram panchayat and village block levels, the report said. It has also quoted many instances where work was completed only on

The report has pointed out that a payment of ₹386.42 crore and ₹116.5 crore was made between July 2019 and December 2020 to the CSCs under this Ministry. The arrangement is part of a tripartite agreement for operations and maintenance of optical fibre cable network, telecom equipment and Wi-Fi access points between the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), Bharat Broadband Network Ltd. and the CSCs done in July 2019 and approved by the Communication Digital Commission in September The USOF is a ₹55,000-

crore state reserve for bridging the digital divide, and is also funding the ambitious BharatNet project that aims to connect 2.5 lakh gram panchayats or village blocks encompassing more than six lakh villages across India.

Quoting the report, Mr. Khera said a devious modus operandi was used for redirecting the government money to private companies without following due pro-

He asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to tell the country what action would be taken against persons who siphoned off funds to the tune of thousands of crores. "Is this the reason for removing Ravi Shankar Prasad from Cabinet and is the removal of a Minister enough?" he asked.

5 behind blog in Kashmir arrested

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Jammu and Kashmir police on Saturday claimed to have arrested five persons who were running a blog, which ran smear campaigns and prepared a hit list of prominent personalities in Kashmir, including Rising Kashmir editor Shujaat Bukhari. "The culprits behind the

terror and intimidation machinery, kashmirfight-.wordpress.com, have been arrested in a major breakthrough," Inspector General of Police Vijay Ku-The police said they re-

covered a large number of cell phones, digital storage devices and computing platforms, following raids at houses and properties belonging to the five persons across the Union Territory. In one house, the police said they found 32 mobile phones. With the arrests, it is ex-

pected that the plans behind the murder of Shujaat Bukhari, advocate Babar Qadri and businessman Satpal Nischal would come to the fore.

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Maintair

90 oxygen plants ready soon: CPWD

DAMINI NATH

Out of 100 pressure swing adsorption (PSA) oxygen plants that were allotted to the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) to construct, around 90 had been completed or are nearing completion, a senior CPWD official said on Saturday.

The plants, being constructed using the PM CARES fund, are a part of over 1,000 such plants sanctioned to augment the availability of medical oxygen at healthcare facilities in all the States and Union Territories.

A senior Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry official wrote to the CPWD team responsible for the project on Wednesday that "all the work on the plant sites" was targeted to be completed by August 15. The letter also shared the "branding" to be displayed on the plants, a total of 1,222 of which had been sanctioned under PM CARES, the official said. The plant would carry stickers declaring that it is a "PSA plant under PM CARES".

New academic session in universities by Oct. 1

Admission process to be completed by Sept. 30, says UGC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

The new academic session in universities and colleges across the country will begin from October 1, while the admission process has to be completed by September 30, according to new guidelines of the University Grants Commission (UGC).

Universities and higher education institutions (HEIs) have been asked to ensure that the admission process for undergraduate courses begins only after the declaration of results by the CBSE, ICSE and all State Boards.

"It is expected that all school boards will declare their results for class 12 exams by July 31. If there is any delay in declaration of the result of qualifying exams, the new academic session may begin by October 18," the UGC said in the guidelines.

The Commission has said that the teaching-learning process must continue in offline, online or blended modes.

"The institutions may



New normal: Most higher education institutions have asked students to apply online for admission. ■R. ASHOK

plan for classes, breaks, conduct of examinations, semester break, etc. during October 1 [2021] to July 31 [2022], following necessary protocols and advisories issued by Central and State governments from time to time in view of the COVID-19 pandemic," the guidelines said.

Fee refund

In view of the financial hardships faced by parents during the pandemic, the UGC has asked universities and HEIs to ensure the fee is fully refunded in cases of cancellation of admission or migration of students.

It has also been made mandatory for universities and colleges to conduct final year or end semester exams by August 31. The exams can be conducted in either offline, online or blended modes.

"For intermediate semester students assessment shall be based on internal assessment and previous semester results," it said.

"In case of higher education institutions located at places where the government has imposed restrictions or public gatherings, HEIs may plan accordingly," the UGC said.

Vaccine procurement rates revised

Centre will buy Covishield at ₹205 per dose and Covaxin at ₹215 per dose

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Centre has placed an order to procure 66 crore more doses of Covishield and Covaxin to be supplied between August and December, at a revised price of ₹205 and ₹215 a dose, respectively, excluding taxes, official sources have said.

They said 37.5 crore Covishield doses from the Serum Institute of India and 28.5 crore Covaxin doses from Bharat Biotech will be procured by December.

"An order to procure 66 crore more doses of CO-VID-19 vaccines - Covishield and Covaxin - to be supplied between August and December, at a revised price of ₹205 and ₹215 per dose respectively, excluding taxes, has been placed," a source said.

The price of a dose of Covishield amounts to ₹215.25 and Covaxin ₹225.75, including taxes, the source said.

The Union Health Ministry, which was procuring both the vaccines at ₹150 per dose, had indicated that the prices would be revised after the new COVID-19 vaccine procurement policy came into effect from June



In the pipeline: A total of 37.5 crore Covishield doses and 28.5 crore Covaxin doses have been ordered. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

21. Under the new policy, the Ministry will procure 75% of the vaccines being produced by the drug manufacturers in the country.

While the Centre has asked both the vaccine manufacturing firms to scale up their production, the manufacturers had indicated that getting ₹150 for each dose while making investments to ramp up the production was not viable for them.

The Union government had earlier allowed States and private hospitals to procure 50% of the vaccines following demands decentralisation.

However, after several

States complained of problems, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the revision of the vaccine guidelines on June 8.

Domestic vaccine manufacturers are given the option to provide 25% of their monthly production of vaccines to private hospitals.

According to the revised guidelines which came into effect on June 21, vaccine doses provided free of cost by the Centre will be allocated to States and Union Territories based on criteria such as population, disease burden and the progress of vaccination, and all above the age of 18 will be eligible for

SATYASUNDAR BARIK

The Odisha government on

Saturday announced the re-

opening of schools for Class

X and Class XII from July 26

following a fall in the num-

ber of COVID cases in the

schools even though the

State is still under different

stages of lockdown appears

to have been prompted by

the inability to reach a ma-

jority of students through

online modes of education.

native mode of education,

were initiated due to CO-

VID-19 pandemic. However, we have not been able to

reach all students in the

State. Due to poor mobile

connectivity issues, the go-

vernment has decided to re-

"Online classes, an alter-

The decision to reopen

BHUBANESWAR

State.

Classes X and XII to

Decision taken to bridge digital gap

reopen in Odisha

Any wastage of vaccine will affect the allocation negatively.

The States and Union Territories would aggregate the demand of private hospitals keeping in view equitable distribution between large and small private hospitals and regional balance.

"Based on this aggregated demand, the Government of India will facilitate the supply of these vaccines to the private hospitals and their payment through the National Health Authority's electronic platform. This would enable the smaller and remote private hospitals to obtain a timely supply of vaccines, and further equitable access and regional balance," the Ministry had said.

The price of vaccine doses for private hospitals would be declared by each vaccine manufacturer, and any subsequent changes would be notified in advance, it had said. More than 41.69 crore vaccine doses have been provided to States and Union Territories so far, through all sources, the Health Ministry said on Saturday.

open schools for Class X and

XII from July 26," said Satya-

brata Sahu, School and Mass

According to the State go-

vernment, the number of

students in Classes X and XII

is about 10 lakh. The govern-

ment has been able to reach

out to only 40% of students,

while the remaining 60%

students are being deprived

of lessons. These students

had lost an average of 150

demic session. "A compre-

hensive standard operating

procedure on COVID-19 ap-

propriate behaviour will be

issued," Mr. Sahu said. At-

tending school will be op-

tional and students may do

so after consulting their pa-

rents. School hours have

been scheduled

a.m. to 1.30 p.m.

days in the previous aca-

Education Secretary.

Live-streaming court proceedings is key: CJI

'People have a right to be informed'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

Formalising live-streaming of court proceedings is crucial for dissemination of information. The spread of information is sacrosanct to free speech, Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana said on

The Chief Justice was inaugurating the launch of live-streaming of proceedings at the Gujarat High Court in the presence of Supreme Court e-Committee Chairperson Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, Supreme Court judge Justice M.R. Shah, Gujarat High Court Chief Justice Vikram Nath.

The CJI said the Supreme Court is "keen" to commence live-streaming of its oroceedings. "We are working out the logistics and working on the full consensus of the full court... We can introduce live-streaming in a cost-effective manner without much of a burden on the exchequer," Chief Justice Ramana explained. The people have a right to be informed about the institutions which serve them, the CJI said.

"Currently, the public obtains information about court proceedings through the media. In effect, the information from the courts is being filtered by agents of transmission. In the proWe can introduce live-streaming in a cost-effective manner without much of a burden on the exchequer

cess, there is sometimes a transmission loss leading to misinterpretation of questions asked and observations made by the Bench due to the absence of context. Vested interests are eager to amplify these misinterpretations in order to embarrass or discredit the institution," the CJI said.

However, the CJI said livestreaming was a "doubleedged sword". Judges, working under public scrutiny, may face a stressful environment.

"A judge cannot be swayed by popular opinion. Yes, with increased public gaze, he might become a subject of multiple debates, that should never deter him from his duty to protect the right of one against the might of many. Always remember, as a repository of people's faith, a judge cannot afford to lose objectivity," Chief Justice Ramana advised.

The CJI said the rules of live-streaming should be calibrated to protect the privacy and security of victims

Serene moment



Assam CM justifies heavy crackdown

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday advised his detractors to think of the families drug dealers have destroyed before sympathising with them and criticising the State police for being "trigger-happy".

The police have since May 10 killed or injured more than 25 alleged criminals, some of them drug traffickers, inviting criticism from Opposition parties and rights activists.

"Section 46 of CrPC gives power to the police to shoot in the leg if someone tries to snatch a pistol and flee. There are debates, but before sympathising with the drug dealers one should think about the families they have destroyed, the social damage they have done," Mr. Sarma said, before setting fire to a pile of seized drugs, including 3.47 kg heroin, at Sutia-

nala near Diphu. About 250 km east of Guwahati, Diphu is the headquarters of Karbi Anglong district that has gained notoriety over the decades as the corridor of the drug trade from Myanmar. Intelligence agencies say the drugs find their way via Manipur and Nagaland, which adjoin Karbi Anglong. Mr. Sarma said his government was determined to fight the drug menace with the most extreme measures permitted by law.

Paper recall sparks churn in NCBS

TIFR reviews research practices amid allegations of 'harassment' of students

ЈАСОВ КОЅНҮ

Underlying the recent retraction of a scientific paper by the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bengaluru, because it relied on manipulated data, are allegations of inordinate pressure on students from superiors, often at the threat of their careers being harmed, The Hindu has learnt.

While the controversy in one of India's most prestigious labs erupted over a research paper, the issues it has thrown up have now prompted a relook at research practices as well an investigation by the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) academic ethics committee. The TIFR is the parent body of the On Friday, a press note

from the Director, TIFR, said: "Recently, allegations of academic malpractice have been levelled in the press and social media against TIFR-NCBS faculty member Dr. Arati Ramesh. The retraction of the Nature Chemical Biology paper with Dr. Ramesh as the senior author took place after a full inquiry, as required by the NCBS Research Misconduct policies, into the data trail related to images that showed evidence of manipulation. The NCBS Manage ment Board was informed about this investigation. The committee's final report is currently under review by the TIFR Academic Ethics Committee, who will deter-



A view of the NCBS campus in Bengaluru.

mine if further investigation and/or action warranted."

On October 5, 2020, the paper "Discovery of ironsensing bacterial riboswitches" was published online in the well-regarded journal Nature Chemical Biology.

Media attention

Its listed authors were Siladitya Bandyopadhyay, Susmitnarayan Chaudhury, Dolly Mehta and Arati Ramesh, the last of whom was the group leader and is faculty at the NCBS.

The paper evoked significant media attention basis its findings, as it was the first instance of an RNA molecule being able to detect iron, opening the possibility of designing specialised iron sensors. Mr. Bandopadhyay was a Ph.D. student.

Within days of publication, anonymous reviewers on PubPeer - a site that enables research papers to be discussed after publication pointed out anomalies in the images submitted along

with the research paper by way of proof. Dr. Ramesh initially defended the sanctity of the images but informed the institute, which after an investigation, recommended that the paper be retracted. *The Hindu* had reported this on July 7.

A post-script, warning that there were problems with the paper's data, appeared with online versions of the paper as far back as December 2020 but the paper was formally retracted only on June 30, 2021.

The committee concluded that the images were manipulated by a single individual, Mr. Bandopadhyay. In the first week of December, Mr. Bandopadhyay left NCBS after getting a No Objection Certificate from

Independent journalist Leonid Schneider, on his website For Better Science, on July 14 first disclosed email correspondence between Mr. Bandopadhyay, the investigating committee as well with the institute director, Satyajit Mayor.

In the correspondence, Mr. Bandopadhyay said he and other members of the lab found that while the RNA molecules were sensitive to iron, the numbers to prove it weren't near the expected theoretical value and Dr. Ramesh repeatedly insisted that the results correspond to what she thought it ought

to be. While not contesting manipulating data, he suggested that the overall culture of was told that I have to replicate the data that was generated by someone in the lab and if that does not happen, I will never get to stay in the lab," the emails say. "...Since the first day I stepped into the lab in Dec 2017, I have seen someone manipulating data."

Student concerns The Hindu has independent-

ly verified that these emails were indeed written by Mr. Bandopadhyay to the investigators. A person privy to proceedings in the Ramesh lab around the RNA-sensing experiment said that while it wasn't unusual for lab leaders or Principal Investigators to be tough on their associates or students, Dr. Ramesh threatened members with dire consequences, such as stalling their academic progress, if the results didn't conform. "There have been other students, and members in her lab who've complained of harassment. Several students leave the lab because of the hostile work environment," this person told *The Hindu*.

Dr. Ramesh didn't respond to requests for comment. Institute Director Satyajit Mayor told The Hindu that the committee's mandate was specifically to determine the stage at which data was manipulated.

However, beyond the issue of data fraud, the institute was "seriously taking up" these allegations of pressure, he said.

Producers seek extension of shoot time

STAFF REPORTER

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Saturday asked the film and television producers to strictly adhere to the CO-VID-19 norms laid down by the State government and coordinate with police authorities about the place of shoot as well as exten-

sion for timings. The guild members said the shooting of Hindi and Marathi films and television series have been going on by following all norms, but timings need to be extended.

They told Mr. Thackeray that shooting beyond 4 p.m. was possible by taking all precautions and following rules.

Filmmakers Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra, Ritesh Sidhwani, Ravi Jadhav, Nagraj Manjule and Subodh Bhave were among those who participated in the virtual meeting.

Strict compliance

Mr. Thackeray asked the producers to ensure that norms are followed, crew members are vaccinated and routine tests for the virus are conducted.

He has directed the Mumbai police to appoint a nodal officer to whom producers will submit the shooting timetable, location and timings. "Permissions will be given once the officer is satisfied that all precautions are being taken," he said.

SUDOKU 6 8 3 2 4 9 3 6 4 8 3 5

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★公公公公

7	4	3	6	9	5	2	1	8	
1	5	9	2	8	7	3	4	6	
8	2	6	4	3	1	7	9	5	
9	6	5	3	4	2	1	8	7	l
2	1	7	8	5	6	4	3	9	
4	3	8	1	7	9	6	5	2	
3	7	4	5	2	8	9	6	1	
5	9	1	7	6	4	8	2	3	
6	8	2	9	1	3	5	7	4	

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U.S., Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan to form quad group

Diplomatic platform to focus on expanding trade and building transit links

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA WASHINGTON

The U.S., Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan have agreed in principle to establish a new quadrilateral diplomatic platform focused on enhancing regional connectivity, the Biden administration has said.

"The parties consider long-term peace and stability in Afghanistan critical to regional connectivity and agree that peace and regional connectivity are mutually reinforcing," the State Department said on Friday.

Recognising the historic opportunity to open flourishing interregional trade routes, the parties intend to cooperate to expand trade, build transit links, and strengthen business-to-business ties, it said.

"The parties agreed to

Doha talks

resume amid

Taliban gains

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Representatives of the Af-

ghan government and the

Taliban met in Doha for

talks on Saturday as vio-

lence raged in the country

with foreign forces almost

entirely withdrawn.

made battlefield gains.



New equations: Joe Biden speaking about the situation in Afghanistan in Washington, in this file photo. • AFP

meet in the coming months to determine the modalities of this cooperation with mutual consensus," said the State Department.

Strategic location

Afghanistan's strategic location has for a long time been touted as a competitive advantage for the country. Afghanistan is bordered by Pakistan to the east and south, Iran to the west. Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikis-

tan to the north, and China

to the northeast.

Located at the heart of the historic Silk Road, Afghanistan was long the crossroads of commerce between Asian countries connecting them to Europe, and enhancing religious, cultural, and com-

The formation of the new quad group is important amid China's desire to extend its Belt Road Initiative (BRI) to Afghanistan.

The BRI, a multi-billiondollar initiative launched by Chinese President Xi Jinping when he came to power in 2013, aims to link Southeast Asia, Central Asia, the Gulf region, Africa and Europe with a network of land and sea routes

By virtue of its location, Afghanistan can provide China with a base to spread its influence across the world.

Since the announcement of the withdrawal of U.S. forces by August 31, violence has been rising and efforts to broker a peace settlement between the Afghan government and insurgent Taliban

Afghan Ambassador's daughter abducted, assaulted in Pakistan

ASSOCIATED PRESS ISLAMABAD

The daughter of Afghanistan's Ambassador to Pakistan was abducted in the middle of the Pakistani capital of Islamabad, held for several hours and brutally attacked, officials in both countries

The two sides have been said on Saturday. meeting on and off for No one has been arrested months in Doha, but the in connection with Friday's talks have lost momentum assault on Silsila Alikhil, 26. as the insurgents have The Afghan Foreign Ministry issued a statement demand-

ing a quick investigation, saying she was "severely tortured"

A hospital medical report. seen by the Associated Press, said she suffered blows to her head, had rope marks on her wrists and legs and was badly beaten. There was a suspicion that she had several broken bones and Xrays were ordered, the report said.

The report also said her abductors held her for over five hours and that she was brought to the hospital in Islamabad by the police. There were no details about the abduction or the circumstances of her release.

Pakistan called the attack "disturbing" and said that security at the residence of the Afghan Ambassador in Islamabad had been reinforced.

The Afghan Foreign Ministry said it strongly condemns this "heinous act".

Correct the course, Nasheed tells Solih

'Pandering to extremists could take the Maldives to a dangerous place'

MEERA SRINIVASAN COLOMBO

Maldivian Parliamentary Speaker and former President Mohamed Nasheed, who survived a bid on his life in May, has asked President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih to "course-correct before it is too late".

In a statement issued on Saturday, Mr. Nasheed accused President Solih of reneging on his pledge to address religious extremism, referring to the government's "withdrawal" of support for a recent Bill - criminalising hate crimes - tabled after the May 6 explosion targeting him. "When the conservative religious parties who are part of a political alliance with the government objected, the government withdrew support for its own Bill," the statement said, naming the Adhaalath party.

His comments come amid growing tensions within the ruling Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) over the government's policies, mainly on corruption and religious extremism. While some MPs back President Solih's "restrained" approach that they find politically prudent, other, disgruntled members support Mr. Nasheed's "bold" ways. The friction seen within the top echelons of the Maldivian government that is facing the pandemic's blow and incumbency has set off speculation over political stability in Indian Ocean island nation.

Mr. Nasheed was critically injured in the May 6 incident that police called a "terror attack", and has since undergone multiple surgeries in Male, before being flown to Germany for further treatment. In his first media remarks since the blast, Mr. Nasheed, currently in the U.K., told The Hindu over telephone that "pandering to extremists" is often deemed necessary for political expedience in the Maldives, especially during polls.

Extremist votes

"We have had three elections under the new Constitution. The MDP won twice - in 2008 and 2018, and President Yameen's PPM won in 2013. All three victories were possible only with the extremist vote." But, the tendency could take the country to a "dangerous place" in the next few years, he warned, adding: "Look at Afghanistan today." Emphasising that he has nothing against President Solih, his "very good friend", Mr. Nasheed said he did not want the MDP to split, although some fear Mr. Nasheed's actions could divide the party.

"As long as I am there, I will make sure that doesn't happen." All the same, he said those committed to moderate values must come together in a common platform. "And that could include the PPM too," he said, despite his differences with the political rival and jailed former President, Mr. Yameen. On his own ambitions to run for the country's top office in 2023, Mr. Nasheed said: "Well, I have merely indicated that I have not resigned yet, and that I am available.'

According to MDP spokesman and legislator Imthivaz Fahmy, there is no imminent threat to the party's unity, but the differences within



Mohamed Nasheed

pose a challenge. Mr. Nasheed, he said, is "really concerned about the government's lukewarm reaction" to the terror attack, and its response to growing Islamist extremism in the country. "The very ideology and principles that the MDP stands for have been sidelined by the government, according

to President Nasheed, and

he believes that is detrimen-

tal to the party," he said. Meanwhile, some legislators in the party are increasingly disillusioned, according to MP Mickail Naseem, in whose view President Solih's pledge to address religious extremism and ensure justice for past victims of their violent attacks has been "overshadowed" by this in-

tention to keep the ruling

Landslide win

coalition intact.

Following President Solih's victory in 2018, the MDP secured a landslide win in the 2019 general elections. The MDP has 65 MPs in the 87member People's Majlis, and is in alliance with the Jumhooree Party, with three MPs [after recent realignment of 2 others], and the Adhaalath party that has no representation in the legislature. The Opposition is led by a combine of the Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM) and the People's National Congress (PNC), or broadly, former President Abdulla Yameen's political camp.

Following pressure from religious conservatives within government, President Solih backed down on the Bill, Mr. Naseem said. "This also impacts the murder cases of Ahmed Rilwan [journalist] and Yameen Rasheed [blogger] as well. The lack of urgency on the part of the government in tackling the root cause of the May 6 attack is worrying some of us," he told The Hindu.

But others such as Jeehan

Mahmood do not think President Solih has gone back from any of his commitments. While acknowledging Mr. Nasheed's concerns as "very real", the MDP legislator, who is also on the parliamentary committee on human rights, pointed to "bold steps" taken by President Solih's government to combat religious extremism, including undertaking operations in islands to identify such groups, and pressing charges against suspects.

"It is not correct to say the President is under pressure from coalition partners. It is really a commitment he made when he assumed office to work with this coalition. He will not be the one to break it," she said. "If he had succumbed to what some call pressure, then the Bill would not have come to Parliament in the first place. It has only gone to the committee stage now and will be taken up after wide consultation. President Solih is not stepping back from any of his promises."

Biden grapples with a 'pandemic of unvaccinated'

COVID-19 cases triple over past three weeks, deaths rise

ASSOCIATED PRESS WASHINGTON

Two weeks after celebrating America's near "independence" from the coronavirus, President Joe Biden is confronting the worrying reality of rising cases and deaths – and the limitations of his ability to combat persistent vaccine hesitancy.

Cases of COVID-19 have tripled over the past three weeks, and hospitalisations and deaths are rising among unvaccinated people. While the rates are still sharply down from their January highs, officials are concerned by the reversing trend and what they consider needless illness and



A nurse administering a vaccine dose in Seattle, Washington. • AFP

death. And cases are expected to continue to rise in coming weeks.

"Look, the only pandemic we have is among the unvaccinated," Mr. Biden said on

The rising numbers are being driven by large pockets of infection among the over 90 million Americans who have yet to get shots. Just four states with low vaccination rates made up 40% of new cases last week, and nearly half of them came from Florida alone.

However, there is little appetite in the White House for a return to broad mandates for masks.

Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said on Friday that in low-vaccination areas with rising cases, "local policymakers might consider whether masking would be be helpful for their

community."

'Dreamers' programme is illegal, U.S. court rules

President Biden vows to appeal ruling

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

A U.S. federal judge on Friday dealt a fresh blow to an immigration programme protecting undocumented migrants brought to the country as children, ruling it unlawful and blocking the enrollment of applicants.

Instituted by former president Barack Obama in 2012, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) covers around 7,00,000 people known as Dreamers. For many, America is the only country they have ever

President Joe Biden denounced the ruling as "deeply disappointing".

In a statement from the

White House, Mr. Biden said the Justice Department would appeal the ruling by Texas-based Judge Andrew Hanen, while adding that "only Congress can ensure a permanent solution by granting a path to citizenship for Dreamers," the young people brought to the US as children.

DACA supporters received a temporary reprieve in June 2020 when the Supreme Court ruled in a 5to-4 vote that the Trump administration had not provided sufficient justification for its attempts to end the programme. It made clear it was ruling largely on procedural issues, and left open the possibility of further challenges.

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Experience	Must have a total experience of not less than 15 years in the operation of a Cement Plant of which five years must be in a senior position.
	Rich project experience in successful installation and commissioning of large scale Dry Cement or Allied Industries will be preferred.
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DIPR/595/Display/2021

Sr. Manager (P&A)

Date: 16.07.202

ELSEWHERE



Syria's Assad takes oath for fourth term

President Bashar al-Assad took the oath of office for a fourth term in war-rayaged Syria on Saturday, after taking 95% of the vote in a controversial election dismissed abroad. The vote extending Mr. Assad's grip on power was the second since the start of a decade-long civil war that has killed almost half a million people and battered the country's infrastructure. AFP

France to allow those who have taken Covishield

France will allow travellers who have had Covishield, AstraZeneca's vaccine manufactured in India, into the country starting on Sunday. France still doesn't recognise vaccinations by Chinese or Russian vaccines. The move came after a global outcry over the fact that the EU's COVID-19 certificate only recognises AstraZeneca vaccines manufactured in Europe. AP 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

South Africans clean up after deadly unrest

Violence was pre-planned: Ramaphosa

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE DURBAN

South Africans on Saturday cleaned up shopping centres and stores looted during a week of shocking violence that rocked the country and left more than 200 dead.

Aid organisations also handed out food in communities that had been cut off from main roads or where food shops were ransacked in the unrest.

The violence – the worst in post-apartheid South Africa – erupted after former President Jacob Zuma was sentenced to 15 months in jail for snubbing a corruption inquiry.

His successor President Cyril Ramaphosa, who came to office promising to curb graft, said the riots were a "coordinated and well-planned attack" on the young country's democracy.

"Using the pretext of a political grievance, those behind these acts have sought to provoke a popular insurrection," Mr. Ramaphosa said in a televised address on Friday night.

The rioting caused wides-

pread destruction, leaving thousands of businesses trashed, including many retail shops that were specifically targeted.

'Free Zuma'

As an uneasy calm set in on Saturday, residents in the hard-hit KwaZulu-Natal province swept up debris at the Dube Village Mall in the township of Inanda, north of Durban, shovelling it into refuse bags.

Behind them walls topped with spikes and razor wire had been spray painted with the words "Free Zuma".

Mr. Zuma, whose home province is KwaZulu-Natal, commands support among loyalists in the ruling Afri-National Congress can (ANC).

Traffic was back to normal along a main highway linking the north to the port city of Durban after it had been closed for much of the week.



Last date of receipt of pre-bid

Pre-bid Meeting: Issue of pre-bid clarification:

Receipt of bids:

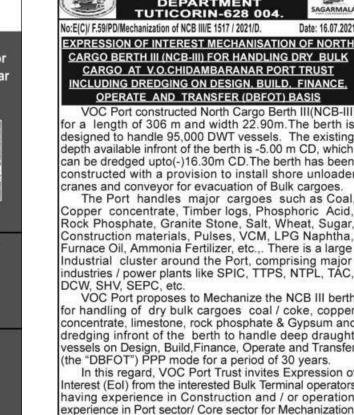
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in Sd/- Chief General Manager (Civil)

Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation

4.08.2021 at 11.30 A.M.

24.08.2021 till 4 P.M.

6.08.2021



constructed with a provision to install shore unloader cranes and conveyor for evacuation of Bulk cargoes. The Port handles major cargoes such as Coal Copper concentrate, Timber logs, Phosphoric Acid, Rock Phosphate, Granite Stone, Salt, Wheat, Sugar, Construction materials, Pulses, VCM, LPG Naphtha, Furnace Oil, Ammonia Fertilizer, etc.,. There is a large Industrial cluster around the Port, comprising major industries / power plants like SPIC, TTPS, NTPL, TAC,

V.O.CHIDAMBARANAR PORT TRUST

CIVIL ENGINEERING

CARGO AT V.O.CHIDAMBARANAR PORT TRUST

OPERATE AND TRANSFER (DBFOT) BASIS

VOC Port constructed North Cargo Berth III(NCB-III

DEPARTMENT TUTICORIN-628 004

DCW, SHV, SEPC, etc. VOC Port proposes to Mechanize the NCB III berth for handling of dry bulk cargoes coal / coke, copper concentrate, limestone, rock phosphate & Gypsum and dredging infront of the berth to handle deep draught vessels on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (the "DBFOT") PPP mode for a period of 30 years.

In this regard, VOC Port Trust invites Expression of Interest (EoI) from the interested Bulk Terminal operators having experience in Construction and / or operation experience in Port sector/ Core sector for Mechanization of NCB-III for handling dry bulk cargo at V.O.Chidambaranar Port Trust including dredging on Design, Build, Finance, Operate And Transfer (DBFOT) basis.

Interested operators may visit EOI at Port's website www.vocport.gov.in or contact Shri.K.Ravikumar, Chief Engineer cum Estate Officer, email :ce@vocport.gov.in phone: 94433 89512 with details of your requirements.

> CHIEF ENGINEER & ESTATE OFFICER V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust



SNAPSHOTS



Roots of bias

Earlier research of the last decade had shown that in lab settings, a rat would rather help a fellow rat who is in distress rather than an lab. Now, a study by scientists at University of California. Berkeley, finds the brain regions that drive the rats to focus on others dear to them, when in a crisis. The study, published in eLife, further suggests that humans, being so similar, may very well share this ingrained neuronal bias.



Volcanoes on Venus excited by traces of phosphine

in Venus's atmosphere, because it could imply the presence of life there. This has been displaced by what Cornell University researchers have suggested - that there are explosive volcanoes on the surface of Venus that emit phosphides which forms the phosphine. This study, published in PNAS, suggests that phosphine points not so much to the biology but the geology of Venus

COVID-19 vaccination safe for pregnant women

In India, based on all that we know, all vaccines currently available are safe and should be used in pregnant women

GAGANDEEP KANG

During pregnancy, the body undergoes many changes, particularly, those driven by hormonal levels and in immune system function that are intended to stop the mother's body from rejecting the baby, but increase her vulnerability to viral infections. As with most SARS-CoV-2 infections in the general population, most infections in pregnant women are likely to be asymptomatic or mild, but, particularly during the third trimester, there may be severe complications, with some reports stating that there is a several-fold increase in pregnant women needing intensive care as compared to infected nonpregnant women. Infections in pregnant women have been linked to an increase in preterm births, low birth

weight and foetal distress, with a higher mortality rate in mothers-to-be and their babies. Many of the complications are in pregnant women who also have other comorbidities, such as overweight, diabetes, hypertension or cardiac and chronic respiratory diseases Further, detection of viral RNA in the placenta or in foetal membranes shows that while likely to be rare, it is possible that infection with SARS-CoV2 can be passed from mother to baby. Based on a series of studies, the US Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention (CDC) listed pregnancy as one of the risk factors for severe disease in May 2021, and recently, the World Health Organization revised its recommendation for vaccination to include pregnant women in Category II to be prioritised for vaccination, along with other co-morbidities.

Almost 100 countries now have policies that allow some levels of permission for the vaccination of pregnant women. The Government of India made a recommendation for the vaccination of pregnant women in early July 2021, and many states have started or are set to start, but many questions remain.

Matter of safety

A key area of concern for pregnant women is safety. Pregnant women are generally excluded from vaccine trials as a precaution, but this creates a complication because without testing it is not feasible for regulators to make a recommendation for the use of a vaccine in this group. So trials for pregnant women, if they are done at all, tend to be done well after the accumulation of data from Developmental and Reproductive Toxicology (DART) studies on animals and from clinical efficacy and effectiveness studies. So far, the Pfizer, Moderna and Janssen vaccines in animals have not found any toxic effects or malformations, and

Vaccination and pregnancy Several factors point to the importance of



■ U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention listed pregnancy as a risk factor for severe COVID-19 in May 2021

■ WHO included pregnant women in Category II to be prioritised for vaccination

Pregnant women are generally

excluded from vaccine

without testing it is not

feasible for regulators to

make a recommendation

for the use of a vaccine in

studies for the Astra Zeneca

vaccines. A few women (12

for Pfizer and 6 for Moderna)

enrolled in the efficacy trials

of the mRNA vaccines were

found to be pregnant or be-

came pregnant after enrol-

ment, and no safety issues

were identified, but the num-

bers are small. A recent ana-

lysis of the real world use of

vaccines in pregnant women

was published by the US CDC

in the New England Journal

of Medicine, reporting on al-

this group.

trials as a precaution, but

■ Almost 100 countries now have policies with some levels of permission for vaccinating pregnant

So far, there is no evidence that vectored vaccines increase the risk of the thromboembolism in pregnancy, but this will continue to be monitored

women

most 36,000 women given

mRNA vaccines showed a

small increase in pain at the

injection site, but no other

difference in side-effects. Ov-

er 1,10,000 pregnant women

are enrolled in the CDC v-

safe registry and data on sa-

fety will continue to accumu-

late. Some data shows that

mothers can pass their anti-

bodies to the baby through

the placenta, but to verify

whether the antibodies will

protect the baby needs more

The data available so far is

largely from mRNA vaccines,

but for vaccines that have or

could be used in pregnant

women, the recommenda-

tions are clearly in favour of

use of inactivated vaccines or

non-live vaccines or their

Vectored vaccines

to ovaries is in the complete absence of such findings from DART studies

■ To avoid any future mistaken attribution of congenital or abortions to the vaccine, vaccination might be considered later

in pregnancy

equivalent. An issue that has

been raised with regard to

mRNA and vectored vaccines

is lack of data on whether the

vaccine or vector persists in

the body or is widely distri-

buted beyond the vaccina-

tion site. Such studies are

usually done for drugs which

are expected to enter the sys-

temic circulation and not al-

ways required for vaccines,

except with new adjuvants or

other new components are

used. It appears unlikely gi-

ven the rapid breakdown of

mRNA and what is known

about vectored vaccines, but

this has not stopped anti-

vaxxers from claiming that

the lipid nanoparticles of

mRNA vaccines bind to ovar-

ies, even in the complete ab-

sence of such findings from

Since pregnancy increases

Anti-vaxxers' nanoparticles of

ople. It is important to understand that TTS occurs when the body has or makes antibodies to a platelet protein leading to clot formation, which is a different process for thromboembolism in pregnancy. So far, there is no evidence that vectored vaccines increase the risk of the thromboembolism in pregnancy, but this will continue to be monitored in countries that have widely used these vaccines in women of reproductive age. For India, based on all that we know, all vaccines currently available are safe and should be used in pregnant women to safeguard them and their babies. A pregnancy registry is an important part of the overall safety monitoring of vaccines for the first few years after they are used and

the risk of venous throm-

boembolism four to five

times for women, a frequent-

ly asked question is whether

the adenovirus vectored vac-

cines like Covishield or the

Janssen should be used, be-

cause they are associated

with a small risk of thrombo-

sis with thrombocytopaenia

syndrome (TTS) in young pe-

ature on vaccine safety. Finally, the timing of vaccination during pregnancy is frequently discussed. This is because of the general prin-

must be encouraged, espe-

cially in India, where we

have a large birth cohort,

and thus an opportunity to

contribute to the global liter-

ciple that most malformations and most pregnancy losses occur in the first trimester, so to avoid any future attribution of congenital anomalies or abortions to the vaccine, vaccination might be considered later in pregnancy. However, the recommendation that vaccination can be started at any time during pregnancy or in case the first dose has already been given, the second dose can be given when due without consideration of the trimester is logical to achieve early protection of pregnant

Urgent need

Vaccination of pregnant women is urgent and essential to protect them and their babies, and is a responsibility of the healthcare system. The Government of India should be commended for the recommendation, even as we ensure that monitoring of safety is enhanced through both passive and active surveillance in vulnerable subgroups. In future studies, the regulators and policymakers may wish to consider whether we could enrol pregnant women at an earlier stage, so that recommendation for them could be made along with the general population.

(Dr. Gagandeep Kang is Professor, Wellcome Trust Research Laboratory at the Christian Medical College, Vellore.)

Waiving testing for the fully vaccinated is ill-considered'

Vaccinated people can potentially get infected once + more and spread the virus to others

R. PRASAD

On July 14, Maharashtra announced that people who have received both doses of a Covid-19 vaccine can travel negative RT-PCR report. However, they should carry certificates stating they are fully vaccinated. Earlier rules mandated that a test had to be taken 48 hours prior to the travel and only those with a negative RT-PCR test could enter Maharashtra. In an email to The Hindu, Dr. Giridhara Babu, Epidemiologist at the Public Health Foundation of India, Bengaluru, explains why doing away with RT-PCR testing is not correct and how it could endanger

Since fully vaccinated people can still get infected. is it a correct decision by the Maharashtra government to do away with the requirement of RT-PCR testing for fully vaccinated people?

We need to understand that testing is done to identify people with infections so that they can be isolated. This applies to everyone irrespective of the vaccination status. Increasingly, it is seen that the vaccinated persons can get infected. Not testing vaccinated persons is an illconsidered and unjust decision, mostly to reduce the inconveniences to the vaccinated persons.

From the perspective of rights of the unvaccinated, it is important to protect them from getting the infection from everyone, including vaccinated persons. There is also evidence that there is high incidence of breakthrough infections in vaccinated persons, even among those who have taken two doses of mRNA vaccines. The efficacy of the vaccines is tested against hospitalisation and in preventing deaths. While reductions in infection is the ultimate goal of higher vaccination cover-



Giridhara Babu special arrangement

age, this is not the primary outcome in vaccine trials or possible in settings with low vaccination coverage. I would recommend testing everyone, especially the vaccinated persons.

WHO says vaccine breakthrough infections will be mild or asymptotic. So how likely are fully vaccinated people to spread the virus when infected?

There is strong evidence that vaccination offers the greatest protection against death and hospitalisation. However, there is little evidence that the ability to transmit COVID-19 will greatly diminish. The transmission, even when is at a lower rate, can [happen] from the vaccinated to unvaccinated individuals. Vaccinated people could potentially still become infected and spread the virus to others.

Does mild/asymptotic infection in fully vaccinated people imply that the viral load is less and hence they are less likely to infect

Although COVID-19 vaccines might reduce viral load in persons with breakthrough infection, there is limited evidence [to ascertain] whether it will result in lower viral shedding, thereby further suppress the onward transmission. Evidence available for mRNA vaccine suggests that the infections occurring after 12 days of vaccination have significantly reduced viral loads at the time of testing. We need to establish the relation of viral load and viral shedding for vaccines and against different variants of concern. In the absence of such evidence, it is premature to conclude that vaccinated persons will have lower viral shedding and, therefore, contagious.

Since only 8% in India are fully vaccinated, is exemption from RT-PCR testing for fully vaccinated people a correct decision?

In India, it is early to consider exempting from testing. I do see a great opportunity for novel rapid tests, especially if there are alternative non-invasive options. Exemption from RT-PCR testing may be replaced once such tests are available, reliable and feasible to implement in India. Also, in symptomatic persons, our earlier study has shown high sensitivity while using the RAT test. In persons with no symptoms, RT-PCR is the best available option as of

At a time when vaccine shortage has been reported from several States and vaccination coverage is not uniform in urban and rural areas and even within urban areas, will treating fully vaccinated people differently aggravate inequities?

Absolutely, given the global dynamics of vaccine injustice, unfortunately, getting vaccinated is a rare privilege due to many reasons. These include non-eligibility, nonavailability and lack of affordability. Treating vaccinated people differently will induce and worsen the inequities in the community, including those exacerbated by inequitable health system access. It is also unethical because if exempted, the vaccinated can get infected and infect those who have had no access or opportunity to get vaccinated yet.

AI tool developed to study cancer-causing mutations

DART studies.

Active and neutral mutations are distinguished by studying their neighbourhoods

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN

Researchers at IIT Madras have developed an AI tool called NBDriver (neighbourhood driver) for use in analysing cancer-causing mutations in cells. By looking at the neighbourhood, or context, of a mutation in the genome, it can look at harmful "driver" mutations and distinguish them from neutral "passenger" mutations.

This technique of looking at the genomic neighbourhood to make out the nature of the mutation is a novel and largely unexplored one. In a paper published in the journal Cancers, the researchers explain that the nature of the mutation depends on the neighbourhood, and how this tool may be used to draw the line between driver and passenger mutations.

B. Ravindran, head of the Robert Bosch Centre for Data Science and AI at IIT Ma-

The 'frequentist' approach [which is more common] often missed out on relatively rare driver mutations. KARTHIK RAMAN

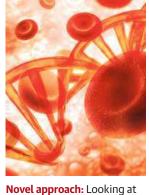
dras and one of the corresponding authors, said in a press release that one of the major challenges faced by cancer researchers involves the differentiation between the relatively small number of "driver" mutations that enable the cancer cells to grow and the large number "passenger" mutations that do not have any effect on the progression of the disease.

In previously published techniques, researchers typically analysed DNA sequences from large groups of cancer patients, comparing sequences from cancer as well as normal cells and determined whether a particular mutation occurred

more often in cancer cells than random, said Prof. Karthik Raman, from the biotechnology department of IIT Madras and another corresponding author. "However, this 'frequentist' approach often missed out on relatively rare driver mutations," he noted, adding that some studies have also looked at the changes caused by the driver mutations in the production of essuch as proteins.

Statistical modelling The method of distinguishing between driver and passenger mutations solely by

looking at the neighbourhood is novel. "Through robust statistical modelling, we show that there is a significant difference in the pattern of sequences (or context) surrounding the driver and passenger mutations," said Shayantan Banerjee, who is a master's student in



the neighbourhood to gauge the mutation is unexplored largely. • GETTY IMAGES

the Department of Biotechnology, IIT Madras, and the lead author of the paper.

Accuracy of tool

The researchers studied a dataset containing 5,265 mutations to derive the model. According to Prof. Raman, NBDriver, had an overall accuracy of 89% and ranked second out of 11 prediction

he said that the top performing tool, or FATHMM, achieved an accuracy of 91% on the same dataset. For the future, the group

algorithms. In comparison,

aims to develop an easy-touse drag-and-drop web interface that will enable cancer researchers with limited computational or programming skills to get predictions and extract genomic information on their preferred set of mutations. "We will also be pursuing further studies on the context [or neighbourhood] of these mutations, and how they impact the evolution of cancer. Why do we see differences in the context between the driver and passenger mutations in the first place?" said Prof Raman.

The group also plans that NBDriver will be a part of a broader cancer genomic sequence analysis "pipeline" being developed at the centres.

Rare Arctic lightning storms strike north of Alaska

Meteorologists were stunned this week when three successive thunderstorms swept across the icy Arctic from Siberia to north of Alaska, unleashing lightning bolts in an unusual phenomenon that scientists say will become rare with global warming.

"Forecasters hadn't seen anything like that before," said Ed Plumb, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Fairbanks, speaking about the storms that started on Saturday.

Typically, the air over the Arctic Ocean, especially when the water is covered with ice, lacks the convective heat needed to generate lightning storms. But as climate change warms the Arctic faster than the rest of the world, that's changing, scien-

Tripled in frequency

Episodes of summer lightning within the Arctic Circle have tripled since 2010, a trend directly tied to climate change and increasing loss of sea ice in the far north, scientists reported in a March study published in the journal



become less rare with global warming. • GETTY IMAGES

Geophysical Research Letters. As sea ice vanishes, more water is able to evaporate, adding moisture to the warming atmosphere.

"It's going to go with the temperatures," said co-author Robert Holzworth, an atmospheric physicist at the University of Washington in

These electrical storms threaten boreal forests fringing the Arctic, as they spark fires in remote regions already baking under the roundthe-clock summer sun.

The paper also documented more frequent lightning over the Arctic's treeless tundra regions, as well as above the Arctic Ocean and pack ice. In August 2019, lightning even struck within 100 kilometers of the North Pole, the researchers found.

storm activity is on track to increase threefold by the end of the century if current climate trends continue, according to two studies by scientists at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado, published over the last year in the journal Climate Dynamics.

"What used to be very rare is now just rare," said Rick Thoman, a climate scientist with the University of Alaska Fairbanks. As the parade of Arctic storms this week demonstrated, lightning is already appearing in unexpected places, he said. "I have no memory of three consecutive days of this kind of thing" in the Arctic.

On the water

On the water, the lightning is an increasing hazard to mariners, and vessel traffic is increasing as sea ice retreats, Holzworth said. People can become lightn-

ing rods and usually try to get low for safety. That's tough to do on flat tundra or ocean expanse. "What you really need is to pay better attention to the lightning forecasts," he said.

Question Corner

Mercury's iron heart

Why does Mercury

core?

have such a big iron

A study by researchers

from the University of

Maryland disputes the

why Mercury has a

its mantle (the layer

between its core and

crust). Scientists had

collisions with other

formation of our solar

system resulted in much

mantle being removed,

leaving behind the big,

dense, metal core inside.

But new research reveals

that Sun's magnetism is

showing that the density,

mass and iron content of

a rocky planet's core are

influenced by its distance

from the Sun's magnetic

the reason for this and

not the collisions.

The researchers

developed a model

bodies during the

of Mercury's rocky

argued that hit-and-run

prevailing hypothesis on

big-sized core relative to



New theory: This invokes the Sun's magnetic field. ■ GETTY IMAGES

field (Progress in Earth and Planetary Science).

There is a gradient in which the metal content in the core drops off as the four inner planets of our solar system get further from the Sun.

The current work explains this by showing that the distribution of raw materials in the early forming solar system was controlled by the Sun's magnetic field. The new model shows that during the early

formation of our solar system, when the young Sun was surrounded by a swirling cloud of dust and gas, grains of iron were drawn toward the centre by the Sun's magnetic field. When the planets began to form from clumps of that dust and gas, planets closer to the sun incorporated more iron into their cores than those further away.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

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In Alaska alone, thunder-



In trouble: The ban has unsettled banks that use Mastercard's services to issue a variety of cards. • REUTERS

Curbs on Mastercard

What are the rules on data storage and why has the RBI barred the U.S. company from taking on new customers in India?

PRASHANTH PERUMAL J.

The story so far: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday banned Mastercard from issuing new debit and credit cards to customers in India with effect from July 22. According to the RBI, the U.S. card-issuer has failed to comply with the local data storage rules announced by the central bank in 2018. The ban has unsettled banks operating in India that use Mastercard's services to issue a variety of cards to their customers.

What is the RBI's data localisation policy? In 2018, the Indian central bank had issued a circular ordering card companies such as Visa, Mastercard, and American Express to store all Indian customer data locally so that the regulator could have "unfettered supervisory access". This meant that foreign card companies had to store complete information about transactions made by Indian customers in servers located within India. Companies were initially required to comply with these rules within six months. The reason offered by the RBI to back up its data localisation rule was that local storage of consumer data is necessary to protect the privacy of Indian users and also to address

Existing Mastercard customers will be allowed to use their cards. Earlier, the RBI banned American Express and Diners Club from issuing new cards after they failed to comply with the 2018 circular on data localisation

national security concerns. Since the order, Mastercard, Visa and other foreign card companies have lobbied to dilute the rules. But the RBI has remained strict that companies must comply with its data localisation rules. Consequently, Mastercard deleted Indian customer data from its foreign servers and promised to invest in building local servers in India to store local customer data. The RBI,

however, has not been impressed. It has banned Mastercard from issuing new cards to customers from July 22. Reuters reported Mastercard as having said it was "disappointed" with the RBI's decision and it had provided regular updates on its compliance with the rules since 2018. The company was quoted as saying it would continue to work with the Indian central bank to provide any additional details required to resolve its concerns.

Existing Mastercard customers, however, can continue to use their cards. Earlier this year, American Express and Diners Club International were also banned by the RBI from issuing new cards after they failed to comply with the 2018 circular.

What is the need for local data storage?

Experts believe that customer privacy and national security are genuine concerns that need to be taken seriously. However, many also believe that data localisation rules are too stringent and they could simply be used by governments as tools of economic protectionism. For instance, they argue, it may not be strictly necessary for data to be stored locally to remain protected. Broadly speaking, formal international laws to govern the storage of digital information across borders may be sufficient to deal with these concerns. Governments, however, may still mandate data localisation in order to favour local companies to foreign

China, for example, has used its cyber-security laws to discriminate against foreign companies. A similar trend may be playing out in India with the Centre's emphasis on economic self-sufficiency. In 2018, Mastercard had launched a complaint with the U.S. government that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was actively promoting Indian cards like RuPay and that it was affecting the business of foreign card companies. Governments may also believe that mandating foreign companies to set up local infrastructure can boost their local economies.

What lies ahead?

Indian banks that are currently enrolled in the Mastercard network are expected to make alternative arrangements with other card companies. The process is expected to take a few months, and their card business is expected to take a significant hit meanwhile. The RBI's data localisation policy, as it burdens foreign card companies, may end up favouring domestic card issuers like RuPay. Mastercard owns about one-third of the market share in India, and the RBI's ban is likely to significantly benefit its competitors. RBL Bank, for instance, has decided to enter into an agreement with Visa after the RBI's ban on Mastercard. Similarly, the ban on American Express and Diners Club earlier this year benefited the Indian card network RuPay. Some believe that even Visa, a foreign company which dominates card payments in India, may come under regulatory pressure in the near future. Thus, the card payments sector may end up being restricted to a few domestic companies, which in turn can lead to reduced competition. This could mean higher costs and lower quality services for

It is also worth noting that in today's digital economy data have turned out to be a valuable commodity, which companies as well as governments have tried to gain control over. Information about spending patterns and other customer data can be monetised by companies in a variety of ways. With no clear rules on who owns customer data and to what extent, conflicts over data ownership are likely to continue for some time.

Why is there a COVID spike in Kerala?

Has the State lifted the lockdowns too quickly? What should be the strategy to contain transmission now?

C. MAYA

The story so far: The second wave of COVID-19, which began rising in Kerala in the second week of April, peaked mid-May, when the State was reporting around 44,000 cases daily and had about 4.45 lakh active cases in the community. The test positivity rate (TPR) hovered around 30%. The State then went into a total lockdown for over a fortnight, after which the case graph came down. But since the past one month or more, the epidemic curve has remained on a plateau, logging around 10,000 cases-12,000 cases every day, and the TPR is at 10%-11%. At a time when COVID-19 cases across the nation have come down sharply, Kerala accounts for about 30% of the country's active caseload. In the past two weeks, the case graph has been rising again, recording a 20% growth. On July 17, Kerala reported 16,148 fresh COVID-19 cases. Maharashtra, which has also seen cases rising, registered 8,172 fresh cases on the same

Why is the epidemic curve not coming down? Public health experts point out that what is happening in Kerala now is no different than what was witnessed in the State after the first wave. The first wave peaked in Kerala by the end of last October, the curve plateaued and remained unchanged for a long time. In January-February, recording between 1,500 and 3,000 fresh cases daily, Kerala accounted for over 45% of the active cases in the country.

The epidemic curve never hit the baseline after the first wave in Kerala because of two things – the large-scale mixing of people and huge gatherings and rallies during the campaigning in February ahead of the election in April, which was followed by the arrival of the highly transmissible Delta variant.

The first wave was yet to taper down, when Kerala rode into the second wave with a daily caseload of over 2,500 in the second week of April. The case graph then rose exponentially to reach a daily tally of almost 45,000 cases by mid-May. Other States had already experienced the worst of the second wave when the curve began rising in Kerala. Because the second wave was delayed, the epidemic curve in the State is expected to remain on a plateau for a prolonged period and at a higher daily average of fresh cases (because of the Delta variant).

What is the rate of community transmission? The third round of the national sero-prevalence survey, conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in three districts of Kerala in January, revealed that only 11.6% of the population had been exposed to the virus, against a national average of 21%. This meant that when the second wave struck, 89% of the State's 3.5-crore population was immunologically naive and at risk of contracting COVID-19.

When a highly transmissible virus variant like Delta is

in circulation among a susceptible population, the level of efficiency with which the community was maintaining non-pharmacological means of protection against the virus (masking and physical distancing) will no longer be enough to check transmission. Cases will continue to occur till a chunk of the population is affected or the transmission is reduced substantially through vaccination. Testing has been consistent in Kerala, with an average of 1.3 lakh samples tested daily. The official stance is that Kerala is picking up one out of every three infections in the community, while the national rate is one in 25 infections.



Norms forgotten: The Vizhinjam fishing harbour was crowded on July 14 after the curbs were eased. •PTI

Kerala's current strategy of allowing relaxations, solely on the basis of test positivity rate, has turned out to be unscientific and counter-productive, and has been widely criticised by the scientific community

What has been
Kerala's strategy?
Kerala's strategy in
COVID-19 containment has
always been to keep a tight
check on transmission
through targeted testing,
contact-tracing and
isolation of infected
individuals. The attempt
was always to delay the
peak of the curve and
spread out the infection so
that the cases never

exceeded the health system capacity. At the peak of the second wave too, though the health infrastructure was severely stressed, the State managed to tide over the situation fairly well. There were tense situations but people were never denied care nor were there distressing scenes of people running around for oxygen beds or ventilators.

Unlike the sharp rise and fall of the epidemic curve in most States, Kerala's epidemic curve had a gradual rise and decline. This means that while the duration of the epidemic would be longer, the impact on the community

What is the current situation?

A prolonged plateauing of the epidemic curve and a slight increase in transmission after the lockdown was expected. However, a 20% growth in cases after the plateau over the last two weeks is beginning to look worrying. Cases are going up mainly in the northern districts. The active caseload, which came down below the 1-lakh mark, has climbed to 1.24 lakh again, and while ICU occupancy is down, new hospital admissions are showing a rising trend.

Did something go wrong post-lockdown?

The State's current strategy of allowing relaxations, solely on the basis of TPR, has turned out to be unscientific, counter-productive and has been criticised by the scientific community as well as the people. The reliability of TPR as an epidemiological indicator of disease transmission is dependent on who is being tested.

Testing among primary contacts of the known COVID-19

cases and high-risk individuals will show more infections in the community but this will mean an increased TPR and another round of lockdown. Now that the government has linked TPR to lockdown relaxations, the reduction of TPR has become the goal for local bodies. Rather than targeted testing, the focus is now on reducing TPR by organising mass testing camps where asymptomatic people are offered incentives to test themselves. Increasing the denominator by testing a large population and testing within a relatively low-risk population can artificially bring about a reduction in

The State has to break the transmission now by finding active pockets of disease in the community through diligent targeted testing and tracing of primary contacts and high-risk individuals. "What is needed is micro-containment, rather than closing down an entire panchayat based on TPR. Skewed policies such as restricting the opening of shops to certain days of the week is actually leading to overcrowding and super-spread events," a Health official admitted.

What happens next?

Going forward, increasing the pace of vaccination and keeping a sharp eye on the circulation of SARS-CoV-2 variants through continuous genomic surveillance assumes importance.

Compared with the rest of India, Kerala has managed vaccination very well, administering the first dose to 45% of its population above 18 years and the second dose to 17% as on July 17. Though the State has the capacity to administer 2.5 lakh-3 lakh doses a day, erratic vaccine supply has made this impossible.

The State is ahead as far as genomic surveillance goes, with institutions doing targeted sequencing, apart from the whole genomic sequencing done at national institutes. Over 80% of the samples analysed in the State in recent months have been the Delta variant, though more cases of Delta Plus have also been surfacing.

Kerala is also planning to do a sero-prevalence survey soon, including among children. The sero-positivity is expected to be much higher than what it was during the ICMR survey in January, given that over 31 lakh people have already had COVID-19, and have natural immunity, apart from the proportion of the population who have vaccine-derived immunity

Is Twitter acceding to takedown requests?

How has the social media platform reacted to pleas for information data from governments around the world?

SRIRAM SRINIVASAN

The story so far: On Wednesday, social media platform Twitter released its Transparency Report for the second half of last year (July 1 to December 31), in which it was revealed that India was the single largest source of government information requests. India also was one of the prominent sources of legal demands for removal of content, according to the report.

What's the transparency report all about?

Twitter started publishing a biannual report – Twitter Transparency Report – in 2012. The original goal, it says in its blog, "was to provide the public with recurring insights into government pressures that impacted the public, whether through overt political censorship or by way of compelling account data through information requests".

It further says, "A lot has changed since 2012. It is now more important than ever that we also shine a light on our own practices, including enforcement of the Twitter Rules and our ongoing work to disrupt global state-backed information operations."

Over the years, the scope of the report has been expanded gradually. Additional categories such as non-government legal requests, trademark notices, coordinated manipulation, and so on, have been added from time to time. This aspect of reporting isn't rare any more.

Google, which has been issuing its transparency reports since 2010, says in its blog that "transparency reporting is an increasingly common practice across industries". It then goes on to list over 40 brands, from Facebook to Reddit, and from Uber to Yahoo!, that undertake transparency reporting.

What are the highlights of the latest report?

As mentioned above, there are different categories under which Twitter provides the data. One of the main categories is 'Government Information Requests,' and this includes "both emergency and routine legal demands for account information issued by law enforcement and other government agencies". The report noted that there was a 15% increase in such requests (and more than a 100% increase in the number of accounts specified in these requests) compared with the January-June 2020 period.

Notably, for the first time in the history of the transparency report, the U.S. wasn't the "top global requester". India was. It accounted for 25% of the global



True picture: India is one of the prominent sources of legal demands for removal of content, says the report. •AP

volume and 15% of the global accounts specified. The U.S., however, submitted the highest volume of global emergency requests, at 34%, followed by Japan (17%) and South Korea (16%).

Twitter describes routine requests as "legal demands issued by government of law enforcement authorities (e.g. subpoenas, court orders, search warrants)" that compel it to turn over account information. Emergency requests, on the other hand, may be entertained "if we are provided with sufficient information to support a good faith belief that there is an imminent threat involving danger of death or serious physical injury to a person, and we have information relevant to averting or mitigating the threat".

Under the category of 'Government Information Requests,' Twitter says it "narrowed or did not disclose information in response to 70%" of the requests.

One of the other significant sub-categories is 'Legal Demands', which provides data about court orders and other formal demands to remove content. The source of such demands can be "governmental entities and lawyers representing individuals". While the number of global legal demands fell 9% to 38,524, a whopping 94% of the demands came from just five countries (Japan, India, Russia, Turkey and South Korea).

Japan was the top requester in this category, accounting for 43% of the total. India was next, at 18%. Japan's requests, Twitter says, were largely related to "laws regarding narcotics and psychotropics, obscenity, or money lending"

A large portion of Russian requests related to its laws prohibiting the promotion of suicide. This section of the report also notes that "199 accounts of verified journalists"

and news outlets from around the world were subject to 361 legal demands, a 26% increase in the number of accounts since the previous reporting period. These included removal requests from India (128), Turkey (108), Pakistan (52), and Russia (28)".

The compliance rate, which is the "percentage of information requests where Twitter produced at least some sort of requested account information", in the case of requests emerging from India was far less compared with the average of the worldwide data.

On July 11, it published 'Twitter's India Transparency Report,' under the new Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. It will be a monthly report unlike the biannual Transparency Report

What else is notable about the new report? Twitter has started reporting about two additional things. One is an impressions metric, which "captures the number of views violative Tweets received prior to removal". The other is about the adoption of two-factor authentication "to keep accounts safe and secure". About the first, Twitter said violative tweets accounted for less than 0.1% of all impressions for all tweets globally during this period,

and it had removed 3.8 million tweets that flouted its rules. Only 6% of the removed tweets had more than 1,000 impressions.

Was there another report specific to India?

On July 11, it published 'Twitter's India Transparency Report,' under the new Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. It will be a monthly report from now on. This comes after months of uneasiness between the government and Twitter over the latter's non-compliance with the new rules, including the delay in the appointment of a grievance officer. The social media platform has just complied with that requirement. This report dealt with user grievances and proactive monitoring, which Twitter says refers to "content proactively identified by employing internal proprietary tools and industry hash sharing initiatives". In the May-June period, it reportedly suspended over 18,000 accounts for child sexual exploitation and a further over 4,000 accounts for promotion of terrorism.

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COMMUNIST PARTY OF CUBA

Barricades on the revolutionary road

Faced with a crippling U.S. embargo, a worsening economic crisis and a deadly pandemic, Cuba's leaders struggle to manage growing public anger

SRINIVASAN RAMANI

In Focus

■ The PCC was

1960s after

Fidel Castro

overthrew the

dictatorship

of Fulgencio

■ The party,

headed by

nationalised

assets and

properties

owned by

foreign

owners,

built a

oligarchic and

implemented

agrarian reforms and

single-party

socialist ideas

■ The country

and the party

are now led

by Miguel Diaz-Canel,

leader who

belong to the

revolutionary

generation

the first

doesn't

Fidel for

decades,

Batista in

1959

and his

comrades

ical moment for post-re-**J** volutionary Cuba. In what was an unprecedented outpouring, hundreds of Cubans came on to the streets shouting slogans across 40 towns and cities. They were registering their protests against the communist government's handling of the pandemic and some even asking for a change in regime. The popular slogans included "Patria v Vida" ('Fatherland and Life'), a play on the revolutionary slogan popularised by late President Fidel Castro – "Patria o Muerte" ('Fatherland or Death'), in response to the embargo imposed by the U.S. that sought to undermine the socialist regime.

uly 11, 2021 marked a crit-

With more than 24,000 COVID-19 cases and 200 plus deaths in the last five days and a severe lack of basic medicines because of shortages, Cuba is going through a particularly difficult public health crisis even though the total number of cases and deaths are much lower than most Latin American countries.

Ironically, the protests came right after Cuban scientists announced that the two indigenous COVID-19 vaccines - Abdala and Soberana-2 – had registered more than 90% efficacy in phase-3 trials (two doses for Abdala and three for Soberana-2). Abdala had already been deployed for emergency use, but only 18% of the Cuban population has been vaccinated so far.

Cuba is mired in a severe crisis after its economy shrunk 11% following the pandemic. The contraction

in the economy was largely due to the collapse in the tourism sector due to travel restrictions last year and the inability of the government to secure enough cash to make necessary imports such as fuel, food ingredients and other basic goods.

Measures such as restricting subsidies and ending the unpopular dual-currency system have exacerbated problems, resulting in scarcities and inflation. But the Cuban government blames the decades-long economic embargo imposed by the neighbouring U.S. for the situation. The embargo was tightened up further by the Trump administration after relaxations were some brought about by President Barack Obama and the fact that these measures have had the support of the politically powerful emigrant Cuban community in Florida has forced the Biden presidency from reversing them.

The consequences of the

economic crisis have been scarcities in many basic necessities such as electricity, available of medicine and food. As The Economist reports, Cuba, which imports nearly 70% of its food from abroad, is going through its most severe food shortage crisis since the Special Period of the 1990s following the Soviet Union's collapse. Cuba has an expansive welfare programme that focuses on basic education and healthcare being available to all, but shortages of essential items have made things worse for the citizenry, which is affected by the pandemic as well. This explains the unprecedented outpouring of protests, which took a coordinated shape because

of the spreading of discontent over social media across

Regime response

the country.

Cuba's President and secretary of the ruling Communist Party, Miguel Diaz-Canel, initially denounced these protests as being externally driven and called for regime sympathisers to come to the

The PCC was conceived as the "vanguard of the people" with the polity dominated by a single party system and decision-making thrust to a party-led government

streets. Some demonstrators, who were seen as leading the protests, were rounded up and arrested and one protestor died in the actions.

......

But a couple of days after the protests received widesmedia coverage throughout the world, the President seemed to have mellowed down. He conceded that some of the concerns expressed by the protestors were legitimate and some customs restrictions were eased on food, medicine and hygiene products. But with

travel still being limited, it remains to be seen if these measures will immediately help ease the shortage situation.

President Diaz-Canel was designated the first secretary of the ruling party in April. He is the first top leader who doesn't belong to the revolutionary generation that took part in the overthrow of the Fulgencio Batista regime in Cuba in 1959. That generation helmed by late President Fidel Castro and his comrades Ernesto 'Che' Guevara, Raul Castro, Juan Almeida, among others, led an armed struggle that began as a movement against a dictatorship that was seen as being propped up by external interests.

But once they succeeded

in the overthrow of the regime, the Fidel-led 26th of July Movement, during a period of "national liberation" between 1959 and 1961, subsumed itself into a group featuring others as part of the 'Integrated Revolutionary Organizations' (ORI), which included the extant communist party known as the Popular Socialist Party and the student-based Revolutionary Directory. The ORI became the United Party of the Cuban Socialist Revolution (PURSC), which later became the Communist Party of Cuba (Partido Comunista de Cuba, or PCC) in 1965. By now, the Cubans had firmly engaged in nationalisation of assets and properties owned by oligarchic and foreign owners, and agrarian reform, and developed a stronger economic and trade ties with the Soviet Union.

'Vanguard of the people'

The PCC was conceived as the "vanguard of the people" with the polity dominated by a single party system and decision-making thrust to a PCC-led government answerable to a National Assembly of People's Power, a legislative Parliament in place since 1976. The National Assembly's members are elected from electoral districts by a process of nomination from mass organisations (farmer organisations, student unions, trade unions, etc.) and from public meetings held to nominate representatives from municipal assemblies, who are themselves either elected via secret ballot or nominated.

This form of representation by nomination and election from the grassroots is defended by the Cuban regime as being democratic without the influence of money power and to perpetuate the country's socialist orientation. But the party-less politics has also created a system of intolerance of dissent

with political dissidents given harsh punishment for promoting ideas that are seen as critical of the regime or socialism itself. In the last decade or so,

the PCC has been cognisant of the frailties of the country's economic system and Mr. Diaz-Canel's predecessor, Raul Castro, had undertaken a series of cautious but steady reforms that furthered liberalisation of the economy by allowing small businesses, self-entrepreneurs and cooperatives more autonomy and recognition of private property with restrictions, besides greater flexibility in foreign investment.

These measures did not come up easily with hardliners, who are keen on retaining the orthodox Marxist-Leninist principles of state ownership of the means of production. But the PCC had learned from the experience of the Communist Party of China and the impact of the economic reforms there, and after intense inner party debate, they decided to embark upon liberalisation, albeit cautiously.

Despite these piecemeal economic reforms, Cuba still suffers the impact of the U.S. embargo and has had to struggle to maintain its strengths in the social sector. Besides, unlike the older generation with memories of constant struggle and incremental progress in post-revolutionary Cuba, younger people demand more political freedoms and an end to the shortages of essentials, which many see as not only a consequence of the embargo but also the failures of the highly regulated economy.

This has meant that it will be tougher for the current regime led by the post-revolutionary generation to retain the legitimacy of communist rule than its predecessors.

Economic reforms

Mr. Diaz-Canel and his party colleagues will have to not just extinguish the slowly spreading flames of the pandemic - a quicker deployment of the home grown vaccines will play a vital role but also implement economic reforms to quickly address the shortages without the use of repressive measures. The vaccines could also be a source of revenue for the beleaguered regime if it can find buyers from other countries. Mobilising public opinion as the regime did in the 1990s and achieving social peace would be the key imperative and it can only happen if the government backtracks from blaming the protests as being entirely the handiwork of external actors. The PCC and Mr. Diaz-Canel have their task cut out.

ASHRAF GHANI

The President in his labyrinth

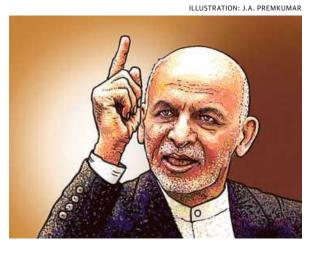
Afghanistan's leader faces a daunting challenge with the Taliban's surge

STANLY JOHNY

n a direct attack on a neighbouring country in La public platform with its Prime Minister sitting a few feet away, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani came heavily on Pakistan on Friday for its "support for terrorists". Speaking at the Central and South Asia Connectivity Conference in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, Mr. Ghani said "more than 10,000 jihadi fighters" have crossed into Afghanistan from Pakistan in the last month. Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, who sat through Mr. Ghani's speech, later denied the allegations.

Mr. Ghani is known for his mercurial ways. But a direct public outburst against a foreign government was rare even by his reputation. It shows the desperation of Kabul, which lost swathes of territories to the Taliban. Since May 1, the day the remaining western troops started withdrawing from Afghanistan, the Taliban have taken dozens of districts, especially in the country's north. Amid mounting losses and growing uncertainty, Mr. Ghani is visibly under pressure.

A trained anthropologist, Mr. Ghani rose to power in 2014, promising to end corruption and fix Afghanistan's institutions. This had been his favourite theme for decades. His doctoral thesis at Columbia University, 'Production and Domination: Afghanistan, 1747-1901', is a study on the coun-



try's difficulties in building institutions amid economic backwardness. In 2008, a consultancy Mr. Ghani cofounded in Washington, published a paper titled, 'Fixing Failed States: A Framework for Rebuilding a Fractured World', which outlined the measures to be taken to build institutions.

'Double failure' In his first presidential campaign in 2009, Mr. Ghani blamed a "double failure" for Afghanistan's miseries – a failure by the international community and a failure by the country's elites in rebuilding the nation. So when he was finally elected President in 2014, it was a chance for "Afghanistan's theorist in chief", as George Packer called him in The *New Yorker*, to put his ideas into practice. But ironically, under Mr. Ghani's watch, Afghanistan's institutions have further slipped away from Kabul while the Taliban kept

Born in 1949, Mr. Ghani grew up in Kabul's old city. His paternal grandfather was a military commander under King Nadir, who assumed the throne in 1929. Mr. Ghani's father was a senior official in the court of King Zahir, Nadir's son. In 1973, the year the Afghan monarchy was overthrown by Daoud Khan, who became the first President of the republic, Mr. Ghani received a degree in political science from the American University of Beirut. In 1977, two years prior to the arrival of the Soviet Red Army, Mr. Ghani and his family left Afghanistan, and he would not come back to live in his country until 2001.

When the Taliban regime was overthrown by the Americans in 2001, Mr. Ghani travelled to Afghanistan as a UN official. Later he became a special adviser to Hamid Karzai, who headed the transition government, and then went on to become his Finance Minister. But by

2004, Mr. Karzai and Mr. Ghani fell out and the latter left the government.

The fall of the Taliban and the formation of a democratic state had opened up Afghanistan's polity for the country's elite. Like many others, Mr. Ghani also didn't hide his political ambitions. He quit the government, but stayed active in Afghan civil society. In 2009, he made his first attempt in the presidential election, but failed. In 2014, Mr. Ghani contested again, and was declared winner after a disputed election. In the 2019 elections that saw a record low turnout amid surging violence, he got re-elected.

On both occasions, election disputes with his main rival, Abdullah Abdullah, were settled through talks. But a much bigger challenge Mr. Ghani faces is from the Taliban. He appeared helpless when the Taliban swept through the countryside. The intra-Afghan peace talks haven't reached anywhere. His administration rejected a proposal from the Biden administration to form a transition government with the Taliban. "Be assured that as long as I am alive, they will not see the formation of an interim government," Mr. Ghani said in February. But now, his cities are surrounded by the Taliban. The Americans will be out of the country within weeks. Hopes for a political settlement are slim. Mr. Ghani is entering perhaps the most critical phase of his

SHER BAHADUR DEUBA

The consensus Prime Minister

The NC leader was appointed PM after the top court reinstated Parliament

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE

¬or Nepal's newly ap-→ pointed Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba, the post is quite a familiar one. This is his fifth time being the Prime Minister of the country, having served in the post during the constitutional monarchy period in the 1990s and early 2000s, including a stint under the rule of then King Gyanendra, who suspended Parliament in the early 2000s and later in 2017 after Nepal became a republic.

Ironically after the thumping victory of the K.P. Oli-led Nepal Communist Party - formed with the merger of Mr. Oli's Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) and the Pushpa Kumar Dahal-led Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist-Centre) - in the 2018 elections, Mr. Deuba and his Nepali Congress had been reduced into a smaller opposition force. But following the power struggle between Mr. Oli and his detractors within the NCP and later its demerged constituents, the UML and the Maoists, Mr. Deuba emerged as the consensus candidate of the opposition in a dramatic reversal of fortunes.

Mr. Oli's attempts to dissolve Parliament and call for fresh elections and to browbeat his way to retain power came to naught after the Supreme Court reversed his decisions (endorsed by the President Bidhya Devi Bhandari) twice in six months.



on to rule that Mr. Deuba should be made the PM on account of the support he had across parties - 149 members in the 275-member Parliament.

The members included the rebels within the UML led by Madhav Kumar Nepal and Jhalanath Khanal, besides Mr. Dahal from the Maoists and Baburam Bhattarai of the Janata Samajwadi Party (JSP). All four of them had been Prime Ministers in the past and had been engaged in power struggles.

Broad support

That they chose to support Mr. Deuba was a consequence of their mutual animus towards the increasingly authoritarian Mr. Oli to some extent, but was also an endorsement of Mr. Deuba's ability to both consolidate support within the Nepali Congress (NC) and to reach out to different players in the fractious polity.

Mr. Deuba became PM for

1995 and remained in that office till March 1997. An active campaigner during the 1990 Jan Andolan that paved the way for constitutional monarchy after then King Birendra dissolved the Panchayat system and instituted parliamentary democracy, Mr. Deuba's first tenure as PM also marked the beginning of Maoist insurgency in the country. His second stint began in the backdrop of the massacre of the royal family in the Narayanhiti Palace in the heart of Kathmandu on June 1, 2001. The Maoist insurgency had by then managed to spread and retain control over several parts of interior Nepal. King Gyanendra used this as a ruse to suspend Parliament, remove Mr. Deuba from power, only to appoint him later and then remove him

again before declaring the

return of absolute monar-

chy. Soon, the beleaguered

monarchy lost support fol-

the first time in September

ing the way for the conversion of Nepal into a constitutional republic. Mr. Deuba, hailing from

Sudoor Paschim, or the Far Western province of Nepal, had the political capital to survive the long exile that followed his third stint, mainly because of his ability to present his centrist politics as a solution for the country's problems. In 2017, Mr. Deuba resurrected himself within the NC and took advantage of Mr. Dahal's quest for power. He set up a government based on a rotating leadership that collapsed the very next year, paving the way for Mr. Oli's second premiership. Now in his fifth stint as the PM, Mr. Deuba will still not have it easy. While Mr. Nepal had hitched his wagons to the opposition against Mr. Oli, he has not committed support for Mr. Deuba in the upcoming trust vote. As things stand, he needs the full support of the NC, the Maoists and the JSP if he has to win the trust vote without Mr. Nepal's support.

In administration, Mr. Deuba faces tremendous challenges. Nepal has been ravaged by the COVID-19 pandemic. He will also have to deal with the southern and northern neighbours in a far more efficient manner than he ever did in the past. More than before, China's influence is larger in Nepal and on the other hand, the Indian establishment is keen on normalising relations that have soured during Mr. Oli's tenure.

making gains.

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The apex court then went

lowing Jan Andolan-2, pav-



Hiring activity saw uptick in most sectors in June: report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

With the gradual easing of lockdowns, overall hiring activity witnessed positive growth for most sectors in June, according to a report.

Hiring activity improved, suggesting a recovery for the non-tech sectors as well, based on newly added job listings during the month, job site SCIKEY Market Network said in a report.

While the IT sector had so far been hiring at a fast pace, June's data revealed that a lot of other sectors had started showing improvement in hiring activity, SCIKEY Market Network said based on job postings.

The data revealed that there had been a 21% improvement in hiring in the banking sector in June, compared with May.

Key industries like IT and BPO showed 18% growth each, the pharmaceuticals sector logged 16.9% growth, while hiring demand in healthcare improved by 20%, it stated.

Other sectors like insurance, retail, education and FMCG also showed a progress of 12%, 5%, 12.1% and 16%, respectively.

"It's been a rough patch for most sectors since the lockdown took place," said SCIKEY co-founder Karunjit Kumar Dhir. "We are hopeful that the recovery will become more robust in the coming months," Mr.

HDFC Bank Q1 net rises 14%, second wave hits performance

Lender says disruption may cause continued rise in defaults, push up provisions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

HDFC Bank's consolidated net profit for the June quarter rose 14% from a year earlier to ₹7,922 crore, but slid sequentially from the ₹8,434 crore recorded in the three months ended March 31.

Core net interest income grew 8.57% to ₹17,009 crore, on advances growth of 14.4%, and the net interest margin was 4.1%, while other income grew 54.3% to ₹4,075 crore.

The year-earlier quarter had been impacted by the national lockdown and the ensuing hit to economic activity, while the just-concluded quarter had been affected by localised lockdowns.

"These disruptions led to

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

L&T Infotech's growth re-

flected the 'evolving dynam-

ics of a steadily recovering

market and accelerated

adoption of digital', said Lar-

sen & Toubro Infotech (LTI)

Mr. Jalona also pointed

out that the Indian informa-

tion technology industry

support in enabling the

world to navigate 'these un-

players under the global li-

melight," Mr. Jalona said. "I

would like to acknowledge

the commendable contribu-

precedented times'.

"The

brought

provided 'exemplary'

pandemic has

domestic tech

CEO & MD Sanjay Jalona.

BENGALURU



Tough time: Lower business volume, higher slippages led to lower revenue and higher provisions, it said. • VIJAY SONEJI

a decrease in retail loan originations, sale of third party products, card spends and efficiency in collection efforts," the country's largest private sector lender said in a statement. "The lower buvolumes, coupled

Market recovering, digital

seeing quicker adoption: LTI

'Pandemic brought local IT firms into the global limelight'

with higher slippages, resulted in lower revenues, as well as an enhanced level of provisioning," it added.

Loan loss provisions jumped 54% to ₹4,219 crore, while overall provisions, including ₹600 crore set aside

L&T Infotech's

revenue grew

quarter. Net

17.4% in the June

income climbed

cloud and data opportuni-

ties which will be the main

drivers of technology and

business transformation in

the years to come," Mr. Jalo-

19.3% in the period

as contingency provisions, stood at ₹4,830.8 crore as against ₹3,891.5 crore.

GNPA ratio rises

HDFC Bank also said that the disruptions may lead to a continued rise in the "number of customer defaults and consequently an increase in provisions".

The bank said the gross non-performing assets ratio rose to 1.47% as of June 30, from the 1.32% seen in March and 1.36% a year earlier.

Its deposit growth was 13.2% during the quarter and the share of the low-cost current and savings accounts balances in the overall base stood at 45.5%. Its total capital adequacy ratio was at 19.1% as on June 30.

Ball in RBI ban: Jagdishan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

technology, and the ball is now in the regulator's court as to when to lift the ban on issuing new credit cards, MD and CEO Sashidhar Jagdishan said on

ders at his first annual general meeting as the head of the lender, Mr. Jagdishan said a technology audit was also over and the RBI would now be "independently" taking a view on when to lift penal actions taken against the bank. Frustrated at repeated tech outages at HDFC Bank, the RBI put a freeze on it issuing any new credit card.

court on lifting

boost for cement sector'

Ramco well placed to take advantage of likely buoyancy: CEO

INTERVIEW | A. V. DHARMAKRISHNAN

'Infrastructure outlay, a

N. ANAND

Cement demand is expected to grow by about 20% in FY22 following increased budgetary allocation for infrastructure in the Union Budget 2021-22 and the expected revival of urban housing, said A.V. Dharmakrishnan, Chief Executive Officer, The Ramco Cements Ltd. Excerpts:

Commodity prices are rising. Why is cement alone as input material facing an issue?

■ Commodity prices have increased all over due to the sharp increase in prices of diesel, coal, pet coke and polymer. Thus, the cost of production for cement has sharply increased. In the construction sector, a few industries like steel and cement are in the organised sector whereas land, sand, bricks, aggregates and construction labour are still under the unorganised sector.

While steel prices have risen sharply, it is not talked about much because a major portion of the steel is coming from outside the State; whereas, when it comes to an increase in cement prices, this industry alone is easily targeted, being native players. This could be due to bullying by various groups with vested interests on political grounds.

There are claims about a cartel being behind the recent cement price hike...

■ There are more than 50 companies in the country with sizes as high as 1 million tonne per annum (MTPA) to 120 MTPA. Since priorities and bandwidth of the companies will be different, it may not be possible for them to come together to

Rise in fuel prices and coal may spur costs which could affect the overall

achieve a common agenda and hence, cartelisation, which requires certain understanding among the companies, is not possible. Therefore, there is no question of cartelisation and such accusations are baseless.

cost of production

■ Cement demand is expected to grow by about 20% in FY22 due to increased budgetary allocation for infrastructure in the Union Budget 2021-22, besides expected revival of urban housing. In addition, rural demand

How do you visualise FY22?

is also expected to sustain on the back of higher rural incomes witnessed in FY21 and with good farm income. PMAY-G and PMAY-U

schemes are expected to sustain momentum as they engage the rural workforce which, in turn, drive rural employment.

Rise in fuel prices like diesel, pet coke and coal may push up costs, which could affect the overall cost of production. However, the return of growth in cement demand will be well supported by rural demand, push for affordable housing and recovery in the infrastructure segment. With the completion of all capacity expansion now, Ramco Cements will be well placed to take advantage of the expected market buoyancy in the days

South. Will it change cement

its will be in the South; satellite cement-grinding units will be set up in strategic locations based on market potential. Setting up of clinkering units is dependent on

How about competition from the unorganised sector?

■ There is no significant Besides, being a capital-intensive sector, brand awareness among the users is also very high. Hence, the entry of unorganised players is very much restricted.

What is your capacity? ■ Clinker capacity as at June is 11.4 MTPA. It will rise to 13.65 MTPA once the clinkering unit in Kurnool is comment grinding capacity is 19.4 MTPA. It will rise to 20.4

pand or diversify markets.

1.30 p.m. & 4.15 p.m. Sri Lanka vs India: 1st ODI, Sony Ten 1, 3 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 3 p.m.

England vs Pakistan: 2nd T20I, Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD). 7

F1: Silverstone GP. SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m. **Tour de France**: Eurosport (SD & HD), 7.45 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Pogacar on cusp of

SAINT EMILION Tadej Pogacar was poised to win a second straight Tour de France title after he retained the yellow in the 20th stage, a 30.8-km individual time trial won by Wout van Aert (in pic) on Saturday. REUTERS

Country first for Baig & Ramesh

Personal issues take a back seat for these dedicated coaches

TOKYO OLYMPICS

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM HYDERABAD

They have untold stories even as they script the success stories of their trainees. And not all coaches, who untiringly work behind the scenes to mould athletes into lead performers on some of the biggest stages like the Olympics, get their due.

Consider two shining examples - chief national rowing coach Ismail Baig and athletics coach N. Ramesh.

Not many might be aware that the Guntur-born Baig, who trained the two Olympics-bound rowers Arvind Singh and Arjun Lal Jat (men's double sculls) at the Army Rowing Node (ARN) in Pune – had to summon all the courage to stay back with the rowers even as his wife



■ FILE PHOTO: V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

tested COVID-19 positive a few weeks ago.

Baig couldn't even think of leaving the bio-bubble at ARN even for a day as that would mean breaking pandemic protocols. He didn't want the efforts and planning of months go down the

drain.



■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

understood.

"I preferred to stay back



and fortunately my family

"I was monitoring their treatment from Pune and by God's grace, they could come out of the crisis," Baig

The rowing coach added he was with his family only for a brief period during the last six months as ARN was his "second home".

The 55-year-old Ramesh's case is no different. His wife was bed-ridden a few weeks ago and Dutee Chand's coach faced a similar crisis.

Ramesh, too, stayed back in Patiala with the Tokyobound athletes because of the bio-bubble.

Family support

"I didn't dare to think of even moving out of the National camp. Fortunately, my family members insisted that I focus on coaching," he said.

There were many instances when the coaches stayed away from personal issues to be with the trainees.

"There is no better joy for us than to see our trainees scale the pedestal of stardom. Everything else is secondary for us," the spirited coaches said.

Walsh is the star of hosts' 4-1 series win over Australia

AUSTRALIA IN WI

Opener Evin Lewis was at his rampaging best with an innings of 79 in setting up the West Indies' 16-run victory over Australia in the final T20 International of their five-match series at the Daren Sammy Stadium here on Friday.

off just 34 balls, highlighted by nine sixes and four fours, lifted the home team to 199 for eight and earned him the Man-of-the-Match award as the West Indies also took the series 4-1.

Andre Russell then claimed three wickets each as Australia was restricted to 183 for



Evin Lewis. • AFP

ed three half-centuries in his previous four innings, looked set for another substantial contribution but fell for 30 off 15 balls.

ankle injury, Australia captain Aaron Finch sought to keep his team in the hunt. Walsh, the Antiguan legspinner, was named Man-ofthe-Series for his haul of 12 wickets, one short of the T20I series record of New Zealand spinner Ish Sodhi, also against Australia, earlier

this year. The West Indies and Australia meet in three One-Day Internationals in Barbados starting next Tuesday.

The scores: West Indies 199/8 in 20 overs (Evin Lewis 79, Nicholas Pooran 31; Andrew Tye 3/37) bt Australia 183/9 in 20 overs (Aaron Finch 34, Mitchell Marsh 30, Matthew Wade 26; Simon Cottrell 3/29, Andre Russell 3/43)

Toss: West Indies.

MoM: Lewis. MoS: Hayden Walsh; West Indies won match by 16 runs and series 4-1.

Shuttler Suhas has made it to Tokyo

It is a huge honour and a dream come true, says the District Magistrate

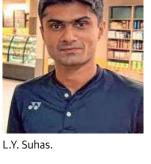
PARALYMPICS

ANUJ KUMAR

"My reach is my strength," savs L.Y. Suhas, Gautam Buddha Nagar District Magistrate and para-badminton player, who is going to represent India in the upcoming Tokyo Olympics.

"Reaching the shuttle and sending it back to the opposition's court is crucial in badminton. It is as important as reaching the spot as an administrative officer," chuckles Suhas, who has been consistently performing in the international circuit.

Describing the selection as a "huge honour and a



says he has "no words" to express his joy. "As I'm ranked 3rd in the world in the SL4 category, I was sure I would be selected and was preparing every night," says Suhas, who emerged as a champion when he won back to back pionship 2016 in Beijing and Turkish Open in 2017. "I have played at the

gold medals in Asian Cham-

Olympic Stadium court in 2017 when I won the silver medal at the Japan Open. It has a high air volume. So the moment I got the call, I shifted my preparation to Great Noida stadium which also has high air volume," says Suhas. "I have some strong

tough day. The time spent in court helps me relax.

cas Mazur of France as the biggest threat. "He has a better win-loss record against me. Being 6' 3", he has the advantage of height but I have my plans. When you are playing Olympics, you need to have an all-around game," says the 5'10" tall Su-

Social concern Hailing from Hassan in Kar-

his father as his inspiration says, he started as a cricketer but soon fell in love with badminton. "It is a social concern that in our country sports and studies could not be taken together. So much so that when someone excels in both, it becomes news. As a society, we have broken many glass ceilings and I feel this one is waiting to be smashed.'

AFC C'SHIP

P.K. AJITH KUMAR KOZHIKODE

Barely a month after the women of Gokulam Kerala were given a warm reception in front of a big crowd at the Corporation Stadium here last year, India went into a lockdown. A year on, they have a strong reason to be cheerful again: they would be playing at the AFC Women's Club Championship.

It will be held in Jordan in November. Gokulam is the first club from an India to take part in the tournament.

It may be four months away, but Gokulam's coach, P.V. Priya is already looking forward to it. "This is a huge



■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

opportunity for the girls," she said on Saturday.

"Yes, the COVID-19 lockdown has hampered our training, but I hope we would be able to get back on the field in September. I

dy for the tournament with a two-month camp." She said Gokulam was drawn in a tough group. "All our rivals, Amman Club (Jor-

think the players will be rea-

dan), Shahrdari Sirjan (Iran) and FC Bunyodkar (Uzbekistan) are strong. But we will give our best," said Priya. hopes Gokulam would be able to field most

of the players that made the team the Indian Women's League champion last year. "We could also look at some foreign recruits as five of them are allowed in a team," she said.

Gokulam's matches: Nov. 7: vs. Amman Club; Nov. 9: vs. Shahrdari Sirjan,; Nov. 12: vs. FC Bunyodkur.

leads Pakistan to victory

PAK. IN ENGLAND

NOTTINGHAM

Captain Babar Azam (85) led from the front as Pakistan beat England by 31 runs in the first Twenty20 International at Trent Bridge on Friday despite a blistering hundred from Livingstone.

The scores: Pakistan 232/6 in 20 overs (Mohammad Rizwan 63, Babar Azam 85, Fakhar Zaman 26) bt England 201 in 19.2 overs (Jason Roy 32, Liam Livingstone 103; Shaheen Shah Afridi 3/30,

di; Pakistan won by 31 runs to lead three-match series 1-0.

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

Sanjay Jalona tion of millions of youth of our nation," he added. LTI registered a revenue growth of 17.4% to ₹3,462.5 crore for the quarter ended



June 30. Net income grew 19.3% to ₹496.8 crore.

"We are excited about the

LTI also announced a special dividend of ₹10 per equity share to commemorate the completion of five years since its listing on the Indian stock exchanges.

In the period, the company grew at a compounded annual growth rate of 13.5%.

HDFC Bank has complied with 85% of RBI's asks on

Saturday. Addressing sharehol-

like diesel, pet coke

Clinker is available only in units' location strategy? For Ramco, clinkering un-

limestone availability.

player in the unorganised sector. First of all, manufacturing units compulsorily require BIS certification and that calls for heavy investment to maintain quality.

pleted in September. Ce-MTPA once the cementgrinding facility in Kurnool is completed by 2022-23.

Are you looking at

acquisitions or going North? As of now, good assets are available in the North. If any opportunity is there, definitely we will examine to ex-

Lewis shines as Windies triumph

by what appeared to be an

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Lewis' punishing innings

Three wickets each Pacers Sheldon Cottrell and

'A great opportunity for Gokulam'

Coach Priya says players ready to take on tough opponents

Mitchell Marsh, who post-

Despite being hampered

Babar Azam

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Shadab Khan 3/52). Toss: England; MoM: Afri-

dream come true", Suhas

sparring partners," he adds. Isn't it hectic? "It is just like watching a movie after a

He counts top-ranked Lu-

nataka, Suhas who counts

TOKYO TITBITS

IOC backs transgender

weightlifter's selection

weightlifter Laurel Hubbard

criticism, saying under the

to become the first

Olympics Village

for the Tokyo Olympics despite

current rules she can compete

The super-heavyweight is set

selection of transgender

The IOC backed New Zealand's

Tough but familiar challenge awaits Sindhu

The World champion has to beat the likes of Tai, Yamaguchi and Chen in order to clinch gold

TOKYO OLYMPICS

RAKESH RAO

World champion P.V. Sindhu returns to the Olympic arena determined to do one better than her runner-up performance in

Though the men's 13th seed B. Sai Praneeth and the unseeded duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will also be around, the quality of opposition they are drawn to face could prove too much for them to

In the absence of defending champion Carolina Marin, Sindhu and other medal contenders can breathe a bit easy. Nevertheless, the journey to the podium is going to be tough.

After the two-match preliminary league, Sindhu's first serious challenger could be Mia Blichfeldt (Denmark) in the elimination round. Sindhu has a 4-1 record against Mia. This year, it is 1-1.

Thereafter, Sindhu's prospective rivals are World No. 1 Tai Tzu Ying (Chinese Taipie) in the quarterfinals, former World No. 1 Akane Yamaguchi (Japan) in the semifinals







Acid test: Sindhu, Sai Praneeth and the duo of Chirag and Satwik have all drawn formidable opponents. • FILE PHOTOS

and top seed Chen Yufie (China) for the gold. Though these challengers appear intimidating, Sindhu knows she is treading a familiar

Make-or-break match

Tai holds a 13-5 advantage in their clashes but three of Sindhu's victories have come in big-ticket events like the 2016 Rio Olympics, 2018 BWF World Tour Finals and the 2019 World Championship. Since then, Sindhu has lost thrice. Therefore, this could well be a make-orbreak match.

Against Yamaguchi, Sindhu will be confident of improving on her 11-7 record, following a comeback-win in this year's All England Championship. However, in familiar home conditions, Yamaguchi could prove tougher.

BADMINTON

Since the Chinese have not played competitively since the pandemic set in, their form is unknown.

After losing the 2020 All England final to Tai, Chen re-

turns as the seeding favoudeal with eighth seed Ng Ka rite. Sindhu holds a 6-4 re-Long (Hong Kong). cord but Chen emerged Satwik and Chirag are untriumphant in their last

likely to go beyond the meeting in the 2019 BWF league stage. Clubbed with the top seeded Indonesians Unless Sindhu reproduces Marcus Fernaldi Gedeon and the sublime form that Ken Sanjaya Sukamuljo, bebrought her the world title, sides World No. 3 Lee Yang she could end up justifying and Wang Chi-lin (Chinese her sixth seeding, in the Taipei) for company, the quarterfinals. Praneeth, like debutants can only hope to Sindhu and Satwik-Chirag cause a flutter. combination, is drawn to The participants: Men: Singles: play the top seed Kenta Mo-

B. Sai Praneeth; Doubles: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty; Women: Singles: P.V.

Sindhu improved on Saina's London bronze

Kashyap, Srikanth best among men

REWIND

RAKESH RAO

ince the introduction of Obadminton in 1992 in Barcelona, Indian men and women have participated in each edition. In the last two editions, India collected medals - bronze for Saina Nehwal in 2012 and silver for P.V. Sindhu in 2016.

No Indian has ever entered the semifinals of the men's event. In all three doubles events, India has never made it past the preliminary league phase.

Saina's medal came after her Chinese rival Wang Xin was injured during the





Proving their mettle: Sindhu and Saina are the only medallists in badminton for India. • FILE РНОТОЅ

Roll of honour

- Silver: P.V. Sindhu, 2016
- Bronze: Saina Nehwal, 2012 London

bronze-medal match and pulled out when leading 21-

In Rio, Sindhu bounced back from 16-19 down in the first game of the final against Carolina Marin but, thereafter, could not keep pace with the fitter Spaniard.

Among the men, the best came from P. Kashyap and K. Srikanth, who reached the quarterfinals in 2012 and 2016.



transgender to compete at the Games. REUTERS First coronavirus case in

Tokyo Olympics organisers revealed the first COVID-19 case in the Games Village on Saturday as they sought to reassure competitors the pandemic-delayed event would be safe. Organisers said an unnamed person had tested positive for coronavirus in the Village, where thousands of athletes and officials will stay during the Games. AFF

German football team quits friendly

The German men's football team left the pitch five minutes before the end of its warm-up game against Honduras on Saturday after defender Jordan Torunarigha was allegedly racially abused. The game was tied 1-1 at the time of the incident. REUTERS

Indians will find the going hard

Unlikely to challenge for honours on the greens in Japan

GOLF

RAKESH RAO

Anirban Lahiri, Udayan Mane and Aditi Ashok will be the Indian representatives in golf. Considering the quality of the field and their form, they could well end up as part of the results, and away from the frontrunners to the podium.

After all, Lahiri and Mane are the last two names in the Olympic Golf Ranking list of 60 qualifiers.

Rahm heads the list

World No. 2 Jon Rahm (Spain) heads the list that includes five others from the world top-10 list. Four of those are Ameri-

cans – Justin Thomas, Collin Morikawa, Xander Schauftele and Bryson DeChambeau - and the star from Ireland, Rory Mcllory. Such being the creamy

layer of the select field, including golfers from 35 countries, it is difficult to visualise Lahiri and Mane staying in the medal-hunt.

No great form

Olympics, Lahiri has not shown any great form this season on the PGA Tour. He

Up against it: Lahiri, Aditi and Mane will face a quality field at the Tokyo Games. • FILE PHOTOS has two top-10 finishes after making the 'cut' in nine events from 19 outings. A bout of COVID kept Lahiri

For Lahiri, the news of qualification came as a pleasant surprise while a waitlisted Mane made it following the withdrawal of Argentina's Emiliano Grillo.

week of May.

Mane has only played in India and made it to Tokyo based on the world ranking points gained from the domestic tour.

Key role Three wins in the 2020-21

Going for his second straight PGTI season played a key role in Mane getting the necessary points to be considered on the waiting list.

Aditi, also set for her second Olympic appearance. was focusing on getting her act right on the LPGA Tour away from action till the first when the news of her qualifi-

cation trickled in.

A worry

Aditi's form remains a worry since her best finish this sea son is a distant 23rd in the LPGA Drive On Championship. Placed 45th on the list of 60 qualifiers, Aditi will find it tough to be in contention in a field that has world's top-15 players, headed by American Nelly Korda.

Realistically, the Indians are set to be among the

The participants: Men: Anirban Lahiri, Udayan Mane; Women: Aditi Ashok.

A comeback after 112 years

mota. Before the prospective

quarterfinal against the Japa-

nese, Praneeth will have to

REWIND

World Tour Finals.

RAKESH RAO

fter being part of the Olympics in 1900 and 1904, golf made a comein the 2016 Rio Games, with a select 60player field.

Great Britain's Justin Rose took the gold ahead of Sweden's Henrik Stensen and American Matt Kuchar. Among the women, Korea's Inbee Park, New Zealand's Lydia Ko and China's Shanshan Feng finished in that order.

India's Anirban Lahiri and S.S.P. Chawrasia along with Aditi Ashok could not much impression.

After three sub-par rounds of 71, 71 and 69, Chawrasia tumbled to the tied 50th spot following a 78! Lahiri, failing to break par on all four days after a sequence of 74, 73, 75, 72, took the 57th spot out of 59

In comparison, Aditi fared better, at least, on the first two days. Successive rounds of 68 kept her in the top-10 bracket. Thereafter she took a freefall down the leaderboard. Aditi shot a 75 and a 73 for a tally of 7-over 291 for the 41st spot.

Can Pranati pull it off? **GYMNASTICS**

A. VINOD

This could be hotly con-I tested, but the fact that gymnastics in India is yet to get to the big league remains a truth with only a few thousands pursuing the sport which calls for innovation, sublime skills and absolute balance – in right earnest.

Yet, the fact that there will be one in action at the Tokyo Olympicsis a big boost to Indian gymnastics. Pranati Nayak will attempt to go the distance and bring home the medal that India so keenly awaited from her idol Dipa Karmakar.

The sport's pin-up girl Dipa finished fourth in vault at Rio 2016. A faulty dismount on her second attempt dashed the Tripura girl's chances of a podium finish.

Pranati, hailing from a village in Midnapore, the third and youngest daughter of a bus driver, had to run from pillar to post to even get a chance to train at the SAI centre in Kolkata.

Without even a chance to perform, the Bengal girl was dismissed from the trials as too weak and frail to take up the sport seriously.

It was only the timely intervention of SAI coach Minara Begum that ended Pranati's misery.



Pranati would look to go the distance at Tokyo. • SAIMEDIA

Begum then took Pranati under her wing, paid for the costs involved and helped the young gymnast continue training.

Hogging the limelight

Pranati shot into the limelight when she won a bronze in vault at the 2019 Asian championships. It came as a surprise, though, when she was selected as one of the two last quota places from Asia to get to Tokyo.

Pranati would first look to reach the vault final. If she gets there, she surely has the talent to surprise one

Dipa's exploits at Rio gave India prominence

REWIND

A. VINOD

ymnastics caught the Jimagination of the Indians only in 2010 when Ashish Kumar, hailing from Allahabad, won a bronze in floor and a silver in vault in that year's New Delhi Commonwealth Games.

The Uttar Pradesh gymnast, prior to his exploits in the New Delhi CWG, had tied for a bronze medal along with his Syrian rival Fadi Bahlawan, at the 2006 Asian championships in Surat. However, it was the twin-medal strike helped Ashish nattention.

Missing out

Ashish had a chance to reresent the country in London 2012, but was unlucky to miss out on qualification by a mere 0.7 points.

The de-recognition of the Gymnastics Federation of India by the government too came as a big blow to the gymnast in gaining a quota place.

Continuing the tradition set by Ashish, Dipa Karmakar came good in the 2014 CWG in Glasgow, landing India's first-ever women's me-

dal in the sport - the bronze in her pet event (vault). And what helped her gain

prominence was the ease with which Dipa landed the Produnova, a rather difficult routine in vault.

Though she fell short in Rio 2016, where she finished fourth, two years later Dipa did the country proud by become the first Indian male or female – to win the top place in the FIG artistic World challenge cup, taking the gold in vault.



Dipa performs at Rio 2016. ■ FILE PHOTO

Verstappen sprints to pole



■ GETTY IMAGES

REUTERS

Red Bull's Max Verstappen won Formula One's first Saturday sprint race to secure pole position for the British Grand Prix and extend his championship lead over Lewis Hamilton to 33 points.

Seven-time World champion Hamilton will start alongside his Dutch rival on the front row after finishing second for Mercedes in a 17lap race that offered three points for the winner, two for runner-up and one for

Hamilton's teammate Valtteri Bottas was third in an experimental race that replaced the usual Saturday qualifying for the 10th round of the championship.

Indian 'rookies' raring to go

Sri Lanka beset by injury, indiscipline

INDIA IN LANKA PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

A bunch of fresh faces will be desperate for a fair T20 World Cup audition when India's different-looking yet formidable white-ball squad faces an under-fire Sri Lanka in the six-match limitedovers contest, beginning with the first One-Day Inter-

national here on Sunday.

The series, delayed by five days due to a COVID-19 scare in the Sri Lankan camp, comprises three ODIs and as many T20Is. Dasun Shanaka is Sri Lan-

ka's 10th captain in four years and leads a team short on quality barring a classy batsman in Dhananjaya de Silva and a steady pacer in

The suspension of Kusal Mendis and Niroshan Dickwella following a bio-bubble breach in the UK along with injury to former skipper Kusal Perera puts Sri Lanka in

The squads: India (from): Shikhar Dhawan (Capt.), Prithvi Shaw, Devdutt Padikkal, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Suryakumar Yadav, Manish Pandey, Nitish Rana,



Ishan Kishan (wk), Sanju Samson (wk), Hardik Pandya, Krunal Pandya, K. Gowtham, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Varun Chakaravarthy, Rahul Chahar, Deepak Chahar, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Chetan Sakariya and Navdeep Saini.

Sri Lanka: Dasun Shanaka (Capt.), Dhananjaya de Silva (Vice-Capt.), Avishka Fernando, Bhanuka Rajapaksa, Pathum Nissanka, Charith Asalanka, Wanindu Hasaranga, Ashen Bandara, Minod Bhanuka, Lahiru Udara, Ramesh Mendis, Chamika Karunaratne, Dushmantha Chameera, Lakshan Sandakan, Akila Dhananjaya, Shiran Fernando, Dhananjaya Lakshan, Jayaratne, Praveen Jayawickrema, Asitha Fernando, Kasun Rajitha, Lahiru Kumara and Isuru Udana.

Match starts at 3 p.m. IST.

Dhawan backs his spinners

Cpinners Yuzvendra Cha-Shal and Kuldeep Yadav, both of whom have failed to establish permanent spots in the Indian team over the last couple of years, are back together for the ODI series against Sri Lanka commencing on Sunday.

Skipper Shikhar Dhawan is confident that the duo can hit top form. "Kuldeep and Chahal share a great chemistry. They have won so many matches and series for us. They are bowling very well," Dhawan said at a media interaction on Saturday. It remains to be seen if

the team management fields

them in the eleven, given

that the squad has four

more spinners - Rahul Cha-

har, Varun Chakravarthy, K.

dya. Asked if regular skipper Virat Kohli and coach Ravi Shastri - both are in England with the Test team have spoken to him about possible team combinations, Dhawan said, "No conversation has happened "Whichever series we

play, we have an eye on the

upcoming T20 World Cup. If

the selectors, Ravi bhai or

Virat have an eye on any player, this is a great platform to see them play.' On the differences in coaching styles of Rahul Dravid and Shastri, Dhawan said, "They are both very positive. Their way of motiv-

ating is different. "Ravi bhai's energy is very strong, while Rahul bhai is very calm and composed. I enjoy playing under both of them.



Let's do it! Dhawan will expect his boys to fire on all cylinders in the white-ball series. • TWITTER/SDHAWAN25 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

Oosthuizen still in lead

Morikawa in second spot, Spieth third



Up and down: Spieth had four birdies on the front nine. but three bogeys on the return trip spoilt his day. • REUTERS

BRITISH OPEN

REUTERS SANDWICH (UK)

Louis Oosthuizen continued to lead for the third straight day at the British Open after hanging tough over the back nine at Royal St. George's on Saturday.

The South African made an 8-foot birdie on the 16th and a long two-putt par on the closing hole for a 69. That gave him a one-shot lead over Collin Morikawa going into the final round.

Jordan Spieth was tied for the lead until he hit a poor wedge into the 17th for bogey and shockingly missed a 2-foot par putt on the 18th. He finished with a 69 and was three shots behind. Oosthuizen, the runner-

up at the last two Majors, will be trying to win his first big title since the 2010 British Open at St. Andrews. Morikawa started poorly

with two bogeys in the

opening five holes. He was bogey-free the rest of the way and shot a 68. Eight players were separated by five shots, includ-

The Spaniard made a 15foot par putt on the 18th to

finish with a 68 and five shots behind the leader.

ing US Open champion Jon

Kramnik holds **Anand again**

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

Vladimir Kramnik earned a hard-fought draw to ensure his No-Castling match Viswanathan Anand was alive going into the final game. He defended stoutly in the third game at Dortmund on Sunday. Anand was in a better

on the 50th turn. Vidit to meet

position in a rook-ending

but seemed to have erred

Adhiban

RAKESH RAO

Vidit Gujrathi scored a 1.5-0.5 win over Brazil's Alexandr Fier in the rapid tiebreak games to set up a third round clash against B. Adhiban in World Cup chess on Saturday.

D. Gukesh, who kept Daniil Dubov 1-1 after two classical games, cracked in the rapid tiebreak games, losing the first and drawing the second. In the women's section, Padmini Rout lost both rapid games to Sarasadat Khademalsharieh and was eliminated.