



SC annuls parts of amendment related to cooperative societies



Himachal Pradesh 'excess deaths' twice the official COVID-19 toll



Leftist Pedro Castillo

Deepak Chahar stars with





declared next President of Peru the bat in India's thrilling win against Sri Lanka page 13



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5 Opposition

parties skip

PMO briefing

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Congress, the Aam

Aadmi Party, the RJD, the

CPI and the CPI(M) on

Tuesday skipped the brief-

ing for floor leaders of Par-

liament by Union Health

Secretary Rajesh Bhushan,

organised by the Prime Mi-

nister's Office, on the CO-

Opposition leaders met

in the morning in the office

of Leader of Opposition in

the Rajya Sabha Mallikar-

jun Kharge to discuss the

issue. The meeting was

held to primarily organise

a coordinated strategy.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

PROBE SOUGHT PAGE 9

Two-thirds of Indians have antibodies, shows ICMR survey

"The survey found that

more than half of the chil-

dren (6-17 years) were sero-

positive while seropreva-

VID-19 situation.





DU admission portal may be launched by weekend

Senior officials of Delhi University on Tuesday said the university is likely to launch its new admission portal before the registration process for postgraduate admissions begins on July 26. CITY > PAGE 2

Manipur activist's father

seeks compensation NEW DELHI The Supreme Court has given the Manipur government two weeks to respond to a plea for compensation by the father of activist Erendra Leichongbam, who was detained under under the National Security Act for his Facebook posts.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 8



THEMAHINDU greets its readers on the occasion of

ID-UL-AZHA

Pegasus spyware row rocks Parliament

Lok Sabha adjourned for the day amid repeated disruptions; Rajya Sabha discusses COVID-19 situation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Pegasus snooping controversy led to multiple disruptions in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday before the House was adjourned for the day.

In what seemed to be a different strategy by the Opposition parties for the two Houses, proceedings in the Lower House got washed out while the Rajya Sabha discussed the COVID-19 situation after a couple of hours of disruptions in the morning.

"The government on its own had moved for a discussion on COVID-19 after it was discussed in the Business Advisory Committee (BAC). We didn't want to give them a chance to say the Opposition doesn't even want to discuss the pandemic. But the government will find itself cornered in the Lok Sabha. On July 22, farmers have planned some action outside the House and we will raise their voices inside the House," a senior Congress leader told The Hindu.

Multiple notices

With multiple notices from Lok Sabha members, such as Manish Tewari, Manickam Tagore and Gaurav Gogoi, for the suspension of routine business to discuss the snooping controversy, the Opposition made its intentions clear on the second day of the monsoon session.

Trinamool Congress leaders too had given an adjournment notice after the name of the party's Lok Sabha member Abhishek Banerjee, who is also the nephew of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, figured in the list of potential targets for hacking.

As soon as the Lok Sabha proceedings started at 11 a.m., the Congress and the Trinamool started raising



Demanding answers: Congress workers protesting outside the BJP headquarters in New Delhi on Tuesday. • SANDEEP SAXENA

slogans and showed placards targeting the government. While some placards showed former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi being in the list of targets, another was about Mr. Banerjee. One of the placards read that while people were suffering from unemployment, the government was busy with jasoosi

The proceedings lasted

for five minutes before the House was adjourned until 2 p.m. When it reconvened, similar scenes were witnessed, prompting the Chair to adjourn it for an hour. After the House assembled at 3 p.m., the Opposition members again started raising slogans, and the Chair adjourned it for the day.

MORE REPORTS ON ▶ PAGE 9

Snooping in Karnataka before regime change

Cong., JD(S) members possible targets

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU/ NEW DELHI

During the political turmoil in Karnataka in 2019, which ended in the collapse of the Janata Dal (Secular)-Congress government and the BJP coming to power, the phone numbers of key leaders of the coalition parties and their associates "were selected as possible targets for surveillance", The Wire reported on Tuesday, as part of the global investigation "The Pegasus Project".

The phone numbers of then Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara, personal secretaries of then Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy and former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, and a security personnel of former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda were selected as possible targets, according to The Wire's review of records

of numbers that were of in-



Former CM Siddaramaiah

terest to the Indian client of Israel's NSO Group.

Since the phones have not been forensically analysed, it is not conclusively proven that they were compromised with the Pegasus

spyware, the report said. The phone numbers were selected, as per the report, around the time when 17 MLAs from the Congress and the JD(S) resigned from the Assembly and left the party, leading to the toppling of the government.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

SC raps Kerala govt. for 'sorry state of affairs'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said the Kerala government's choice to buckle under pressure from traders to open up shops for Bakrid in high COVID-19 infection areas showed a sorry state of affairs and failure to protect the fundamental right to life and health.

"To give in to pressure groups so that the citizenry of India is laid bare to a nationwide pandemic discloses a sorry state of affairs," the court said.

ALARMING SITUATION ▶ PAGE 8

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Two-thirds of the population aged above six have antibodies against SARS-CoV-2, according to data released on Tuesday from a serosurvey conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in June and July.

Nearly 40 crore people,

or a third of the population, are still vulnerable to the COVID-19 infection, the stu-

dy showed. Presenting the results of the fourth national CO-VID-19 serosurvey, ICMR Director-General Balram Bhargava said though the survey offered a ray of hope, there was no room

lence was similar in rural and urban areas. Eighty-five per cent of healthcare workers had antibodies, while one-tenth of them were un-

vaccinated," he said. The survey covered 28,975 adults and children aged 6-17 years, and 7,252 healthcare workers.

It was conducted in the 70 districts across 21 States where the three earlier rounds were done.

Future waves possibility "This national serosurvey is not a substitute for local (State/district) variations.

State heterogeneity indi-

cates the possibility of future waves of infection. We strongly suggest that societal, public, religious and political congregations be avoided, non-essential travel be discouraged and travel should be undertaken only if fully vaccinated," the ICMR chief said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Car pool



Push-start: People trying to push out cars stuck on a waterlogged road after heavy rain in Patiala on Tuesday. **PPTI**

'No deaths due to lack of oxygen reported'

Minister lists steps taken by Centre to enhance supplies during second wave

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

No deaths due to the lack of oxygen have been specifically reported by States and Union Territories," the Health Ministry said in the Rajva Sabha on Tuesday in response to a question on the acute shortage of oxygen during the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bharati Pravin Pawar, Minister of State, Health and Family Welfare, in her response noted that the Central government had supported the States and undertaken a series of actions including provisioning medical oxygen, and other consumables to ensure clinical care of COVID-19

The Minister also noted that the supply of medical oxygen to hospitals is determined by contractual arrangements between the hospiconcerned and the



Express delivery: Special trains were used to send oxygen tankers across the country in recent months. • V. RAJU

medical oxygen supplier.

'Unprecedented surge' "However, due to the unprecedented surge in demand of medical oxygen during the second wave - the demand in the country peaked to nearly 9,000 MT as compared to 3,095 MT during

the first wave – the Central

government had to step in

to facilitate equitable distri-

bution to the States," she said. The Minister said the Centre enhanced liquid medical oxygen (LMO) production from 5,700 MT in August, 2020 to 9,690 MT in

May, 2021. Of the 1,222 PSA (Pressure Swing Adsorption) oxygen generation plants sanctioned, 237 have been commissioned till July 15, 2021,

privilege motion: Cong. SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

We will move

The Congress on Tuesday said it will move a privilege motion against the Minister of State for Health for misleading Parliament that no deaths were reported by any State or Union Territory specifically because of

shortage of oxygen. "In every State we saw how many patients died due to lack of oxygen. We know. The Minister misled the House. We will move a privilege motion against that Minister," Congress general secretary and Rajya Sabha MP K.C. Venugopal told reporters at a press conference.

No CM-Sidhu meeting for now

VIKAS VASUDEVA

CHANDIGARH

The infighting in Punjab Congress seems to be far from over as Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Tuesday hardened his stand, saying he will not meet newly appointed PCC president Navjot Singh Sidhu till he "publicly apologises for his derogatory social media attacks against him".

Reports of Mr. Sidhu seeking time to meet Mr. Singh have been dismissed by Chief Minister's media advisor Raveen Thukral. In a tweet he said, "Reports of @sherryontop seeking time to meet @capt_amarinder are totally false."

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 4 sembly during the pandem-

SHIV SAHAY SINGH Those who call you from nephew's office [Abhishek Amidst the Pegasus spyware Banerjee's office], I have phone row, BJP MLA and Leader of numbers, call records and the Opposition in West Ben-

gal Suvendu Adhikari has said he has details of telephone conversations between Trinamool Congress general secretary and MP Abhishek Banerjee and police officers. The West Bengal police

on Tuesday suo motu registered a case against Mr. Adhikari under many sections including the Official Secrets Act. K. Amarnath, SP, Purba Medinipur, said the complaint against Mr. Adhikari was registered under sections of the Disaster Management Act for as-

everything. If you have State government, then we have Central government SUVENDU ADHIKARI BJP MLA

Suvendu claims access to Abhishek's calls

West Bengal police file a case against him following his video on social media

ic and since he said he had recordings with police personnel, charges had been brought against him under Section 5 of the Official Secrets Act.

Remarks at public meet In a video that surfaced on social media, Mr. Adhikari is seen making the remarks at a recent public gathering in Purba Medinipur district while addressing party supporters.

Those who call you from nephew's [Mamata Banerjee's] office, I have phone numbers, call records and everything. If you have State government, we have Central government," Mr. Adhikari is heard saying. The remarks were direct-

ed at police officers, officers

in charge of police stations

Banerjee would not be able save the officers. **Pegasus controversy** The remarks come at a time

and SPs. The BJP leader said

once a CBI probe was or-

dered into the post-poll vio-

lence, the State government

and Chief Minister Mamata

when there are reports of Mr. Banerjee's name figuring in the list of potential or actual targets for spying by Israeli company NSO's Pegasus spyware. Trinamool Congress spo-

kesperson Kunal Ghosh said the remarks by Mr. Adhikari make it clear that the BJP has a hand in snooping on the phone conversations of the leaders of the Opposition.

Court acquits accused in first verdict in Delhi riots case

Prosecution miserably failed to prove its case'

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

In the first judgment on the north-east Delhi riots, a local court on Tuesday acquitted a man accused of being part of unlawful assembly, dacoity and rioting, noting: "The prosecution has miserably failed to prove its case, forget about beyond reasonable doubts. Additional Sessions Judge

Amitabh Rawat said a perusal of the testimonies and evidence produced by the prosecution in connection with the case showed "glaring inconsistencies in the tes'Inconsistent testimonies'

timony of the prosecution

"All the major witnesses are at variance with each other on material terms impacting the prosecution version... There is no testimony worth its salt which connects the accused to the offence in question," the judge said

while acquitting Suresh alias

Bhatura in the case.

According to the police, Mr. Suresh, along with a huge crowd of rioters carrying iron rods and sticks, allegedly broke open the lock of a shop on the Main Babarpur Road and looted the premises on the evening of February 25 last year.

The FIR was lodged on a

who stated that he saw 15 to 20 rioters breaking into his shop. The details of the items looted from the shop were also mentioned in the complaint. The shop is owned by Bhagat Singh and given on rent to Mr. Asif. The court noted that there is no denial that an unlawful

assembly gathered outside

written complaint by Asif

the shop, ransacked it and committed robbery. "However, the crucial question is the identification of the accused (Mr. Suresh) and his role in the present offence of rioting by the unlaw-

ful assembly," the court said. The court also pointed out that Mr. Asif "was not an eyewitness to the incident of rioting".

IGIA police unit to get offs on birthdays, anniversaries

STAFF REPORTER

All officials posted in the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) unit of Delhi Police will get a day off on their birthdays and wedding anniversaries, an order stated on Tuesday.

An order issued on Tuesday by DCP (IGI Airport) Vikram Porwal said: "It is hereby ordered that on birthday and wedding anniversaries of an individual officer posted in this Unit, he/she may be given duty rest on that day so that he/she can celebrate/ enjoy the day with his/her family."

The order directed all the Assistant Commissioners of Police, Station House Officers and Inspectors to comply true letter and spirit".

Delhi University likely to launch admission portal by weekend

Webinars and tutorial videos planned to assist aspirants in registration process

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Senior officials of the Delhi University (DU) on Tuesday said that the varsity is preparing teams and panels to conduct webinars and tutorial videos to assist aspirants in registration process. The university is also likely to launch its new admission portal before the registration process for postgraduate admissions begins on July 26.

It had earlier said that in addition to the webinars and tutorial videos, computerbased help desks like chatbots and emails will be available throughout the day to answer queries candidates.

Sanjeev Singh, Head of DU's computer centre, said: "The admission portal is



The admission process will be fully online. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

most likely to be launched two days before the registration process for the postgraduate courses begin. A schedule for webinars and tutorial videos will also be published soon. It will be a continuous process and there will be constant interaction with the students."

The admission process will be completely online this year in view of the pandemic and the university had announced that aspirants will not be required to visit colleges or departments for any purpose.

To assist students, Mr. Singh said that panels for webinars will include faculty members instead of volunteers at help desks, like previous years.

"It is always better to have domain experts to answer

queries. So the panels will be made accordingly as we are majorly catering to three streams - science, humanities and commerce. So we are planning to involve faculty members directly. Lists for the same are being drawn up," said Mr. Singh.

Key dates

The registration process for various postgraduate, M.Phil and Ph.D programmes will continue between July 26 and August 21 while the registration process for undergraduate courses is scheduled to begin from August 2 and end on August 31.

Admissions to undergraduate courses will be based on merit, like previous years, the university had announced recently.

Make stand clear on Kalra's plea to reopen restaurants, HC tells police

Khan Chacha owner's petition challenges May 11 order

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday asked Delhi Police to take instructions on Navneet Kalra's plea seeking to reopen his restaurants 'Khan Chacha' and 'Town Hall', after it was shut in a case related to alleged black marketing of oxygen concentrators during the se cond wave of COVID-19.

Justice Rekha Palli asked the authorities why they have not passed a final decision in pursuance to the show cause notices issued with regard to the two restaurants in Capital's posh Khan Market.

"You compel people to come here. You should have passed an order by now. Ultimately, he wants to run them. If he is not entitled in law, please pass an order.

hi Municipal Corporation

said eight complaints of wa-

terlogging were received

and 12 tree-uproot incidents

were reported. North and

east civic bodies officials

said no waterlogging was re-

ported in their jurisdiction.



volved in an FIR - and that is the end of it?" the High Court remarked.

The court's remark came while hearing Mr. Kalra's plea challenging the May 11 order-cum-show cause notice issued by the Joint Commissioner of Police (Licens-

Mr. Kalra's counsel said till date the authorities have neither withdrawn the suspension order nor decided on the show cause notice despite his representation.

The counsel argued that the suspension was contrary to the provisions of the Delhi Eating Houses Registration Regulations as it does not confer power of suspension at the stage of issuance of a show cause

Adverse impact

"The order of suspension is also bad as recovery of oxygen concentrators made from the restaurant premises is no ground or is it given as a ground for suspension of licence. The order of suspension adversely affects the business, reputation and livelihood of all employees working in the res-

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES, ASSAM HENGRABARI, GUWAHATI-36 Email: directorhealthassam@yahoo.co.in

No. HSPB/02/Diet/2021/1/2

e-TENDER NOTICE FOR PROVIDING PATIENT DIET SERVICES ON CONTRACT BASIS FOR DISTRICT HEALTH INSTITUTIONS UNDER THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES, ASSAM,

e-Tender in two bid system affixing Court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 are invited from reputed firm/agency/ individual having 5 years experience of providing patient/ intimate diet article to State/ Central Govt. organization/Govt. under taking organization for minimum 50 patients/intimates on daily basis ir regular manner for the different District of Assam for all health institutions within the District under the Director of Health Service, Assam. The Complete e-Tender documents may be obtained from the website http://assamtenders.gov.in. The participating bidders should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and have to register in the portal http://assamtenders.gov.in. The tender should be submitted online in the portal http://assamtenders.gov.in. on or before 12-08-2021. The bidder shall also submit the proof for payment like non-refundable tender fees of Rs. 750.00 in the form of demand draft and EMD in the form of demand draft favouring Director of Health Services, Assam payable at Guwahati from any Nationalized Bank.

The original Demand Draft for tender fees EMD and Court fee along with hard copy of the Technical Bid only must be submitted to Director of Health Services, Assam. Hengrabari, Guwahati-36, on or before the last date and time of submission of tender.

Important date of the tender

SI.	Scheduled	Start date	Start time	End date	End time				
No.									
1	Tender Publishing	20-07-2021	2:00 PM						
2	Pre Bid meeting at Conference Hall of	27-07-2021	3:00 PM						
	DHS, Assam								
3	Bid submission	20-07-2021	2:00 PM	12-08-2021	03:00 PM				
4	Bid Opening	12-08-2021	3:00 PM	12-08-2021	03:00 PM				
	Director of Health Services.								

Janasanyog /C/2432/ 21

Hengrabari, Guwahati-36

City sees rain, waterlogging for 2nd day in a row

Partly cloudy sky with light rain likely today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Monsoon showers lashed Delhi for the second consecutive day on Tuesday with the Capital receiving 6.3 mm of rainfall between 8.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m.

At least two incidents of wall collapse were reported, while some low-lying areas in the city were inundated with rainwater. Traffic jams were also reported from across the Capital.

The maximum temperature settled at 31.9 degrees Celsius, three degrees below normal, while the minimum settled at 24 degrees Celsius, which was also three de-



Motorists caught in a spell of rain in New Delhi on Tuesday morning. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

grees below normal.

The weatherman has forecast partly cloudy sky with very light rain/thundershowers on Wednesday. The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to settle between 34 and 25 degrees Celsius respectively.

The Public Works Depart-Officials of the South Delment (PWD) was, however,

inundated with waterlogging complaints in the evening. Prominent locations such as the Pul Prahladpur underpass, where a youth drowned on Monday, was "more or less dried up" during the day before a sudden shower reversed the situation, said the department.

'At least 30 complaints'

"We received a handful of complaints at the control room during the day before they started pouring in after 5.30 p.m. Till a little after 8 p.m., at least 30 complaints were received," a PWD official said. Former North body Mayor Jai Prakash chaired a meeting with the market and residential association representatives as well as officials to address monsoonrelated issues in the area.

Youth held for killing teenager

STAFF REPORTER

taurant," the plea said.

A 19-year-old youth has been arrested for allegedly killing a teenager in Janakpuri, the police said on Tuesday.

Additional DCP (Dwarka) Shankar Choudhary said they received a call regarding the murder on July 18. The accused has been identified as Jhamela alias Mohit and the victim as Akash.

The accused told the police that he had a dispute with Akash over a girl - they were both were in love with. The victim had allegedly assaulted Mohit. Next, Mohit decided to kill Akash and bought a knife.

The police said the weapon used in the crime has

झारखण्ड सरकार आदिवासी कल्याण आयुक्त कार्यालय, झारखण्ड मंत्रालय, कल्याण कॉम्पलेक्स, मोराबादी, राँची।

प्रवेशिकोत्तर पाठयकमों में अध्ययनरत अनुसूचित जाति, जनजाति एवं पिछडी जाति के छात्र / छात्राओं के लिए छात्रवृति योजना वर्ष-2021-22 हेतु आवेदन से सम्बन्धित आवश्यक सूचना

पोस्ट मैट्रिक छात्रवृति योजना के अन्तर्गत अनुसूचित जाति, जनजाति एवं पिछड़ी जाति के छात्र / छात्राओं को सरकार द्वारा जारी निर्देश के आधार पर निर्धारित मापदंड के अनुसार वितीय वर्ष-2021-22 में प्रवेशिकोत्तर पाठ्यकमों में अध्ययनरत छात्र / छात्राओं से आवेदन पत्र आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। छात्रवृति के लिए आय की अधिसीमा :-

अनसचित जाति जनजाति के छात्र / छात्राएँ जिनके माता—पिता / अभिभावक की सभी श्रोतों से वार्षिक आय 2

50 लाख रूपये से अधिक नहीं हो तथा पिछडी जाति के छात्र / छात्राएँ जिनके माता-पिता / अभिभावक की सभी श्रोतों से

वार्षिक आय 1.50 लाख रूपये से अधिक नहीं हो, इस योजना के अन्तर्गत छात्रवृति प्राप्त करने वाले विद्यार्थी अन्य कोई छात्रवृति का लाभ प्राप्त नहीं कर सकेंगे। आवेदन करने की प्रक्रिया :--अह्त्तां प्राप्तु छात्रों को वेबसाइट https://ekalyan.cgg.gov.in में दिये गये सभी दिशा निर्देशों एवं प्रक्रियाओं को

पालन करते हुए ऑनलाईन आवेदन करना है। ऑनलाईन आवेदन भरने की प्रक्रिया पूर्ण करने के पश्चात् उसकी हार्डकॉपी (Printout) में विधिवत हस्ताक्षर कर एवं सभी निम्नांकित वांछित प्रमाण–पत्रों की Scanned Copy (jpeg/jpg में

150kb तक) वेबसाईट पर अपलोड करेगे :i) ऑनलाईन आवेदन के पश्चात प्रिन्ट आउट पर छात्र एवं अभिभावक के हस्ताक्षर सहित (ii) ऑनलाईन के माध्यम से निर्गत आय प्रमाण—पत्र (Income Certificate) (अचलाधिकारी / अनुमण्डल पदाधिकारी अथवा

उपायक्त स्तर से निर्गत) की मल प्रति । (दिनांक-01 04 2021 से निर्गत आय प्रमाण-पत्र मान्य होगा ।) ऑनलाईन के माध्यम से निर्गत जाति प्रमाण-पत्र (Caste Certificate) (अंचलाधिकारी / प्रखण्ड विकास पदाधिकारी / अनमण्डल पदाधिकारी अथवा उपायक्त स्तर से निर्गत) की मल प्रति ।

(iv) ऑनलाईन के माध्यम से निर्गत आवासीय प्रमाण-पत्र (Residential Certificate) (अंचलाधिकारी / प्रखण्ड विकास पदाधिकारी / अनमण्डल पदाधिकारी अथवा उपायुक्त स्तर से निर्गत) की मूल प्रति I

(v) संस्थान के लेटर हेड में संस्थान द्वारा वर्तमान वर्ष के लिए निर्गत Bonafide Certificate (with Fee Structure

निर्गत संख्या एवं दिनांक के साथ) की मल प्रति । (एक पष्ट में) (vi) पूर्व की परीक्षा के अकपत्र (Mark Sheet of previous exam) की अभिप्रमाणित प्रति ।

(vii) छात्र के नाम पर बैंक खाता पासबुक की पृष्ठ, जिसमें Account No. एवं IFS Code उल्लेखित हो, की छायाप्रति (बैंक खाता को आधार संख्या से सीडिंग होना अनिवार्य है।)। छात्रवृति की धनराशि PFMS के माध्यम से Aadhar Enabled DBT के द्वारा संयोग्य छात्र—छात्राओं के खाते में अन्तरित की जाएगी।

<u>ऑनलाईन आवेदन की समय सीमा:—</u> कार्यवाही प्रारम्भ होने की तिथि कार्यवाही के लिए निर्धारित अंतिम तिथि नए शैक्षणिक संस्थानों द्वारा ई–कल्याण पोर्टल पर पंजीकरण एवं पंजीकृत संस्थानों द्वारा नवीनीकरण 26.07.2021 14.08.2021 संबंधित छात्र–छात्रा द्वारा छात्रवृति हेतु आवेदन 26.07.2021 30.09.2021 करने की प्रक्रिया शैक्षणिक संस्थान द्वारा छात्र / छात्राओं के आवेदन 20.10.2021 का सत्यापन।

<u>कॉलेज / संस्थान का निबंधन</u> रेसे कॉलेज / संस्थान जिनके द्वारा affiliation एवं registration का अद्यतन कागजात वेबसाईट पर upload नहीं किया गया है, से पुनः अद्यतन कागजातों के साथ वेबसाईट पर registration करने का अनुरोध किया गया है। कॉलेज / संस्थान के द्वारा registration करने एवं पंजीकृत संस्थानों द्वारा नवीनीकरण हेतु आवेदन की अंतिम तिथि 14. 08.2021 निर्धारित की गई है।

कॉलेज / संस्थान का दायित्व:-संस्थान अपना पूर्ण विवरण सहित मान्यता संबंधी प्रमाण पत्र अपलोड करेंगे ।

नोट:- राज्य के अन्दर स्थित संस्थानों को संबंधित जिला के जिला कल्याण पदाधिकारी द्वारा User Id एव Password उपलब्ध कराया जायेगा तथा राज्य के बाहर के संस्थानों को उनके ई—मेल आई0डी0 पर User Id एव Password उपलब्ध कराया जायेगा। राज्य के अन्दर स्थित महाविद्यालय/संस्थान Course Mapping करते हुए Fee Detail भी Update करेंगे जो Post Matric (Within State) में Student application form दिखलाई देगा, तभी Student Online आवेदन कर सकते हैं। राज्य के बाहर स्थित महाविद्यालय / संस्थान को Course Mapping करने की आवश्यकता नहीं है।

छात्र / छात्रा की छात्रवृति हेतु संस्थान के लेटर हेड में वर्श-2021-22 में अध्ययनरत छात्र / छात्राओं का Bonafide Certificate निर्गत संख्या एवं दिनाक सहित निर्गत करेंगे।

संस्थान प्रधान अपने महाविद्यालय / संस्थान में अध्ययनरत छात्र / छात्राओं के द्वारा भरे गए Online आवेदन को https://ekalyan.cgg.gov.in के वेबसाइट पर अपने User Id एवं Password के माध्यम से login कर Online सत्यापित करेंगे। राज्य के अन्दर स्थित महाविद्यालय/संस्थान सत्यापन से पूर्व Fee Detail भी

(IV) पूर्व से छात्रवृति पोर्टल पर निबंधित संस्थान यदि अपने User Id एवं Password भूल गए हों तो पोर्टल पर दिए गए लिक से पुनः User Id एवं Password Recover कर सकते हैं।

सिर्फ आवेदन पत्र भरने की प्रक्रिया में यदि कोई कठिनाई हो तो ई⊶कल्याण के सम्पर्क संख्या – 040-23120591 /

23120592 / 23120593 पर सम्पर्क कर सकते हैं, एवं e-mail id - helpdeskekalyan@gmail.com पर email कर सकते हैं अथवा https://ekalyan.cgg.gov.in वेबसाइट के Complaint link पर ऑनलाईन शिकायत दर्ज कर सकते हैं। <u> 7. नोट :-</u>

- ____ पोस्ट मैट्रिक छात्रवृति योजना से संबंधित अनुसूचित जनजाति, अनुसूचित जाति, अल्पसंख्यक एवं पिछड़ा वर्ग कल्याण विभाग से निर्गत दिशा-निर्देश एवं अन्य अनुवर्ती सूचना वेबसाइट https://ekalyan.cgg.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।ऑनलाईन आवेदन करने के पूर्व कृपया उक्त वेबसाइट पर दिए गए निर्देश को अवश्य देख लिया जाय। उपबन्धित बजट राशि की सीमा के अन्तर्गत प्रवेशिकोत्तर छात्रवृति स्वीकृति हो सकेगी।
- निश्चित समय सीमा की समाप्ति के पश्चात किसी प्रकार का आवेदन पत्र पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा।
- छात्र / छात्रा को अपना बैंक खाता संख्या एवं आधार संख्या देना अनिवार्य होगा। एक से अधिक आवेदन पत्र भरने पर छात्र / छात्रा का आवेदन पत्र रदद् कर दिया जायेगा।

ऑनलाईन आवेदन में त्रुटि / अशुद्धि / गलत अथवा भ्रामक सूचना देने पर आवेदन रदद् कर दिया जायेगा। PR 249939 Schedule Tribe, Schedule Caste, Minority and Backward आदिवासी कल्याण आयुक्त।

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD (A Government of Karnataka Undertaking) # 49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road Bengaluru - 560 001. website : www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/PMC/EPTND-EP-03/4265/2021-22 Date:19.07.2021

NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR PROVIDING PROJECT **MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY SERVICES**

(Through GOK e – Procurement Portal Only)

KIADB is inviting tender for providing consultancy services for Project Management Consultancy Services from Consulting Firms under two cover system for the works of (1) Project Management Consultancy Services for the work of Construction of Formation of Industrial Layout including formation & asphalting of 24m Wide Road, 18M Wide Road & 15M wide road along with Construction of RCC side drains, Box Culverts & RCC duct pipe chamber at Kapnoor 3rd Phase Industrial Area (2nd Stage development), Kalaburgi District. (2) Project Management Consultancy Services for the work of Construction of Formation of Industrial Layout, Including formation of 30M Wide, 24m Wide, 18M Wide & 15M Wide Asphalt Road, Construction of RCC Side Duct Drains, RCC Side Drain, RCC Cross Drainage Works, Storm Water Drain HDPE Water Supply Pipeline at Nagadiyath Kaval Industrial Area, Kadur Taluk, Chikkamagaluru District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is: 17.08.2021 upto 04:00 pm

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/-Chief Engineer-2, KIADB Bengaluru DIPR/DDU/Zen/R.O:894/2021-22 STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE Maintain Follow Physical **Hand Hygiene** Distancing

> IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU Notice to the Respondent Nos. 6 & 7 Vide order dated: 20.04.2021

R.F.A.No.2175/2018

(By Sriyuths: H. Mohan Kumar & B Bopanna, Advs for Appellant (Noc given) and Chandrashekar Patil, Adv., for Appellant (NOC VK Filed)

V/s. Sri. K. Venkataswamy & Ors...Respondents (By Sriyuths: D.R. Ravishankar, Adv., for C/R-1 and Gowthamdev C Ullal, Adv., for R-2 (VK

Respondents:

Sri. V.S. Ramanuiam & Ors..

A Company incorporated under companies Act 1956, having its Reg. Office at: 504, Vikrant Towers, Rajendra Palace, New Delhi - 110 008. And Corporate Office at 7C Surva Towers. S. P. Road, Secunderabad – 500003.

7. M/s. Mandava Holding Pvt. Ltd.

A Registered Company Incorporated under the Indian Companies Act 1956. Having its registered office at: 905, 9th Floor, Kanchanajuga Building, Barakambha Road, Cannaghat Place, New Delhi - 110008.

Rep., by its Authorized Signatory G.S. Murali Krishna

Appeal from the Judgement & Decree dated: 20.09.2018 passed in OS. No.558/2013 on the file of the Senior Civil Judge & JMFC., Devanahalli. Notice is hereby given to you to appear in this court either in person or through Counsel duly

instructed or through some one authorized by law, to act for you in the above appeal on 14.06.2021 in case you intend to contest the appeal. If you fail to appear, the same will be dealt with, heard and decided in your absence.

Issued under my hand and the seal of this court, this the 20th Day of April 2021. BY ORDER OF THE COURT,

ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

.....Appellants

Help abducts employer's + three-year-old daughter

Accused held, had demanded ₹45,000

STAFF REPORTER

A 23-year-old domestic help has been arrested from Rajasthan for allegedly kidnapping her employer's threeyear-old daughter over an argument regarding money, police said on Tuesday.

An officer said the accused kidnapped the toddler from her house in Central Delhi's Patel Nagar on Monday afternoon. The accused, who hails from Alwar, then demanded ₹45,000 ransom from the victim.

The police said, earlier in the day, the victim had an argument with the help for asking for more money. "During this, the woman, who works with a garmets export firm, also threatened to fire the accused," the officer said.

The help then took the child out of the house on the pretext of taking her for a walk at 3 p.m. and didn't return. Next, the child's mother approached the police. "The help threatened to kill the child if the victim did not pay her the ransom," the officer said.

A case was registered. "We formed multiple teams to solve the case. During probe, it was revealed that the help was travelling with the child towards Alwar." In coordination with SSP

Bhiwadi, SSP Alwar and SSP Sikar, pickets were put up by Rajasthan Police and teams from Delhi Police were sent to Alwar.

SSP Bhiwadi team intercepted the duo at a picket and the child was safely rescued within three hours and reunited with her parents.

Cross FIRs registered against ASI and DCP

STAFF REPORTER

Two First Information Reports have been registered after a Delhi Police Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) and a Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) lodged complaints against each other in Mukherjee Nagar.

The incident happened on July 18 when construction work was under way at the ASI's residence in New Police Lines.

The DCP's residence is right opposite the ASI's.

The ASI's daughter, the complainant in the case, said the DCP's wife abused the construction workers and stopped them from working.

She even parked their car in a way, which hampered the construction.

When the ASI's daughter objected to it, the DCP's wife abused her, hit her with a bat and threw a pair of keys at her. The incident was caught on camera.

The DCP said the ASI's family has encroached upon the area where his car is parked and constructed a room at the place, which has a door opening right opposite his

A senior officer said to maintain "rank respect", lower-rank officers have a side entry to their house and not opposite the senior officers' houses.

The DCP claimed that a demolition notice was also served to the ASI but the room was not demolished. On July 18, his wife objected to the construction after which the ASI's family allegedly abused her. "She reacted to it," the

DCP claimed. An officer said probe is under way.

Timings **DELHI**

WEDNESDAY, JUL. 21 RISE 05:37 SET 19:19 RISE 16:52 SET 02:24

THURSDAY, JUL. 22 RISE 05:38 SET 19:18 RISE 17:58 SET 03:20 FRIDAY, JUL. 23 RISE 05:38 SET 19:18

Delhi Weather max min Delhi City 24

RISE 18:59 SET 04:22

Delhi Palam Today 34°C Warm and humid day. at some places with cloudy

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 36°C A spells of light rain or thunderstorm likely at some places with cloudy sky. Day would remian uneasy warm

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2019

THEMOHINDU

IN BRIEF

BSES discoms ink green power agreement

NEW DELHI The BSES discoms on Tuesday said that it has inked a Power Sale Agreements with SECI (Solar Energy Corporation of India) to procure 510 MW of solar and bundled hybrid power for Delhi. It said that it was committed to a green and sustainable future and was looking towards the sun and the wind for powering Delhi.

DJB to issue tenders for 24X7 water supply

Water Minister Satyendar Jain on Tuesday said the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) will soon float several tenders with an aim to provide 24X7 water supply in the city. The Minister asked officials to maintain accountability at all levels so that the scheme goes through smoothly.

Man gets shot at accidentally by friend

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A 30-year-old man was injured when his friend accidentally fired a gun in Anand Vihar, the police

DCP (Shahdara) R. Sathivasundaram said a gunshot injury was reported from Dr. Hedgewar Hospital at 1.30 a.m. on Tuesday. The victim was identified as Hariom from Maujpur. The victim said the incident happened when he was drinking with his friends – Paras, Sameer, Vipin, Neeraj and Gopal in a hotel. He told the police that Paras had a pistol in his possession and was playing with it. Suddenly, a bullet was fired from the pistol, and it hit the victim.

Probe is under way, the police added.

STAFF REPORTER

Stating that the there ap-

peared to be serious lapses

on part of the Haryana go-

vernment in performing

constitutional obligation of

providing a clean environ-

ment, the National Green

Tribunal (NGT) has observed

that the "failure of the admi-

nistration and neglect of res-

ponsibility is enough for

The observations came

when a Bench headed by

NGT Chairperson Justice

Adarsh Kumar Goel was

hearing a plea which alleged

that authorities had failed to

norms in handling the

Bandhwari landfill site in

environmental

destruction."

maintain

NEW DELHI

Districts reserve 80% of Covishield stock

Vaccine in short supply, authorities setting aside jab for those who are scheduled to get second dose

NEW DELHI

With the city facing shortage of Covishield vaccine, several districts in Delhi have reserved 80% of their Covishield stock for people who have to get the second dose, as per government sources.

The Delhi government is also considering reserving its Covishield stock only for those getting a second dose.

"Till now, the government had given flexibility to the districts to decide what percentage of Covishield should be kept for second dose. Many districts increased it to 80%," a Delhi government source said. "But now the government will make it more rigid for all districts and the government is thinking to reserve the complete Covishield stock or 80% of the stock only for second dose for all districts," the source said.

The government is considering the move as a large number of people above 18 years will be soon eligible for the second dose.

JAB METER TOTAL VACCINATION DOSES 94,54,607* SITES CONDUCTING INOCULATION DOSE 1 71,99,716 22,54,891 VACCINATION -North East **6,01,152** Male 54,40,633 Shahdara **6,21,540** Female 40,11,912 6,92,450 Others 2,062 South East **VACCINE TYPE** → South **10,55,360**

Sprutnik V 25,422

30,20,351

The development was confirmed by another source too, but the Delhi government is yet to officially announce anything on the issue. In June, the Delhi government had reserved Covaxin only for people in

Covaxin

22,70,279

Covidshield

VACCINATION BY AGE

18-44

45,87,483

71,58,906

the 18-44 age group getting their second dose, due to a shortage of the vaccine.

TILL 8 P.M. ON JULY 20 | SOURCE: COWIN.GOV.IN

18,46,773

The COVID-19 vaccination drive was opened for people above 18 years of age on May 1 across the country and the second dose of thousands of

'Centre doing a cover-up on oxygen shortage'

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Tuesday said there was an "actual shortage of oxygen during the second wave's peak" and that the Centre has been "running a cover-up since the very start of the pandemic". "It is because of their flawed policy that the country had to endure an oxygen crisis. The Delhi government wanted to set up 'Death Audit Committee' to assign responsibility, but the Centre did not let us.'

people who took the first dose of Covishield in Delhi will be due this month.

Delhi has been facing a shortage of Covishield vaccine for about 10 days and the current stock of CO-VID-19 vaccines in the city will last for less than one day, as per a vaccination bulletin released by the Delhi govern-

ment on Tuesday. The city faced a similar situation on most days of last week and Health Minister Satyendar Jain had said on July 12 that 500 vaccination centres had to be closed due to vaccine shortage.

Now also many centres are shut due to the vaccine shortage, mainly of Covishield, as per officials.

25,986 doses

Only 25,986 doses of vaccines were administered in the city on Monday as per the bulletin, which is far less than the 1,29,054 doses administered on July 13.

The city continued to see a downward trend in new COVID-19 cases with only 44 fresh cases reported over 24 hours, taking the tally to 14,35,609, according to a health bulletin. There were five deaths in a single day, pushing the toll to 25,035.

Meanwhile, Kolhapur Road Market, which is a part of Kamla Nagar Market, was directed to close for two days for not following COVID-19 rules, according to an official order issued on Monday.

'Emotional well-being of students affected'

PTMs to resolve issues, says Sisodia

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Tuesday said that the emotional well-being and education of students have been affected due to the absence of physical classes. The two-week long parent teacher meetings would find solutions to the problems related to online classes and the socialemotional and mental wellbeing of the students will be resolved, he asserted.

After meeting parents, Mr. Sisodia said the Delhi government is working on many levels to make children emotionally strong. "In order to keep children away from depression and stress during the COVID period, teachers are taking mindfulpractice sessions through online classes under the Happiness Curriculum. Along with this, memof the School Committee Management

Helpline numbers for youth suffering stress

The Delhi government has issued free helpline numbers 180011688 and 10580 - for youth, especially students, to get help from professional counsellors to cope up with mental and academic stress during the pandemic, according to authorities. People can call the helpline numbers from 7.30 a.m. to 8.30 p.m. on all working days and the identity of the caller will be kept confidential, as

(SMC) are constantly connected with the parents of the children on phone and are working with the school to meet the educational needs of children," he said.

per the government.

He added that at the PTMs, teachers are teaching parents new parenting tricks, which will help with online learning and mitigate their stress.

Prepping for festivities



People throng a local market in north Delhi on the eve of Bakrid on Tuesday. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Bidhuri seeks changes in draft city master plan

LoP wants inclusion of 150 colonies

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri on Tuesday met DDA vice-chairman Anurag Jain seeking amendments in the Master Plan of Delhi (MPD)-2041. Mr. Bidhuri said he

sought the inclusion of 150 colonies from the Yamuna O zone to the F zone so their existing residents can get ownership rights in the future. "These colonies should

be shifted from O zone to F zone so that these people could get ownership rights in the long run. In addition to this, these colonies will also get all the civic amenities and a layout plan can only be formulated for these colonies after they are

The tribunal constituted a

three-member committee

comprising officials of the

Central Pollution Control

Board, State Pollution Con-

trol Board and the Gurugram

"We are of the view that ef-

fective remedial measures,

including effective monitor-

ing mechanism is required in

view of seriousness of the sit-

uation. A welfare state can

hardly be oblivious to its

constitutional obligation to

the citizens for protection of

public health, particularly

when failure to prevent out-

break of diseases results in

mass destruction of human

District Magistrate.

Remedial measures

Gurugram.



Ramvir Singh Bidhuri

removed from O zone which will ensure passing of housing plans," Mr. Bidhuri

Mr. Bidhuri said that the layout plan for such colonies should be immediately put in place.

"This will put a halt to unauthorised construction and address the issue of corruption," he said.

lives," the Bench observed.

ness of monitoring mechan-

isms need to be looked into,

the NGT said, "We hope such

failure will be remedied if

the State has any concern for

safety of its citizens and the

rule of law. The erring offic-

ers need to be made accoun-

table for such continuing

ing a plea moved by petition-

er Poonam Yadav who con-

tended that steps taken in a

waste management project,

undertaken in 2017, was in-

adequate and the waste was

being burnt resulting in air

pollution, which resulted in

adverse effects on residents

as well as flora and fauna at

The green panel was hear-

failure."

Observing that effective-

NGT raps Haryana over failure to maintain green norms

Tribunal forms panel, directs Chief Secretary to take steps against erring officers

HC seeks govt. response on e-tender plea

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court Tuesday termed as "half baked" the criteria fixed by the Delhi government for grant of licences of retail vends of liquor here through electronic bids

The court was hearing a plea challenging its e-tender notice, prescribing the procedure to be followed for inviting zone-wise electronic bids for grant of 32 licences of retail vends of liquor in the national capital "You cannot leave everything to uncertainty. If you expect a person to enter into an agreement, he should know what he was getting into," observed a Bench of Justices Vipin Sanghi and Jasmeet Singh. "It is a totally arbitrary exercise," the Bench observed.

the Asola Bhati Wildlife

The Bench has also direct-

ed the Haryana Chief Secre-

tary to take steps against er-

ring officers for failure to

Meanwhile, the Delhi Forest

Department has written to

the Harvana administration.

asking it to identify and act

against liquor vends operat-

ing illegally in the eco-sensi-

tive zone near the Asola

Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary. An

official said smugglers bring

down small portions of the

sanctuary's boundary wall

and use a shortcut to deliver

liquor from Haryana to Delhi

on foot or on motorbikes.

remedy the situation

Illegal liquor vends

Sanctuary.

Delhi Congress for joint House panel probe into Pegasus row

Leaders demand Home Minister Amit Shah's resignation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Delhi Congress on Tuesday organised a protest outside the BJP headquaters and demanded a joint parliamentary committee probe into the reported use of Pegasus spyware against journalists and politicians.

It also demanded the resignation of Home Minister Amit Shah and alleged that he was guilty of treason and compromised national security. The protesters were stopped by the Delhi police from reaching the BJP headquarters.

Anti-democratic activity Delhi Congress Chief Ch. Anil Kumar alleged that the BJP government had indulged in this illegal and anti-democratic activity due to their insecurity and authoritarianism as they feared that Rahul Gandhi's widening popularity and the erosion of people's faith in Prime Minister Narendra Modi would be dangerous for them.

He added that the fact that Pegasus spyware is only sold to governments and to no one else, points fingers at Mr. Modi and Mr. Shah about their collusion in using this spy software against political opponents, Union Minis-



in the Capital on Tuesday. • SANDEEP SAXENA

ters, security forces, judiciary, journalists and other prominent persons, and it was an inexcusable breach of national security.

'Dejected Opposition'

The BJP, meanwhile, alleged that a "dejected and desperate Opposition" was indulging in "fabricated allegations" regarding the Pegasus leaks.

West Delhi BJP MP Parvesh Sahib Singh sought to dismiss the alleged snooping row as "rubbish, concocted and baseless".

"The matter of fact is that the Opposition cannot digest the rising popularity of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the welfare policies his government has in-

itiated for the overall development of the country," he alleged. The MP said as many as 17 pro-farmer, proyouth, pro-backwards' and development related Bills were slated to be discussed and passed in the current monsoon session.

The Bills, he said, sought to benefit "practically all sections of society" and the Congress and other parties did not want this to happen.

"The Opposition did not allow the PM to introduce his new Ministers in the House shows they have scant regard for the upliftment of the poor, SCs, women and others who have been given due representation in the new Cabinet," he alleged.

Jamia holds condolence meeting for Siddiqui

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) on Tuesday organised a condolence meeting for its alumnus Danish Siddiqui, who lost his life in the line of duty while reporting the clashes between the Afghan security forces and the Taliban on July16. He was buried at the JMI graveyard on Sunday.

Vice-Chancellor Najma Akhtar described Siddiqui as a"real-life hero" and a "creator of iconic images" and said that the university must always remember him with a smile as tears must never be shed over martyrs.

She said that the university would organise an exhibition of his work and other activities so that students can take inspiration from it.

Shohini Ghosh, Officiating Director of A.I.K. Mass Communication Research Centre, JMI said that the alumni of MCRC, including many who had never met him, had written to express their grief, solidarity and acute sense of kinship and in Siddiqui, they saw the courage, passion and moral fibre that the founders of MCRC wanted their students to have."

Taxi operators complain of late fee charge

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

City taxi operators on Tuesday alleged they were being charged late fees at Transport offices in spite of the Central government orders directing the contrary. The Delhi Taxi, Tourist

Transporters & Tour Operators Association called on Transport Commissioner Ashish Kundra over the issue in addition to other problems they were facing. "Our businesses have

been severely affected due to the COVID-19 pandemic and we are being charged substantial amounts as late fee for one thing or another despite the Central government orders that no such fee is to be charged till September this year," association president Sanjay Samrat alleged.

Mr. Samrat said the association also apprised the Transport Commissioner about issues related to the renewal of All India permits and problems related to speed governors being faced by owners of foreign vehicles.

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT Mr. N SELVA KUMAR

PH: 9820350726 selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in

India's National Newspape

THE HINDU

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS Housing Board Buildings, Santhi Nagar, Thiruvananthapuram - 695 001

NOTIFICATION **ONLINE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION TO** K-MAT 2021- MBA COURSE

No.CEE/3601/K-MAT-2021/TA3 Applications are invited for admission to online entrance examination to MBA Course (K-MAT) 2021-2022 Detailed Prospectus & Fee details is available in

www.cee.kerala.gov.in. Last date & time for submitting online application along with all necessary documents is 28.07.2021, 5.pm Help line No.0471-2525300 Thiruvananthapuram

19.07.2021

Commissioner for Entrance Examinations (1154/F4/2021/IPR)



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

Fragile border situation, says Assam CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday said the situation along the Assam-Mizoram border was fragile with "eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation".

Three districts of southern Assam's Barak Valley share a 146.6 km border with Mizoram.

Dr. Sarma had on July 12 told the State Assembly that encroachers from Mizoram had taken over 1,777.58 hectares of land in the Barak Valley.

Mizoram contested this claim, saying the Mizo villages have existed on the disputed land for more than 100 years.

No CM-Sidhu meeting for now

Apologise first for social media attacks against me, says Amarinder

VIKAS VASUDEVA CHANDIGARH

The infighting in Punjab Congress seems to be far from over as Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Tuesday hardened his stand, saying that he was firm on his stance and will not meet the newly-appointed party president Navjot Singh Sidhu unless he publicly apologies.

Reports of Mr. Sidhu seeking time to meet the Chief Minister have also been dismissed by Chief Minister's media advisor Raveen Thukral. In a tweet the media advisor said "Reports of @sherryontop seeking time to meet @capt_amarinder are totally false. No time has been sought whatsoever. No change in stance... CM won't



CM Amarinder Singh

meet #NavjotSinghSidhu till he publicly apologises for his personally derogatory social media attacks against him."

Minister rules out meet Even as Mr. Sidhu continued to meet State party leaders in his political outreach attempt, senior Punjab Cabinet Minister Brahm Mahin-

dra has also ruled out a

Estimated cost (Rs.)
Tentative quantity (kWp)
Completion of work
Period of contract
Date of publication of NIT on
website: http://
jharkhandtenders.gov.in
Date & time of Pre-bid meeting
Last date & time for receipt of
online bids
Submission of original copies of
Bid fee & EMD (Offline)
Technical Bid Opening Date

Name & address of office inviting tender

12 Contact no. of procurement officer
13 Helpline no. of e-procurement

PR 249987 Energy(21-22)#D

personal meeting with Mr. Sidhu till he resolves his issues with Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh.

Mr. Mohindra though welcomed the appointment of Mr. Sidhu as the Punjab Congress Committee president. In a statement issued here, he said the appointment had been done by the party high command and was welcome.

'Resolve issues'

"However, I will not meet him [Sidhu] till he meets the Chief Minister and resolves his issues with him", said Mr. Mohindra, adding that Capt. Amarinder Singh was the leader of the Congress Legislative Party (CLP) and he (Mohindra) was duty bound

Govt. of Jharkhand, Energy Department
Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (JREDA)
3rd Floor, S.L.D.C. Building, Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi-834002.
Ph.: 0651-2491161, Fax: 0651-2491165,
E-mail: info@jreda.com; Website: www.jreda.com

Urgent e-Procurement Notice Tender reference no.: 04/JREDA/GCRT/RC/21-22 Dated: 20.07.2021

Rs. 14,00,00,000/-1500 KWp 03 (Three) Months 06 (Six) Months

20.07.2021 (Tuesday)

24.07.2021 (Saturday) at 2.00 P.M.

04.08.2021 (Wednesday) upto 05:00 PM

04.08.2021 and **05.08.2021** up to 5.00 P.M.

06.08.2021 (Friday) 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

Director, JREDA, Ranchi

Doranda, Ranchi- 03-10-1 0651-2491163/67

to follow him.

Besides being the CLP leader, the Chief Minister also headed the Cabinet, of which he was a part, stated the Minister. "We have a collective responsibility and hence I would refrain from meeting the newly appointed president till issues between him and the Chief Minister are resolved", he asserted.

On July 18, Mr. Sidhu, a detractor of Capt. Amarinder Singh, was appointed as State party chief. But both the leaders have not met so far. Neither has Capt. Amarinder publically congratulated Mr. Sidhu nor has Mr. Sidhu uttered any word on a possible meeting with the Chief Minister.

Oppn. nod to join Nagaland govt.

NDPP says it would consult BJP before taking NPF on board

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The opposition Naga People's Front (NPF) has accepted Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio's offer to join his People's Democratic Al-

liance (PDA) government. The Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) that Mr. Rio represents, on Tuesday adopted a resolution to first consult ruling partner Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) before bringing the NPF on board.

The 60-member Nagaland Assembly currently has 59 members after the death of an MLA. The PDA has 34 legislators (20 are from NDPP, 12 from BJP and two Independents) while the NPF has 25.

The consultation with the BJP is seen as a formality ahead of the "inevitable" the NPF becoming a constituent of the PDA to leave the Nagaland Assembly without



CM Neiphiu Rio

any member in the opposi-

Mr. Rio is believed to have turned the tables on the BJP, which had reportedly been trying to rekindle its friendship with the NPF. The BJP and NPF are allies in the adjoining State of Manipur.

The two parties were allies in Nagaland but the BJP opted to stitch an alliance with NDPP ahead of the 2018 Assembly election. Mr. Rio had quit the NPF and joined the NDPP before the election that year.

Following the development, the BJP's central leadership has decided to send its Nagaland in-charge Nalin Kohli to the State on Wednesday, a party leader said.

NPF troubles

Trouble within the NPF had started in 2019 when seven of its MLAs pledged support to the NDPP-led Nagaland government. The NPF suspended the seven but suffered a setback when the Kohima Bench of the Gauhati High Court had in February dismissed its applications seeking their disqualification from the Assembly.

An NPF leader said the party's legislators had met on Monday to discuss the offer from the Chief Minister. "We decided to accept the offer in the interest of the settlement of the protracted Naga political problem (peace process with extremist groups)," he said.

Dispose of petitions on disqualification of MLAs, HC tells Odisha Governor

SATYASUNDAR BARIK BHUBANESWAR

The Orissa High Court has directed the Governor to dispose of two petitions seeking disqualification of MLAs, who were appointed as chairpersons to district planning committees, under the Odisha Offices of Profit Amendment Act, 2016.

One Samrendra Beura had submitted a petition to the Governor seeking the disqualification in May 2019. In September, 2019, he again sought the disqualification of the MLAs under Article 192 (by obtaining the opinion of the Election Commission).

The Odisha Offices of Profit (Removal of Disqualifica-

tions) Amendment Act, 2016 was enacted with retrospective effect from January 18, 2016 including certain categories of offices that would not attract such disqualification. Thereafter, the government appointed chairpersons to the 30 district planning committees with Minister of State status in August, 2019.

SC approached

Mr. Beura was, however, aggrieved that his petitions were not disposed of by the Governor. Since the members of the Orissa High Court Bar were on strike, he approached the Supreme Court which disposed of the petition granting him liberty to the approach the High Court. Mr. Beura moved the Orissa High Court again.

The division bench comprising Chief Justice Dr. S. Muralidhar and Justice S.K. Panigrahi said, "In view of the limited nature of relief sought for and without expressing any opinion whatsoever on the merits of the petition, or the Odisha Offices of Profit (Removal of Disqualifications) Amendment Act 2016, this court directs that petitioner's two petitions shall be disposed of by the Governor of Odisha, after obtaining opinion from the Election Commission of India, not later than November

HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG NOTICE INVITING TENDER On line bids on item rates basis are invited by the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division

Fatehpur Himachal Pradesh on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, in electronic endering system in two covers for the under mentioned work from the contractors/firms of ppropriate class enlisted with Jal Shakti Vibhag through e-tendering process:-

SN	Name of work	Estimated cost (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Time	Cost of form (in Rs.)
1.	C/o Rain water Harvesting Structure (Check Dam) in Ghaggar Nalla near head works of WSS Samlet in GP Samlet in Tehsil Fatehpur District Kangra.	13,80,807/-	27,616/-	Three Month	400/-
2.	C/o Rain water Harvesting Structure Bhatoli Nallah in Village Bhatoli up side of the cremation ground of Bhatoli in GP Minta Tehsil Fatehpur District Kangra District Kangra.	14,57,000/-	29,140/-	Three Month	400/-
3.	Augmentation of LWSS Rehan Dehri Fatehpur District Kangra HP (SH: Drilling Lowering and development of Tube well 125 mtrs deep.	15,57,897/-	30,868/-	Six Month	400/-
4.	Annual Running repair and maintenance of various LWSS Tube Well under JSV Division Fatehpur (SH: Outstanding of fistaff for running and operation of pumping machinery of LWSS Rey Riali and LWSS Beh Malhanta Phase-1st for three years.		53,536.00/-	Three Year	400/-
5.	Construction of tube Well Nerna, Golwan and Mandiyal in Tehsil Fatehpur District Kangra HP (SH: Drilling Lowering of Tube well Neran, Golwan Mandiyal 150 m deep.	62,11,861/-	94,620/-	One Year	800/-

11.00 AM. The tender forms and other detailed terms and conditions can be obtained from the website www.hpiph.org

ENTERPRISE CONNECT

Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division, Fatehpur District Kangra HP 176053 HP / 2576/21-22 "Him Suchna Avam Jan Sampark"

A Business Initiative

Any corrigendum/addendum can be seen on website: http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in & ww.jreda.com. Further details can be seen on website: http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in & www.jreda.com

RITES wins Dun & Bradstreet the country, thereby identifying to make this campaign of the significant opportunities **Corporate Award 2021** agriculture and MSME credit, the General Manager said that RITES Ltd., a Miniratna (Category

- I) Schedule 'A' Public Sector Enterprise, has been conferred Dun & Bradstreet Corporate Award 2021 for 'Best Growth Performance' in the Engineering the Projects/Capital Goods category. The award, presented by Dun & Bradstreet, the world's leading provider of B2B data, insights and Al-driven platforms, recognises RITES' efforts in facilitating creation of transport infrastructure and its well-diversified business model. Also, RITES has been profiled in 21st edition of 'India's Top-500 Companies' on the basis of total income, net profit and return on net worth etc. These companies across 50 sectors have grown faster than the Indian economy over the past 20 years. Crediting 'Team RITES' for this achievement, Mr. VG Suresh Kumar, Director (Projects) and Chairman & Managing Director

PNB adjudged Best PSB by NABARD for Agricredit, Microfinance & Financial inclusion

creating value for stakeholders."

In a major achievement, Punjab National Bank (PNB) has been Bank (PSB) in the country for its field of Agriculture Credit, Micro Finance, Financial Inclusion and Technology adoption. The Rural Development (NABARD) more than 30,000 villages across among common citizens. In order consumers too.

campaign objectives was to enhance digitization to the last mile for financial inclusion, such as issuance of debit cards and bringing rural communities under the PNB One Mobile App, which is critical for the country's GDP growth. Celebrating the 40th Foundation Day, NABARD announced the awards on the sidelines of a webinar on "Resilience of Indian Agriculture amidst Pandemic". The program was graced by the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers (Addl Charge), RITES Ltd, said, Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh "We are delighted with this award. Thomar, Chief Economic Advisor, It is a testimony to our efforts in Dr. Krishnamurthy V Subramanian facilitating creation of infrastructure and NABARD Chairman, Shri. GR in India and abroad, along with

BLW sets record by vaccinating

2050 doses highest for any Varanasi Center Banaras Locomotive Works yesterday on 14th July 2021, BLW achieved an all-time high daily vaccination figure by applying adjudged the best Public Sector more than two thousand doses (2050 doses), which is the outstanding performance in the highest for any of Varanasi single vaccination center has the most. As a result of which a record has been set by putting 50000th dose National Bank for Agriculture and at BLW vaccination center on 15th July, 2021. This record is unique in honoured PNB for its remarkable itself, which shows the dedication contribution to rural customers and loyalty of BLW doctors, with a "Special Commemorative officers and employees towards Award". Speaking on the occasion, the general public. Expressing Shri. CH. S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao, happiness over the record set by MD & CEO of PNB, said, "Despite BLW with the co-ordination and cothe impact of the pandemic, operation of the State Government, PNB has been at the forefront General Manager Anjali Goyal of developing India's agriculture encouraged vaccination through measure in effect on any industrial/ and MSME sectors. Last year, public awareness for 100% the bank ran the Village Contact vaccination among BLW workers and PSPCL is providing a supply Program, a campaign that covered as well as 100 % vaccination of more than 8 hours to AP

in Government of India successful, Further, the bank improved access breaking his own record, he to social security schemes like suggested to set a new record Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti everyday. In this campaign special Yojna, Suraksha Beema Yojna facility of vaccination is being and Atal Pension Yojna. One of provided for elderly, pregnant women and specially handicapped under the supervision of specialist doctors of BLW.

PSPCL caters to the grievances of industrial units

which has yielded great results. DPS Grewal director distribution However, more work will be done PSPCL) visited the city of in the coming months. Thus, this Ludhiana on the directions of CMD recognition will go a long way in Sh. A Venu Prasad to meet and motivating our entire workforce address power related grievances in the rural lending segment, of various industrial associations. During the interaction, Sh. JS Thukral (President, Janta Nagar Small Scale Industrial Association) highlighted the UUE cases related with the running of excess load and subsequent charging of hefty amounts to the consumers, and requested director Distribution to empathize with these cases in lieu of the ongoing Covid crisis. Er.DPS Grewal Director Distribution listened to their problems and assured them to finalize the UUE cases within seven days. The assessment shall be made for the period during which such unauthorized use has taken place. The period of UUE will be determined from the data downloaded from electronic meters. The industrial associations were left satisfied and thanked Er. DPS Grewal for the same. Er. DPS Grewal assured the industrial consumers regarding the power situation during the ongoing paddy season. He explained that the recent power shutdown on large scale industry was only a temporary measure because there was an untimely breakdown of two TSPCL thermal units and prolonged delay of monsoon which resulted in an acute power shortage during the same period. Now, there is no power regulatory commercial/domestic category

E-TENDER NOTICE TO BE PUBLISHED IN NEWS PAPERS On line e-tender on lum sum/items rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division Palampur on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh in electronic tendering system in two covers for the under mentioned

ork from the Contractor/Firm of appropriate class.			
Name of Work	Estimated cost	EMD	Cost of tender
fork No. 1:- Improvement of water supply scheme Sansal Mandhed in shall Baijnath, Distt. Kangra (H.P) (SH:- Construction of water treatment ant 0.30 MLD, C/O Intake Chamber = 3 Nos, Main storage tank = 50000 ers, 40000 liters and Sector storage Tank = 20000 liters, 30000 liters apacity)		Rs. 83570/-	Rs. 800/-

Last date of filing/uploading the tender through e-tendering 28/07/2021 upto 11.00 AM and the same will be opened on 28/07/2021 at 11.30 AM. The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be obtained from

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INTERACTIVE ONLINE SESSIONS with VAID SIR on July 21 & July 25 Pl Contact 0-9999901938 to Register

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE This is for notice of the general public

that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of "TAMILAGA MAKKAL NALA KATCHI". The office of the party is located at "2/272A, Rajapalayam Main Road, Kuvalaikanni (PO) Tenkasi District, Tamilnadu-627753. This party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India. New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under Section 29A of the Representation of People Act, 1951-Name/Address of the office bearers of the Party are as follows.

esident : C.AROCKIDDOSS. Secretary : R.DHANARAJ. Kuvalaikanni, Tenkasi District. Treasurer : **J.DASPRAKASH** Thuraiyur, Trichy District

If any one has any objection to the TAMILAGA MAKKAL NALA KATCHI they may send their objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary (Political Party) Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

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PUBLIC NOTICE plic at large are hereby informed that one kepack Bag (Red and Green colour) of our field cucutive, namely, Ashwani Kumar S/O Shendra Pal Singh was stolen on 03rd July, 2021 /eer Bajar Road Part 1 Mukund Pur (Delhi

10042). The said stolen Bag, inter alia, contained original of many property documents of the customers of our client Banks/NBFCs, details of such documents are as follows:

A. Original Sale Deed dated 28 June, 2021 bearing Registration No.1352, Book-1, Volume No.431, registred dated 30.06.2021 at Sub-registrar – VI E, New Delhi/Delhi, executed by Kumar Vikram in favour of March Particles

registrar – VI E, New Delhi/Delhi, executed by Kumar Vikram in favour of Manju Rani, in respect to Built Up Property No.599, Block & Pocket C-5, Sector-28, Rohini, Delhi.

B. (i) Original Sale Deed dated 27.07.2005 bearing Registration No. 8276, Book No.1, Vol. No.124, registered dated 27.07.2005, Sub-Registrar-Punjabi Bagh, West Distt. Delhi, executed by Sham Lali in favour of Shesh Kumari, in respect to Entire Second Floor without confiferace institution of the Post No.544. oof/terrace rights out of Property bearing No.564, lock-M Situated in the layout plan of Hindustan HBS Ltd., now known as Guru Harkishan Nagar, aschim Vihar, New Delhi.

rasciiii Vinal, New Deini. (iii) Original NOC & List of Documents dated 21.12.2015 issued by SCB in favor of Satish Kumar & Shesh Kumari

Kumar & Shesh Kumari
(iii) Original List of Documents dated 21.06.2021
& No Due Certificate dated 25.06.2021 issued by
Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. in favor of JP
Enterprises & Others
C. Around 8 to 10 Originals Registration Receipts
issued by Various Sub-registrar Offices of Delhi
such as Alipur, Rohini, Pitampura, Libaspur,
Nangloi, for collecting the original registered sale
deeds of various properties.

these documents collectively referred to as 'said

documents')
In this respect an FIR bearing No. OTN-BD000493 dated 04/07/2021 has been registered at
Police Station- e-Police Station (Bhalswa Dairy,
Outer North).
We understand that the said original documents
may not be of any value to the thief, and he may
throw them away. Therefore, any person(s)
coming into possession of the said documents
Mor baving knowledge of the whereabouts of the coming into possession of ine said a occurrents A/or having knowledge of the whereabouts of the said documents, is hereby requested to intimate the undersigned immediately at the below address/ numbers. A minimum award of Rs. 50,000/- will be paid to such person returning said documents or informing the whereabouts of the same.

Public are warned not to deal with the sa ments and any person receiving or dealing documents and any person receiving or dealing with the said Documents would do so at his own risk and responsibility (including criminal liability) & we, our client BanksNBFCs or their concerned customers/owners of properties shall not be liable in any manner whatsoever for any loss incurred by such person(s) on account of any such unauthorized dealing, In the event no information is received within 15 days from date hereof, we will proceed to take such action including applying to concerned authorities for issue of duly certified/True Copies/Duplicate Copies of the said Documents, as are deemed appropriate.

Mohd. Raees (Advocate)
Mohd. Raees (Advocate)
Mohd. Raees (Advocate)
Mohd. Raees (Advocate)
Rap Legal
Advocates & Legal Consultants
L1693, Cittaranjan Park, New Delhi-110119;
Mobile No: 9654708907

15.07.2021. Open Tenders are invited by Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer (Carriage and Wagon), Eastern Railway.

EASTERN RAILWAY

Howrah for the following work:- Name of the work: Supply, Installation and Commissioning of High Pressure Jet Cleaning Plant and laying of seamles: pipes (25 mm Dia) at Sorting Yard Coachin Depot of Howrah Division, Eastern Railway Tender Value: Rs 46 40 692 20 Website particulars for submission of Tender online: www.ireps.gov.in. Period o 23.07.2021 up to 14.00 hrs. on 06.08.2021 HWH-64/2021-22 Tender Notices are also available at Website

www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in

SITUATION VACANT

SELECTION OF DIRECTOR ACCOUNTS ADJUTANT GENERAL'S BRANCH

(ACCOUNT SECTION) Applications are invited from retired Colonels from Indian Army for the post of Director Accounts Adjutant General Branch, (Accounts Section), located in South Block on contractual basis.

Age. a) Upper age limit for employment - 60 vrs. Maximum age/ terms of service -65 yrs/ 05 yrs (extendable upto

max 65 yrs of age). Med Cat. The acceptable Med Cat are SHAPE-1, 1B, H2 or P2 (Dental only) or both H2 E2 (If COPE - 0 or

Experience. The officer should have following staff exposure)Commanded a Unit/Regiment o)Staff Appt as a Col/eqvt in Formation HQ/IHQ of MoD (Army) (Preferably in A Branch/F Dte/Accts Branch).

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7. Desirable QR. a)The candidate should be willing to relocate to Delhi/NCR to enable

commuting to office. b)PGDBM/MBA (Finance))Preferably should be Psc

 Apply with resume and passpor size photograph by 31 Aug 2021 to Army Welfare Placement Organization (AWPO), Directorate of Indian Army Veteran (DIAV Delhi Cantt-110010, Email

apajobs01@yahoo.co.in. Date, Time & Place of interview for selection will be intimated to candidates by e-mail/telephoni



RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at a

few/isolated places over Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal

Odisha, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Konkan & Goa, Kerala,

Mahe and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm accompan-

ied with lightning likely at isolated places over Assam, Tripura,

Mangaluru .

Srinagar.

Rayalaseema, Yanam, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal

RAIN MAX MIN ... 0.8....31.6....26.0

.. 7....27.8....19.7

. 55....32.6....26.1

. 19....35.0....24.4

. 0.6....29.2....23.3

8 216 176

62....27.2....23.5

. 0.4....29.0....22.1

. 15....31.6....22.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

 CITIES
 SO2
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 Ahmedabad.....
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 23
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Pollutants in the air you are breathing

Hyderabad2 .57 15 ...12 ...17

.43 .10 .-110 .17 47

Visakhapatnam .14 .53 41 ... 26 ...45

Bengaluru..... ...7 .17 31 Chennai9 .15 72

3....33.2....25 6

..33.6....23.4

..24.0....21.0

1....28.7....25.0

..... – 21.0 ..34.3.... 27.2

Ahmedabad...... 1.5....31.8....27.0

Bhubaneswar.... 43.2....34.2....24.1

Allahahad

IN BRIEF



'Aisha is not cooperating with investigation'

The Lakshadweep administration on Tuesday informed the Kerala High Court that Aisha Sultana, film-maker and an accused in a sedition case, had refused to give certain documents sought by the Kavaratti police and that she had deleted her mobile chats after the registration of the case. The submission was made in a statement filed by the administration in response to Ms. Sultana's petition seeking to quash the case against her.

Aquaculture farmers to sell produce on e-Santa

Many aquaculture farmers in Andhra Pradesh are planning to update the details of their produce online and market their stocks through e-Santa, an electronic marketplace to export marine products. e-Santa is a platform to connect aqua farmers and buyers across the country, to avoid middlemen. Producers and exporters who registered with Marine Products Export **Development Authority** (MPEDA) can trade online on the platform.

New elephant to lead **Bonalu procession**

HYDERABAD After a year's break, a new elephant will lead the Bonalu procession in Hyderabad, Telangana. The elephant, Menaka, from Raichur, will lead the Bonalu celebrations at the Akkanna Madanna temple. But the event is likely to be a tame affair due to COVID-19 protocols. "The darshan will be with social distancing and only masked devotees will be allowed," said G. Niranjan from the Akkanna Madanna temple Bonalu celebrations

Lingayat seers rally behind Yediyurappa

They warn of holding a meet to decide action if he is removed from CM's post

KARNATAKA BUREAU

Amid intense speculation about a possible leadership change in Karnataka and a day after Veerashaiva Mahasabha heads expressed support for Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, Lingayat/Veerashaiva seers came out in the open to back the Chief Minister and warned that they would hold a meeting to decide their future course of action if he is removed from the top post.

While Shivamurthy Muruga Swami from the Muruga Mutt held a press conference along with about 20 seers from several other mutts in Chitradurga to express solidarity with Mr. Yediyurappa,

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Kerala Forest Minister A.K.

Saseendran appeared to

have put the Left Democratic

Front (LDF) government in a

spot ahead of the second ses-

sion of the 15th Kerala Legis-

lative Assembly scheduled to

An audio clip of the Minis-

ter purportedly attempting

to shield a party aide from

scrutiny in a sexual harass-

The scandal has provided

ammunition to the Opposi-

tion's argument that 'Sthree

Paksham', the LDF govern-

ment's recent campaign

against dowry, gender injus-

tice and misogyny, was a

V.D. Satheesan said Mr. Sa-

Leader of the Opposition

ment case has gone viral.

Call for resignation

commence on Thursday.

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

another set of over 20 seers, led by Dingaleshwara seer, met the Chief Minister at his official residence to demonstrate their backing. Prasanna Renuka Veerasomeshwar Shivacharya Swami of Rambhapuri Peetha has also expressed his support for the veteran leader.

The delegation of seers that met the Chief Minister warned that a group of about 500 seers would come together to hold a meeting and chalk out the next course of action if the BJP high command went ahead with the reported plans to replace Mr. Yediyurappa.

The Muruga Mutt seer said at Chitradurga, "We are worried about reports that

A.K. Saseendran

seendran had used the heft

of his office to coerce a Na-

tionalist Congress Party

(NCP) worker to prevail on

his daughter to withdraw the

sexual harassment com-

plaint she had filed against a

Mr. Satheesan said the vic-

tim had stated that Mr. Sa-

seendran had used a menac-

ing tone with her parent.

The Minister appeared to

know the details of the case

State-level party leader.

Saseendran in eye of another storm

Forest Minister accused of shielding sex offender, puts LDF govt. on backfoot



In solidarity: Over 20 seers met Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa at his official residence. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

the BJP is planning to unseat Yediyurappa. We are here to express our moral support to the Chief Minister... If there are internal problems in the BJP, the party leadership should resolve them imme-

He argued that while Mr. Yediyurappa may belong to

registered at Kundara police

station in Kollam district and

had urged the NCP worker to

settle the case amicably, he

Mr. Satheesan said the Mi-

nister had misused his office

to afford government protec-

The Minister's continuation

in the Cabinet was morally

untenable, Mr. Satheesan

said, adding that political

propriety demanded that

Mr. Saseendran has, ho-

wever, denied the allegation,

stating that he had merely in-

tervened to settle a dispute

He said he was not aware

of the true nature of the

complaint and did not know

it was a case of sexual harass-

between two NCP workers.

Minister

immediately.

tion to a sex offender.

'Morally untenable'

the Lingayat caste and religion, he was a leader for all. "He is a leader who treats everyone equally. He has worked for the development of all castes and religions equally," the seer said, at a press conference at his mutt.

Meanwhile, speculation about a change in leadership

ment. The NCP State leader-

ship has hinted that it would

Mr. Saseendran is no stran-

ger to controversy. As Tran-

sport Minister in the pre-

vious LDF government in

2017, he was ousted from the

Cabinet over a salacious tele-

phone conversation with a

woman who posed as a re-

porter for a fledgeling televi-

sion channel. The channel

later aired the conversation,

unleashing a political storm

that swept Mr. Saseendran

jayan later reinstated Mr. Sa-

seendran after the police

concluded that he was "the

victim of a sting operation

launched by the channel to

gain relevance and viewer-

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vi-

out of office.

investigate the episode.

Another scandal

Karnataka CM cancels BJP legislature party meeting

Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa is learnt to have cancelled the BJP legislature party meeting scheduled for July 26, which is the day that marks the second anniversary of his government. However, party legislators will still be meeting on July 25 for a dinner to be hosted by him in Bengaluru. "It is only a dinner and not a legislature party meeting," a BJP leader said.

has caused concern among Ministers who came from other parties to help the BJP form the government in the State in 2019.

It is learnt that these Ministers met in Bengaluru on Monday night. The Ministers are learnt to have decided to maintain a united front

Was arrested Fouzia tells HC

Fouzia Hassan, the Maldivian woman who was acquitted in the Indian Space Research Organisation (IS-RO) espionage case, has informed the Kerala High Court that she and her friend, Mariam Rasheeda, were arrested in the case without credible evidence and that two former police officers, S. Vijayan and Thambi S. Durgadutt, had set the law in motion in violation of the Official Secrets

The submission was tist Nambi Narayanan.

without proof,

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

made on Tuesday when opposing the anticipatory bail pleas of the two former officers in a case registered by the CBI in connection with the conspiracy to frame former ISRO scien-

. 16....33.3....26.2

15....28.9....24.0

. 15....28.2....18.8

38....31.9....24.0

. 83....29.4....22.9

14.8....27.2....21.0

7 29 2 23 7

. 63....25.6....18.5

24 22 6 16 6

10....36.2....24.6

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

.104

.179 .113

.63 .103

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

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

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

NORTH & EAST

'Govt. will be forced to scrap farm laws'

People will change the dispensation that brought these legislations: O.P. Chautala

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA CHANDIGARH

Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) president Om Prakash Chautala on Tuesday visited two farmer protest sites and said the stir will force the government to scrap the "black farm laws" and the people will change the dispensation that brought in these legislations.

The former Haryana Chief Minister said this fight is not only of farmers and labourers. "It is the fight of the whole nation, and the eyes of the whole world are on this farmers' agitation."

Visit to protest sites

MOHAMMED IQBAL

The water harvesting struc-

tures in the villages of Rajas-

than, including ponds, ani-

cuts, check dams, 'johads'

and 'nadis', will be studied

to find out their contribution

to the increase in groundwa-

ter level. Chief Minister Ash-

ok Gehlot has given instruc-

tions for starting the water

catchment development

works after the monsoon

The water harvesting struc-

tures were mostly construct-

ed under the Mahatma

season is over.

Progress reviewed

Mr. Chautala (86) had said he would visit protest sites to extend his support to the farmers and on Tuesday, he went to Palwal in Haryana and Ghazipur in Uttar Pradesh.



O.P. Chautala

The INLD has extended support to the farmers who are protesting against the Centre's farm laws. His son and senior party leader Abhay Singh Chautala had earlier resigned as MLA from the Haryana Assembly in their support. Several farmers have been protesting against the farm laws at Palwal and Ghazipur for months.

Addressing a farmers' gathering in Palwal, Mr.

Water harvesting structures

Focus would be on contribution to increase groundwater

Scheme (MGNREGS).

While reviewing the pro-

gress of works related to wa-

tershed development and

land conservation, Mr. Geh-

lot said here that the

schemes in these sectors

would be monitored at the

"Despite the famine and

drought situations arising

several times in the past in

Rajasthan, the water availa-

bility has increased in the

areas with low rainfall fol-

lowing the construction of

water harvesting struc-

Guarantee

to be studied in Rajasthan

ployment

State level.

Chautala said, "If farmers are happy, then the country is prosperous, if they are not happy, the nation cannot progress...It is because of wrong policies of the BIP government that lives of people in different sections of society, including farmers, have become difficult. This government wants to make pro-corporate policies."

He said the stir against the farm laws is going strong as it has countrywide support and the agitation will force the government to "scrap the farm laws". "This government which brought these legislations will also be changed by the people..," he said, adding that his party is standing in support of the farmers.

Mr. Chautala said all his life, former Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal struggled to ensure that farmers, weaker sections and other common people get their due. "We want to realise the dreams of late Chaudhary Devi Lal. All his life he struggled for one thing - that hard working farmers and the common man should be happy," he said.

'BIP misrule'

The INLD president also attacked the BJP-led dispensations at the Centre and in Haryana, claiming that they had made tall promises at the time of elections, "but when they came to power they did just the opposite".

"In a democratic set up, people elect their government whose responsibility is to work towards the people's welfare. However, today various sections are fed up with their misrule," he claimed.

University of Calcutta exams rescheduled

BISHWANATH GHOSH KOLKATA

The University of Calcutta on Tuesday rescheduled the final semester exams for undergraduate students following protests by students, teachers and many principals.

As per the original schedule, the exams for the honours course were to be held on July 29 and 30 and for general course from July 29 to August 2, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and again from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

According to a notice issued on Tuesday evening, the honours exams will now be spread across four days, from July 29 to August 1, with only one examination to be held per day.

SEARCH FOR MISSING



PRAKASH

CHANDER

one person Namely: Prakash Chander, S/o: Pani Ram, R/o: D-2/165, Servant Quarter Kaka Nagar, New Delhi, Age: About 51 Years, Face: Oval, Built: Thin, Wearing: Pink Shirt and Black Pant, Black Colour Sleeper in feet has been missing since 08.05.2021 from the his house. In this regard DD No. 35A, Dated 22.05.2021 has been lodged at PS. Tuglak Road, New Delhi.

General Public is hereby informed that

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing person but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing person please inform the undersigned. Web-site: http://cbi.nic.in

E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in Fax: 011-24368639 DP/295/NDD/2021

PS. Tuglak Road, New Delhi Ph.: 011-23012100 & 8750870524

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one male namely was found unconscious in the jurisdiction of PS New Delhi Railway Station New Delhi. He was admitted in LHMC hospital vide GD No. 18-A dated 11/07/21 vide MLC No. 1346 dated 13/07/21. He again admitted in LHMC hospital vide MLC No. 1364 dated 13/07/2021. He was declared dead during treatment. In this regard a GD No. 22-A dated 14/07/2021 has been registered in P.S. New

Delhi Railway Station New Delhi. The description of above mentioned person is as under

Name: Pappu S/o Sh. Ayodhya Prasad , S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age About 45 years Height: About 5'9" Feet, Complexion: Shallow, Built: Thin Face: Long, Wearing: Dark Blue Shirt and Black Colour Pant Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information

about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform at email: ciccbi@cbi.nic.in Fax: No.011-230111334 and Telephone . No.: 01123014046 (Direct), 011-3015229 & 23015218 Extn 210 S.H.O

P.S. New Delhi Railway Station, New Delhi Ph.: 011-23744073, 8750871305 DP/181/RLY/2021

Government of Himachal Pradesh Jal Shakti Vibhag

"Invitation for online Bids"

The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division Dehra invites following e-tenders on behalf o Sovernor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following wor nrough e-tendering process:-

Name of Work	cost		completion
Providing FHTC to Households under LWSS	Rs.	Rs.	Two years
Surani ,WSS Khundian, WSS Gharna & Jakhnal in	27262442/-	305124/	
Tehsil Khundian Distt. Kangra (Under Jal Jeevan			
Mission) in single package on "Turn-key job			
basis" including trial run, defect and liability period			
six months after physical completion of all			
components).			

Last date of filling/ uploading the tender through e-tendering :- 02/08/2021 upto 11.00 A.M The tender form and other detailed conditions can be obtained from the website www

Chandigarh Electricity Department Chandigarh Administration

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

Tender No. OP2/08/2021-22 – for the replacement of existing old/outlived/burn ACSR with ACSR 103mm2 in Ram Darbar, Phase-I & II for improvement of LC System under electricity 'op' S/ Divn. No-5, Indl. Area, Ph-I, U.T. Chandigarh. The subject cited tender due to be opened on dated i.e. 19.07.2021 at 16.00 Hrs is hereby extended upto 26.07.2021 at 14.00 Hrs. for uploading and opening date 26 07 2021 at 16 00 Hrs. due to administrative

All the other terms and conditions shall remain the same Electricity (OP) Division No. 2

Chandigarh, U.T

New Power House, Indl. Area, Ph-I, U.T. Chandigarh. Contact No. 0172-2655531 (O), 2637880 (Fax) E-mail Add: elop2-chd@nic.in

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified deadbody of male Age: 39 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Wheatish, Build: Normal, Face: Long, wearing white colour shirt and grey colour pant, was found dead on 10.07.2021 at Dandi Ashram Chowk, Jamuna

No. 60-A dated 10.07.2021 u/s 174 Cr.P.C. has been lodged at P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi. Any person having any information or clue about this

Bazar, Kashmere Gate, Delhi, In this regard a DD

found person may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO: P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi

Tel. No. 011-23968730

HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

On line bid on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Vibhaq Division **Dharampur Bharari** on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh. In electronic tendering system in two covers for the under mentioned works from the contractors/ firm: of appropriate class enlisted with Himachal Pradesh Jal Shakti Vibhag.

Sr.No.1. Name of Work:- Construction of Junior Engineer Residence & store a Tihra in Tehsil Dharamour District Mandi (HP) (SH:- Construction of JE Residence & Sectional store i/c Sanitary & Electrical installations, Septic tank) Estimated Cost: 32,06,569/- Earnest Money:-55,599/- Cost of Tender Form :-Rs.400/- Time limit:-Nii

KEY DATES:-

DP/1349/N/21

Date of online publication

V. Date of opening online bids

II. Downloading of e-tender documents III. Last date of submission of e-tender. IV. Last date for Physical submission of Earnest 20.07.2021at 5.00 P.M. 20.07.2021 at 5.00 P.M. 27.07.2021 upto 5.00 P.M. 28.07.2021 upto 11:00 A.M.

28.07.2021 at 11:30 A.M.

The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be obtained from the website

Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division Dharampur

Gandhi National Rural Em-

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

tures," Mr. Gehlot said.

The Chief Minister asked the officials to approve water

works could be taken up.

catchment

development

works under the Rajiv Gand-

hi Jal Sanchay Yojana on

priority, while pointing out

that the scheme was aimed

at increasing the groundwa-

ter level and preparing wa-

ter harvesting structures.

4.000 villages covered

The scheme, which was

launched in the State in Au-

gust 2019, lays emphasis on

retaining the water in the

agricultural fields. Over

4,000 villages have been co-

vered in the scheme's first

phase after the identification

of 247 lakh hectare land

where the water catchment

A ND-NDE

Spy in hand

The Govt. must come clean on the issues raised by revelations of phone surveillance

t least a 1,000 Indian phone numbers are in a list of potential targets of surveillance using the Pe-▲gasus spyware sold by Israeli company the NSO Group to "vetted governments" with the approval of the Israeli government. Of these, 300 numbers have been verified; 22 phones were subjected to forensic analysis by Amnesty International and peer reviewed by University of Toronto's Citizen Lab. Of these, 10 were clearly established as being targeted by Pegasus; eight of the other 12 yielded inconclusive results. The evidence is strong, and the credibility of these revelations is extremely high. Indian citizens were indeed targets of a vicious, abominable and uncivil surveillance campaign by a government entity, Indian or foreign. The buck stops with the Government of India. Instead of coming clean and explaining what it intends to do to protect citizens, the GoI has fallen back on a disingenuous claim that no illegal surveillance is possible in India. There are legal provisions for intercepting communication and accessing digitally stored information in the interests of national security and public safety. The capture of a handheld machine by Pegasus turns that into a real-time spy on the target who can be watched over and followed every step. This surveillance is total, into their private and intimate lives, which have no bearing on any public interest.

The cohort of people who were potential targets – journalists, politicians, probably a Supreme Court judge and a former Election Commissioner - does not indicate that the surveillance was necessitated by national security or public safety concerns. It is safe to assume that no information regarding terrorism or Chinese intrusion can be obtained by spying on a woman who complained of sexual harassment by a former CJI. On the contrary, the composition suggests that private craving, turpitude and even voyeurism motivated the perpetrators. This violation is about privacy and much more. Information obtained illegally may have been used to compromise institutions, to steal elections, sabotage Opposition campaigns, and even dislodge an Opposition government. That the accused in the Bhima Koregaon case had their computers breached by unknown entities to plant evidence that the prosecution is now using against them is notable in this context. That state agencies can trample upon the lives of citizens in such manner while elected representatives plead ignorance is unsettling for a democracy. This is antithetical to the basic creed of democracy. The truth about these revelations must be unearthed through an investigation by a IPC or by the Supreme Court or any other credible mechanism. A starting point for the Government must be in clearing the air on the foremost question it is skirting around – has any Indian agency bought Pegasus?

Sharing during scarcity

A.P. and Telangana must focus on water and energy efficiency rather than on new projects

The Union Ministry of Ial Shakti's gazette notification on the jurisdiction of the Krishna and Godavari River Management Boards over projects and assets in the fields of irrigation and hydropower, though delayed, is a welcome development. The two river boards can now administer, regulate, operate and maintain 36 projects in the Krishna Basin and 71 in the Godavari to ensure judicious water use in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The arrangement is expected to leave the working of Water Resources or Irrigation Department in the States intact. The seven-year delay to get the notification only reflects the tense equations between the two States over river water sharing. The States have been locked in a battle of sorts over the utilisation of Krishna water, with Andhra Pradesh proposing a few projects, including a lift irrigation scheme for Rayalaseema, a region from where Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy hails, and, in turn, Telangana coming up with half-a-dozen projects of its own. Although the Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat – the chairperson of the apex council of the two river boards - had said that the Centre would go ahead with notifying the jurisdiction of the boards, it took nine months to see whether a reluctant Telangana would fall in line. The seven-year-old State had held the view that the notification should flow from finalisation by a tribunal on Krishna water sharing by the two States that would enlarge the scope of reference of the existing Krishna Water Dispute Tribunal (KWDT)-II. Telangana had even moved the Supreme Court but the Centre said it would consider Telangana's request only if it withdrew its petition which it did. In the process, Telangana wanted its complaint to be referred to the current Tribunal to avoid duplication of inquiry.

The Centre must now see to it that the empowered Boards function in a fair manner, as the Union government's decision will be final with regard to matters concerning jurisdiction of the two bodies. Both States have their own justification to pursue new water and power projects as several areas await economic development. Rayalaseema is a dry region and it was grievances over poor utilisation of the two rivers in then undivided Andhra Pradesh that was a factor that led to the bifurcation. At the same time, the two States should instead focus on water and energy conservation and improving the efficiency of irrigation schemes and hydel reservoirs. Given the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the finances of the Centre and in States, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh do need to consider these alternatives and low-cost options. After studying the experiences of the revamped Boards, the Centre should look at turning the much talked-about concept of river basin organisations into a reality.

Pegasus is India's Watergate moment

Intelligence gathering needs to be professionalised, parliamentary oversight introduced, and liberties and law protected



PRANESH PRAKASH

66 Tf this government ever became a tyranny, if a dictator ever took charge in this country, the technological capacity that the intelligence community has given the government could enable it to impose total tyranny, and there would be no way to fight back because the most careful effort to combine together in resistance to the government, no matter how privately it was done, is within the reach of the government to know. Such is the capability of this technology." Those words of Sen. Frank Church, who led one of two committees on intelligence and surveillance reform established in the aftermath of the Watergate scandal, are just as relevant in India today given the revelations of extensive surveillance – it is unclear by whom, but signs point to the Indian government by the use of spyware on people's phones. While there is much to be said about the international regulation of the unaccountable sale of spyware by shadowy entities such as the NSO Group, it is equally, if not more important to ensure that surveillance in India is made accountable.

Go easy on the salt

My former colleague, Sunil Abraham, often likens surveillance to salt. A small amount of surveillance is necessary for the health of the body politic, just as salt is for the body; in excess, both are dangerous. While one cannot enjoy the liberties provided under the Constitution without national security, we must equally remember that national security is not meaningful if it comes at the cost of the very liberties such security is supposed to allow us to enjoy.

Excessive and unaccountable surveillance imperils privacy, freedom of thought, of speech, and has a chilling effect on people's behaviour, while shattering the bedrock of the rule of law upon which a constitutional liberal democracy is built.

The government claims all its surveillance is authorised and justified. But then, the question arises: where are the prosecutions for terrorism, organised crime, espionage, etc., based on evidence from such surveillance? Who is ensuring that the surveillance is necessary and proportionate? Indeed, on the contrary, there are numerous examples of surveillance powers being misused for personal and political gain, and to harass opponents.

Earlier examples

In 2012 in Himachal Pradesh, the new government raided police agencies and recovered over a lakh phone conversations of over a thousand people, mainly political members, and many senior police officials, including the Director General of Police (DGP), who is legally responsible for conducting phone taps in the State.

In 2013, India's current Home Minister was embroiled in a controversy dubbed "Snoopgate", with phone recordings alleged to be of him speaking to the head of an anti-terrorism unit to conduct covert surveillance on a young architect and her family members without any legal basis. The Gujarat government admitted the surveillance, including phone tapping, but claimed it was done on the basis of a request made to the Chief Minister by the woman's father. Yet, no order signed by the State's Home Secretary – a legal necessity for a phone tap - was ever produced, and the Gujarat High Court shut down an inquiry into "Snoopgate" upon the request of the architect and her father, on the shocking basis that it "did not involve public interest".

In 2009, the United Progressive



Alliance government swore in an affidavit in the Supreme Court that the CBDT had placed Niira Radia, a well-connected PR professional, under surveillance due to fears of her being a foreign spy. Yet, while they kept her under surveillance for 300 days, they did not prosecute her for espionage

Non-state actors such as the Essar group, have also been shown to engage in illegal surveillance. K.K. Paul, then the Governor of Meghalaya, noted complaints by telecom operators that private individuals were misusing police contacts to tap phone calls of "opponents in trade or estranged spouses".

There are dozens of such examples of unlawful surveillance which seem to be for political and personal gain, and have nothing to do with national security or organised crime. Yet, there are few examples of people being held legally accountable for unlawful

The laws

Currently, the laws authorising interception and monitoring of communications are Section 92 of the CrPC (for call records, etc), Rule 419A of the Telegraph Rules, and the rules under Sections 69 and 69B of the IT Act. Indeed, it is unclear when the Telegraph Act applies and when the IT Act applies. A limited number of agencies are provided powers to intercept and monitor.

In 2014, the Ministry of Home Affairs told Parliament that nine central agencies and the DGPs of all States and Delhi were empowered to conduct interception under the Indian Telegraph Act. In

2018, nine central agencies and one State agency were authorised to conduct intercepts under Section 69 of the IT Act. Yet, the Intelligence Organisations Act, which restricts the civil liberties of intelligence agency employees, only lists four agencies, while the RTI Act lists 22 agencies as "intelligence and security organisations established by the central government" that are exempt from the RTI Act. Thus, it is unclear which entities count as intelligence and security agencies.

Further, a surveillance alphabet soup exists, with programmes such as CMS, TCIS, NETRA, CCTNS, and so on, none of which has been authorised by any statute, and thus fall short of the 2017 K.S. Puttaswamy judgment, which made it clear that any invasion of privacy could only be justified if it satisfied three tests: first, the restriction must be by law; second, it must be necessary (only if other means are not available) and proportionate (only as much as needed); and third, it must promote a legitimate state interest (e.g., national security).

In 2010, then Vice-President Hamid Ansari called for a legislative basis for India's agencies, and the creation of a standing committee of Parliament on intelligence to ensure that they remain accountable and respectful of civil liberties. In 2011, the Cabinet Secretary in a note on surveillance held that the Central Board of Direct Taxes having interception powers was a continuing violation of a 1975 Supreme Court judgment on the Telegraph Act. That same year, parliamentarian Manish Tewari introduced a private member's Bill to bring intelligence agencies under a legislative framework. That Bill soon lapsed. In 2013, the Ministry of Defence-funded thinktank, the Institute for Defence and Strategic Analysis, published a report, "A Case for Intelligence Reforms in India", a core recommendation of which was: "the intelligence agencies in India must be provided a legal framework for their existence and functioning; their functioning must be under Parliamentary oversight and scrutiny".

In 2018, the Srikrishna Committee on data protection noted that post the K.S. Puttaswamy judgment, most of India's intelligence agencies are "potentially unconstitutional", since they are not constituted under a statute passed by Parliament – the National Intelligence Agency being an exception. In its 2019 election manifesto, the Indian National Congress - in what to my knowledge was a first for a national political party called for parliamentary oversight of intelligence agencies.

Post-Watergate reforms

The legacy of the Church Committee can be seen in the fact that the Snowden revelations in 2013 did not uncover any spying on Opposition politicians, journalists, judges, and human rights defenders for partisan political ends. What was shocking about the Snowden revelations was the extent of NSA's surveillance, the overreach of the powers provided under the PA-TRIOT Act, as well as the lack of sufficient checks and balances provided by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court. The Snowden revelations led to meaningful reform of that court, and controversial domestic surveillance provisions of the PATRIOT Act expired in 2020.

We need such reforms in India, which are aimed at professionalising intelligence gathering, bringing intelligence agencies under parliamentary oversight, making them non-partisan, and ensuring that civil liberties and rule of law are protected. This is India's Watergate moment, and the Supreme Court and Parliament should seize

Pranesh Prakash was a co-founder of the Centre for Internet and Society, and is an Information Society Project

The thread to grasp in the Kitex story

The saga of the garment maker's investment relocation points to the bargain between capitalism and democracy



VARGHESE K. GEORGE

T Then garment manufacturer, the Kitex Group, recently announced that it was rethinking its plans to make fresh investments in its home State of Kerala, nine other States competed to win its favour. They offered it financial incentives and other sops. The company chose Telangana; the State had not only offered it the "best deal" but also sent a plane for the company leaders to travel to Hyderabad and meet the Minister for Industries. Kerala's often toxic trade unionism has been the major factor in derailing the industrial ambitions of the State. But beyond the industrial climate of Kerala, the Kitex episode mirrors an ongoing global bargain between capitalism and democracy.

Key questions

The foremost industrial societies are grappling with this question, and the G7 countries have taken the initiative to move towards a global minimum tax on corporations and to obligate companies to pay more taxes where they operate also as opposed to where they are headquartered. At the heart of the debate are two questions. First, how does a capitalist enterprise relate to the political and social organisation in its location? Second, how do different jurisdictions compete for investments. and at what social cost? Now, a recap of the Kitex story with reference to these questions.

Kitex is primarily export-oriented and counts American retail

giant Walmart among its global clients. Located in the Kizhakkambalam panchayat near Kochi, the company employs nearly 10,000 people, most of them from outside Kerala. In 2015, the corporate social responsibility activities of the company took a political form. Under the banner 'Twenty20' Kizdates in the local body elections, in a sensational move. It won 17 of the 19 seats and took control of the panchayat (https://bit.ly/3zlVxgl). In the 2020 local body elections, it captured power in three more panchavats. In the 2021 Kerala Assembly elections, Twenty20 fielded candidates in eight segments and performed well, though nobody won. Along the way, in 2020, the group had announced ₹3,500 crore of fresh investments in the

Things suddenly turned turtle after the May Assembly results; the company said that the 11 inspections it had at its sites in the month of June were nothing but harassment. The government said these inspections were in response to specific complaints regarding human and labour rights violations. The company chairman berated the investment climate in Kerala. At the end of it all, Kitex announced its decision to move to

Compact of social control

The regulations that cover labour relations, the environment, and natural resources and taxes make up the compact of social control over private enterprises. The social compact between capitalism and democracy is negotiated through elected representatives and bureaucrats. This negotiation turns out in practice to be legal and illegal, and through formal and informal means. Rules are there, but bribes and political donations are also a part of it. In plac-

es where democracy is dispersed and political action is multilevel, such negotiations become more complex. For instance, in Kerala, even the Chief Minister is unable to enforce everything that he thinks appropriate – a point that the Kitex chairman has repeatedly made. It is in places where the chief executive has untrammelled power that all decisions are at the 'single window'.

Based on all these considerations, the investor has to make his decisions at two levels – where to locate the capital, and how to deal with the social and political issues there. As American States began to compete with one another to attract investors, the phrase 'raceto-the-bottom' came into use in the early 20th century, denoting the competition to please capital. and overlook other factors such as the environment and labour. This race turned global towards the end of the century. Countries, and jurisdictions within countries, are encouraged to compete with one another. In 2015, India partnered with the World Bank to launch the Ease of Doing Business ranking of States, following the global ranking model.

The investor friendliness of a State is often reduced to its willingness and capability to override the interests of the labour, environment, and indigenous populations. How tax concessions impact State capacity is a linked question. With States losing most taxation

powers, tax concessions are not a viable allurement that they can offer any more. Iharkhand is ranked five in the Ease of Doing Business ranking;; Kerala is at 28 (https:// bit.ly/3hQRTF5). The previous government of Jharkhand would jail 3,000 Adivasis who claimed legalduled Areas) Act (PESA) and the Forest Rights Act (FRA). The fight for their legal rights led Jesuit priest Father Stan Swamy to imprisonment and death in custody at the age of 84, recently. In the poverty score card (out of 100) in the Sustainable Development Goals Index 2019-20, Jharkhand is 28, while Kerala gets 64.

The American example

Before the rise of globalisation, the capitalist had to negotiate with the political system at its base. The influence of corporations in U.S. democracy remains a contentious topic. In 2010, the U.S. Supreme Court allowed unlimited election spending by corporations and billionaires. They promote or undermine particular causes and personalities. The Kitex group took this model to a step further and directly captured political power in four panchayats, even as complaints of pollution rose against it. Not stopping there, its chairman proposed that bigger companies should follow his model and take over political administration across the country. But controlling four panchayats did not amount to control over the overarching political sys-

tem. Hence, relocation. The story of globalisation is a story of capital's enhanced capacity to flee from the shackles of too much democracy to places that are well-controlled under a strong regime, where all clearances are available at a 'single window'. Investments moved to places where

environmental regulations are lax, wages are low, labour standards are weak, and dissent is answered with an iron fist. This was working perfectly until its ripple effects reached the shores of western democracies. Now the West is waking up to the challenge and the G7 ly guaranteed rights under the move is an acknowledgment of the crisis. U.S. Secretary of the Treasi ry Janet L. Yellen now talks about the "working class". "That global minimum tax would end the race to the bottom in corporate taxation, and ensure fairness for the middle class and working people in the U.S. and around the world," she said recently. This would also be "encouraging countries to compete on positive bases, such as educating and training our work forces and investing in research and development and infrastruc-

Need for a national standard

Rather than vilifying Kerala for its alleged hostility to investments and glorifying the opportunism of capital, the need of the hour is to discuss the requirement of a national standard for corporate governance, environment and labour, alongside the forceful implementation of the laws that guarantee the rights of indigenous communities in the development

It is ironic that India is encouraging competition among States as a route to development at a time when the most advanced industrial societies are realising the limits of competition and pushing for better global standards in labour, environment and taxation. Turning the development aspirations of States into a modern-day gladiator sport is hardly in line with the slogan that we are asked to repeat – One India.

varghese.g@thehindu.co.in

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

Spyware unleashed

As more disturbing details emerge regarding the alleged misuse of an Israel-made spyware which seems to have been used to keep track of 'targets' from different walks of life, the point that emerges is that it is an assault on one's fundamental right to privacy. The Government has also not explicitly

confirmed or even denied that it obtained the spy tool. The Government is unlikely to accede to a demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee. Even otherwise, nothing comes out of such committees. It is a fit case for the Supreme Court to take suo motu cognisance of and order a Court-monitored

time-bound investigation. S.K. CHOUDHURY, ■ The NSO Group says the

spyware is 'sold only to government agencies'. Going by conventional wisdom, no foreign intelligence or enforcement agency is likely to be very interested in snooping on Indian journalists, social activists

and others. So, the needle of suspicion points to one or more of our own intelligence or enforcement agencies. Even if no government department is involved, it is the duty of the Government to inform us who is. G.G. MENON,

■ Eavesdropping on friend and foe is as old as

Chanakya's Arthasastra. It has only gained sophistication over time, with technology as a boon. Even the Telegraph Act, 1885 was amended to include powers for the government to selectively intercept conversations. The problem now is that data may not be on India-based servers and hence the control on

information is with alier

online, scan the QR code

agencies, not subject to our laws or supervision. It is in the interest of political parties across the spectrum to go beyond scoring brownie points and look at the larger picture that involves far serious and long-term national interests. R. NARAYANAN, Navi Mumbai

India's equity market bubble may burst soon

With all agencies downsizing growth projections, the equity market is vulnerable to a major correction



PRASENIIT BOSE & INDRANIL CHOWDHURY

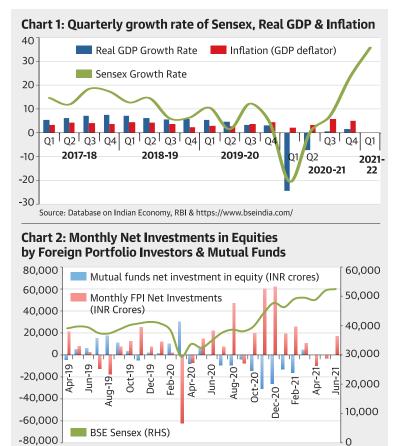
Even as the real economy returns to the doldrums after being hit by the second wave of COVID-19 infections, the continuing bull run in India's equity market in the April-June quarter has baffled many observers. After breaching the 41,000-mark between December 2019 and February 2020, the benchmark BSE Sensex had nosedived to below 28,000 in March-April 2020, following the nationwide lockdown. Although India's stringent lockdown could not prevent the CO-VID-19 pandemic from doing considerable damage, the equity market posted a sharp V-shaped recovery in 2020-21. The Sensex surged beyond 50,000 in February 2021 and is currently closing on the 53,000 level.

Why is there an equity bubble?

This equity market exuberance at a time of severe socio-economic distress has prodded the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s annual report (2020-21) to state: "This order of asset price inflation in the context of the estimated 8 per cent contraction in GDP in 2020-21 poses the risk of a bubble." An analysis in the same annual report though sees "a part of Sensex increase" as "rational", being supported by improved corporate earnings.

Whether bubbles can at all be "rational" remains a matter of academic debate. Empirical evidence across several centuries, however, bears out a home truth – sooner or later, bubbles burst. There was an 81%-plus growth in the Sensex between April 2020 and March 2021 in the backdrop of real GDP growth plummeting to -7.3% during the same period. While output contraction had reversed from the third quarter of 2020-21, the inflation rate also rose and remained way ahead of the real GDP growth rate in the last two quarters (Chart 1). It is difficult to find any rationality behind the skyrocketing BSE Sensex in the context of such stagflation in the real economy.

Just like the precipitous fall in the equity prices was driven by foreign portfolio investors (FPI) net selling



over ₹68,800 crore worth of equities in March-April 2020, the return of massive FPI inflows has driven the Indian equity bubble since then (Chart 2). Net FPI inflows clocked an unprecedented ₹2.74 lakh crore in 2020-21, the previous high being ₹1.4 lakh crore in 2012-13. While the mutual funds were net sellers during 2020-21 to the tune of ₹1.2 lakh crore, retail investors chased higher equity market returns, with the interest rates falling across the board. As reported by the RBI, 1.43 crore demat accounts were opened in 2020-21 as against around 50 lakh accounts opened in 2019-20.

The equity bubble in India has not evolved in isolation. The global liquidity glut, following the expansionary, easy money policies adopted by the fiscal and monetary authorities of the OECD and G20 countries, has led to equity price inflation in several markets driven by FPIs, especially in Asia. Following cues from the U.S. and the U.K., Asian equity markets in Singapore, India, Thailand, Malaysia and Hong

Source: SEBI, NSDL & https://www.bseindia.com/ Kong are currently witnessing price earnings (P/E) ratios significantly above their historic means. The BSE Sensex's P/E ratio of 32 in end-June 2021 is way above its historic mean of around 20.

> **Correction in the equity market** With COVID-19 vaccination and economic recovery proceeding apace in the U.S., the U.K. and Europe, fiscal and monetary policy stances will change soon. Once the U.S. Federal Reserve and other central banks start raising interest rates, the direction of FPI flows will invariably change bringing about corrections in equity

> markets across Asia. India remains particularly vulnerable to a major correction in the equity market because of two reasons. First, the pace of COVID-19 vaccination in India, given the vast population, lags behind most large countries. India has so far fully vaccinated only 6.3% of its population. Within G20 countries, only Indonesia and South Africa are at similar levels, with 6.1% and 2.9% of their pop-

fully vaccinated respectively. Many other countries have ensured much higher rates of vaccination. The U.S., the U.K. and China have fully vaccinated half their populations. In contrast, insufficient budgetary allocation and mismanagement of vaccine procurement has created severe supply bottlenecks in India, which have brought down the pace of vaccination in July. In the absence of a substantial increase in the vaccination budget and procurement, large segments of the Indian population will remain vulnerable to a potential third wave of COVID-19, with its attendant deleterious impact on the real economy. Second, India's economic recovery from the recession will remain constrained by the weak fiscal stimulus that has been delivered by the Central government. Data from the IMF clearly show that while the total global stimulus consisted of additional public spending or revenue foregone measures amounting to 7.4% of global GDP, India's fiscal measures amounted to 3.3% of GDP only, less than half of the global average. Only three countries in the G20 had a smaller fiscal stimulus than India's (Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Mexico). The large doses of additional liquidity support, which in many of the G20 countries/ regions like the European Union, Japan, South Korea, India and Turkey exceeded the size of the fiscal measures, have contributed more to the equity bubbles than to spurring

real economic activity. The second COVID-19 wave had hit India at a time when the economy had just started showing signs of acceleration, reflected in a sharp rise in GST collections and gross tax revenues in April 2021. The consequent lockdowns once again disrupted economic activity and led to a deceleration in GST and gross tax revenues in May and June 2021. With all agencies, including the RBI, downsizing India's growth projections for 2021-22, it remains to be seen whether India's equity bubble lasts beyond end-August 2021, when the first quarter GDP results are due. If it does, it will only be for a while, before one or the other possible trigger causes speculative finance capital to change its course.

Praseniit Bose is a Kolkata-based economist and activist; Indranil Chowdhury teaches economics at PGDAV College, Delhi University

Accepting radical otherness

The erosion of our ability to accept the radical differences amongst communities has resulted in strife



The U.S.-based Pew Research Center's survey has thrown up an interesting finding on religious tolerance in India: Indians of all faiths, paradoxically, support both religious tolerance and religious segregation. Most Indians (84%) surveyed said that respecting all religions is very important to them and all religious groups must be allowed to practise their faith freely. Yet, a considerable number of them also said they preferred to have religious groups segregated and live and marry within their own community.

This curious finding has resulted in a BBC Asia report stating that India is neither a melting pot (diverse cultures blending into one common national identity) nor a salad bowl (different cultures retaining their specific characteristics while assimilating into one national identity) but a thali (an Indian meal comprising separate dishes on a platter where they are combined in specific ways). The academic Pratap Bhanu Mehta concluded that the survey shows that though India is committed to religious diversity, it is "exclusionary and segmented in toleration".

An 'unheroic form of tolerance'

Sociologist Ashis Nandy had developed a framework in the 2000s to understand these preferences. In a keynote address delivered in Australia (2010), Mr. Nandy observed that this form of living constituted a distinctly Asian cosmopolitanism. It had developed in regions which have to accommodate not just diversities but "radical diversities" that may prove to be dangerous if they are brought together in the same space. To accommodate these differences and peculiarities in the practices of different communities, everyday mechanisms of coping have evolved. This has resulted in a unique form of cosmopolitanism where differences can be accommodated without pressuring members of one community to be like the other based on a notion of universal brotherhood. On the contrary, members of one community can go to extraordinary lengths to help members of the other community maintain their own customary practices including their separate dining and dietary habits. Mr. Nandy called it a tolerance that is built into people's everyday rhythms, is not backed by any ideological justification, and involves no sense of obligation to each other. He termed it an

"unheroic form of tolerance" that allows interaction for various purposes without forcing one to declare brotherly love or adopt the other community's practices.

It is this kind of cosmopolitanism that Mr. Nandy found operative in Kochi. In one of his earlier essays on Kochi (2001), he explored why the city, which has close to 15 diverse communities, had not witnessed any major religious strife in its 600 years of recorded history. When he interviewed people, they reasoned that Keralites are educated or progressive. But a different story emerged when he probed them about their own life histories. "Kochi's tolerance was, alas, based on mutual dislike," he wrote. Every community had an account from its own past to show that it was better than the others. This included two Iewish communities, each of which generally prevented its children from marrying those from the other community. Hence, Kochi's pluralism and communal amity included hostilities and distances which, 'because they operate within a widely shared psychological universe, have certain in-built checks against mass violence."

This model of cosmopolitanism, where people accept "the otherness of the others", is very different from the Enlightenment version which teaches us to divest ourselves of all prejudices so that we can emerge as the unbiased citizens of the nation state. The latter, a tougher version of tolerance, Mr. Nandy argued, forces us to hide our prejudices and preferences. As a result, everyday living becomes a struggle. It also leads to superficial forms of tolerance of diversity compatible with the demands of the middle class and the modern nation state where one can no longer accept radical diversities.

Another cosmopolitanism

Mr. Nandy's explanation helped me make sense of my traditional-minded mother's attitude on the cow slaughter bill that became an issue in Karnataka. While she showed her distaste at the thought of cows being slaughtered for food, when asked if the practice should be banned, she said, "But how can you ban it. It is their food. They have been eating it for years." Mr. Nandy's framework allows us to make sense of such seemingly contradictory actions in our everyday lives. Is this form of living detrimental to the health of a society or is this another unique form of cosmopolitanism whose organic form must be recognised? Perhaps it is the erosion of our abilities to accept the "radical otherness" of people who are different from us that has resulted in much strife today.

Shashikala Srinivasan is the author of Liberal Education and Its Discontents

Biden's political pick

Eric Garcetti could provide momentum to the bilateral global strategic partnership

K.V. PRASAD

There is considerable excitement in Indian diplomatic circles on the nomination of the next U.S. Ambassador. Six months after President Joe Biden assumed office, the White House announced that Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti will be the next occupant at Roosevelt House in New Delhi.

Support from the President

Mr. Garcetti is a political pick of Mr. Biden and endorsed him during his run for the top political post. The nomination is also seen as support from the Biden camp to Mr. Garcetti after some high-profile controversy in the Mayor's office last year.

Mr. Biden is unhurried in making diplomatic appointments. The first set came in April. The latest announcement reflects the U.S.'s priorities as Washington prepares to host this September the first in-person summit meeting of the leaders of Quad.

While making public his acceptance of the nomination, the Ambassador-select promised to bring the same energy to the office that he demonstrated as an activist, teacher, a naval officer and a public servant. "And should I be confirmed, I'll bring this same energy, commitment, and love for this city to my new role and will forge partnerships and connections that will help Los Angeles," Mr. Garcetti tweeted.

People familiar with the workings of the administration in Washington suggest that Mr. Garcetti enjoys a strong backing from the Vice-President too. He served on the panel appointed by the Biden team to select the candidate for vice-presidency.

Considering the wide spectrum of interactions among the many sectors of New Delhi and Washington and the number of professionals engaged in conversations, his appointment should be looked at from the prism of both how things work inside the Beltway in Washington, D.C. and a reflection of politics of the West Coast, especially California. As a number of Indian-Americans

have been appointed in the Biden administration, a few aspirants with strong India connections will be disappointed. Reports say that a few with India Caucus on the House side Association Fellow with the U.S. Congress

also threw their hat in the ring. On this count, Mr. Garcetti's dealing with India or previous interactions would appear thin. The choice of the new envoy to India, who has a sprinkling of Hindi vocabulary in his lexicon, should open up the conversation.

Since the announcement, a quick observation of posts by the denizens of Los Angeles on social media on Mr. Garcetti shows that they are unflattering, but then such is the nature of politics. Mr. Garcetti served in the city council for two decades including the last eight years as the Mayor.

Yet, from the standpoint of India, what is important is that Mr. Garcetti can pick up the phone and talk to the President and the Vice-President when required to move the pieces to provide momentum to the bilateral 'global strategic partnership'.

Process of selection

The formalisation of his appointment awaits confirmation by the Senate, a requirement under the U.S. Constitution that states the President "shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers...".

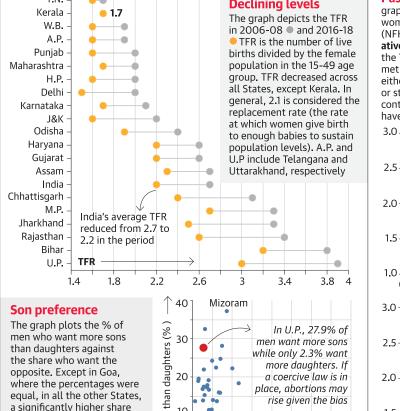
The confirmation process can take a few weeks after the President sends the list of names up the Capitol Hill. There is a growing practice to scrutinise names, with Committees examining the qualifications, policy preferences and independence of the nominees, and at times even seeking information on their health and financial assets.

The confirmation process has been debated over the years. Some political commentators hold a poor view of it while the legendary Senator, Robert C. Byrd, from West Virginia, defended it saying that if the Senate "rushes through a nomination without adequate investigation, it is accused of 'consent without advice, or being half-rubber, half-stamp". Taking part in proceedings in 1987, he remarked that the Senate would do disservice to a president by rushing any nomination. The process as mandated continues uninterrupted.

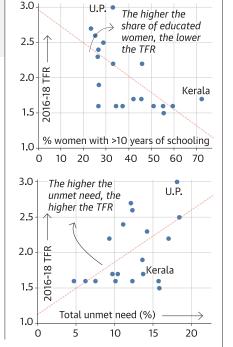
K.V. Prasad is a senior journalist and a former American Political Science

DATA POINT

a male child, the move could lead to more abortions. By Vignesh Radhakrishnan & Sumant Sen ■ In 28 States/UTs, the share of men ■ In all the 20 States with relevant ■ States with a higher share of women data, fertility levels have dropped significantly in the past decade with 10 or more years of schooling also have lower fertility rates who want more sons than daughters is significantly high the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of Uttar P<u>radesh between</u> 2006-08 and 2016-18. India's TFR came down by 18.5% in the same period ndia's tota fertility rate T.N. Passive methods work | The first **Declining levels** graph plots the TFR (2016-18) against Kerala The graph depicts the TFR women with >10 years of schooling W.B. in 2006-08 and 2016-18 (NFHS-4). The indicators have a high neg-A.P. TFR is the number of live ative correlation. The second graph plots Punjab births divided by the female



the TFR against % of women with an unmet need for family planning (women who either wanted to space their next birth or stop childbearing but were not using contraception) in 2015-16. The indicators have a high positive correlation



The Man Prindu. FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 21, 1971

Sudan under Communist control Major Hashem al Atta, who, last night over-

threw the Sudanese regime of his former comrade-in-arms, President Jaffar el Numeiry, in a second bloodless coup is a communist. Maj. Atta to-day [Cairo, July 20] cancelled a government ban on four communist organisations, representing the power base of the Sudanese Communist Party. The four groups were dissolved last February by the Numeiry regime, said Omdurman Radio. Contrary to earlier reports that Major General Numeiry was flown to exile in neighbouring United Arab Republic, the Iraqi News Agency said he was under arrest at Army Headquarters in Khartoum. The new rulers to-day formed a seven-man Revolutionary Council and consolidated their hold on Africa's largest country. The chairmanship of the Revolutionary Council went to Colonel Babikr el Noor Osman, a former Vice-Prime Minister who was dismissed in a major Government shake-up last November, along with Maj. Atta and the former Interior Minister, Maj. Osman Hamdalla, who is also included in the Council.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 21, 1921

We have always held that an enquiry into

The Press Act Committee (From an Editorial)

such laws as the Press Act and the Rowlatt Act is an enquiry about the obvious. Such an enquiry does nobody any good. It makes people suspicious of the intentions of Government, while for the reactionaries, if it results in any good, it must seem more insulting than solicitous. The net outcome of such enquiries, then, is an amount of extra expenditure which at this time of financial stringency ought to have been avoided by a wise Government. If anything more is gained, it can only be a bit of disappointment. With a small committee, the constituents of which are carefully selected gentlemen, there are better chances for the bureaucracy of successful huckstering; and we are afraid the Press Act Committee's Report leaves ample traces of higgling behind the scenes in a spirit of give and take. For the fact is that while the Committee has gone far to conciliate public opinion, it has not failed to gratify the wishes of reactionary officialdom. The Press of India is henceforth to be spared the humiliation of being kept under security. Nor need the nightmare of forfeiture of the security and the confiscation of the press disturb the peace of mind of independent journalists, publishers and printers.

More daughters than sons

of men want more sons than

Source: NFHS-4, NFHS-5,

daughters

SRS-2018

FROM PAGE ONE

Five Oppn. parties skip PMO briefing on COVID

The attendees included chief Sharad Pawar, Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut, TMC leader Derek O'Brien, SP leader Ramgopal Yadav, RJD leader Manoj K. Jha and CPI leader Bi-Viswam, among

'Discussion in House'

Many of the members argued that any discussion on COVID-19 must be on the floor of the House in the presence of all members. Selective briefing for just the floor leaders when Parliament was in session was not acceptable.

Within hours of the meeting, the government accepted the Opposition's position and allowed the debate on COVID-19 in the Rajya Sabha.

Following the discussion in the Rajya Sabha, many parties changed their stance - including the TMC, the NCP and the SP. CPI(M) Parliamentary Party leader Elamaram Kareem had written to Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi opposing the selective briefing on Mon-

AAP boycotts briefing

Though the AAP did not attend the Opposition meeting, it also decided to boycott the Health Secretary's briefing. In a tweet, the party's Rajya Sabha MP said the government needs to settle the issues raised by the farmers.

He said that when the whole country was suffering from COVID, the BJP was busy organising rallies, and it was now only doing lip service by organising this select briefing.

Two-thirds of Indians have antibodies: ICMR

COVID-19 prevalence | More than half of the children (6-17 years) had SARS-CoV-2 antibodies in India, according to the fourth national serosurvey conducted between June and July 2021

Indicator							
6-9	57.2						
10-17	61.6						
18-44	66.7						
45-60	77.6						
>60	76.7						
Male	65.8						
Female	69.2						
Rural	66.7						
Urban	69.6						
	6-9 10-17 18-44 45-60 >60 Male Female Rural						

67.6% of of the general population had SARS-CoV-2 antibodies in June-July 2021. The figure was 24.1% in Dec. '20-Jan. '21, 71% in Aug.-Sept. '20 and 0.7% in May-June '20 He added that the country Bhargava said it would be

healthcare workers while accelerating vaccination coverage among vulpopulation

had to work towards en-

suring full vaccination of

To a question on reopening of schools, Dr. better if primary schools were opened first as children showed better tolerance against the virus. However, he added that it should be done only after ensuring that all the staff members were fully vacci-

he was "not bothered

with." However, taking to

Twitter later, he said, "This

is one of the means to bring

down State governments

and bring up new govern-

ments to protect the Union

those

tweeted, "Every time we

believe the BJP-led Union

government cannot go any

lower, fresh proof arrives to

show they can and will

Sources said that Mr. Sid-

daramaiah, who does not

hold a personal number, often used the number of his

personal secretary Venka-

tesh which figures on the

list. Mr. Venkatesh has

been working with Mr. Sid-

daramaiah for over two de-

Mr. Kumaraswamy's PS

Satish's number and Mr.

Devegowda's security per-

sonnel Manjunath Mudde-

gowda's numbers also fi-

Interestingly, the BJP-led

State government had or-

dered a Central Bureau of

Investigation probe into al-

leged illegal phone tapping

of political leaders, espe-

brought down the coalition

government and their asso-

ciates during H.D. Kuma-

raswamy's tenure as Chief

Minister. Chief Minister B.

S. Yediyurappa had or-

dered the probe in August

2019, a month after coming

Recalling this, Mr. Kuma-

raswamy said in a tweet,

which had put me under

surveillance finally accused

me of phone tapping and

conducted a CBI inquiry."

'The Union government

defectors

gure on the list.

2019 probe

stoop to the lowest."

among

Parameshwara,

were targeted,

whose

Snooping in Karnataka before regime change

Though the BJP has denied any role in engineering their resignations, all 17 disqualified legislators are today members of the saffron party, with 11 of them being members of the State Cabi-

The Congress alleged that the spyware was used to topple the government, and demanded a Supreme Court-monitored probe into the matter. The party also targeted former Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi's judgement that exempted 14 Congress MLAs and three JD(S) MLAs from following the whips of their respective parties. The leaders pointed out that the woman who had alleged sexual harassment by Justice Gogoi was also a target for hacking in April, as per The Wire report.

Press meet in Delhi

Senior Congress leaders, including Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, former Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and party leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, held a press conference in Delhi to target the Central government over the latest revelations in the Pegasus snooping controversy.

Mr. Kharge said the party would raise the issue in the House as the Pegasus spyware is being used not just to target individuals but also institutions.

"They [Mr Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah] came to power through democratic means but are trying to install dictatorial regime," he said.

JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy initially sought to play down the revelations as a "routine process" that

Counter charges on COVID-19 response and vaccination: PM

Congress is not reconciled to being 'out of power', Modi tells BJP MPs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi told BJP MPs on Tuesday that the COVID-19 pandemic was a humanitarian crisis and not a political one.

He was addressing a meeting of the BJP's parliamentary party on the second day of the monsoon session of Parliament.

Monday was washed out by protests by the Opposition and Mr. Modi was not able to introduce his newly sworn-in Ministers to both Houses of Parliament.

Referring to the Opposition protests and attacks on his government's working on various issues, Mr. Modi said the Congress was not reconciled to being "out of power" and that despite its footprint shrinking and electoral defeat in States such as Assam, Kerala and Bengal, it was more "concerned" about the BJP rather than saving its own support among people.

He asked the party MPs to effectively counter the allegations of the Opposition, especially about COVID-19 response and availability of vaccination.



others at the BJP Parliamentary Party meeting on Tuesday. • PTI

Briefing presspersons after the meeting, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said Mr. Modi expressed concern at the attitude of the Opposition, "especially the Congress", which "still believes" that it had the right to be in power.

"Prime Minister Modi also told the BJP MPs that the government was willing to discuss anything in both Houses of Parliament but the Opposition was showing a most irresponsible attitude," Mr. Joshi said. The Prime Minister, sources said, also expressed concern that nearly 20% of frontline workers had not been vaccinated against COVID-19 despite their availability.

Sources present at the

meeting said that Mr. Modi urged the party MPs to ensure people on the ground when it came to preparations for a possible third wave of the pandemic.

The lack of anticipation and medical resources during the second wave, causing high death rates, saw the government coming under fire from all quarters.

Pandemic should not be a matter of politics: PM

Modi calls for planned vaccine drives

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The COVID-19 pandemic should not be a matter of politics and is a matter of concern for entire humanity, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday.

Mankind has not seen such a pandemic in the last 100 years, Mr. Modi said while interacting with floor leaders of parties of both Houses of Parliament at a special briefing on the CO-VID-19 situation organised by the PMO.

The Prime Minister stressed the need to properplan the vaccination drives at the district level based on the advance availability indicated by the Central government to ensure no inconvenience to the people.

He said it was a matter of concern that a significant number of healthcare and frontline workers were yet to get the vaccine even after six months since the drive commenced, and added that States need to be more proactive in this.

"The Prime Minister spoke about the need to stay vigilant looking at the situation in various countries and noted that mutations make this disease very un(a) It is a matter of concern that a significant number of healthcare and frontline workers are yet to get the vaccine

NARENDRA MODI

predictable, and hence we all need to stay together and fight this disease," said a release issued by the Centre.

The release added that a detailed presentation was given by Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan and he informed that as of date, only eight States have more than 10,000 cases with a majority of the caseload in Maharashtra and Kerala.

"India had augmented its drug availability throughout the pandemic. The CDSCO permitted the increase in number of Remdesivir manufacturing sites from 22 in March to 62 in June which increased the production capacity from 38 to 122 lakh vials per month. Similarly, import of Liposomal Amphotericin was encouraged which saw the cumulative allocation rise from just 45,050 to 14.81 lakh," said the release on the Health Ministry's presentation.

Alarming situation in Kerala: SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Tuesday rapped the Kerala government over relaxations granted for Bakrid in areas with high COVID-19 positivity rate.

The court said citizens were free to bring to the notice of the court any "untoward spread of CO-VID-19" as a result of the relaxation of the restrictions notified by the government on July 17 due to Bakrid. Action would follow from the court, a Bench of Justices Rohinton Nariman and B.R. Gavai said.

The court said it was "extremely alarming" that the Kerala government could have been coerced to relax restrictions in the 'D' category areas, where the infection rate was the highest

Senior advocate Vikas Singh, for applicant P.K.D. Nambiar, said Kerala decided to relax curbs despite hosting the "biggest" number of COVID-19 cases in the country.

SC annuls parts of co-op amendment

Verdict significant amid States' fears over Union Ministry of Cooperation

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

In a major boost for federalism, the Supreme Court on Tuesday struck down parts of a Constitution amendment which shrank the exclusive authority of States over its cooperative societies.

Part IXB, introduced in the Constitution through the 97th Amendment of 2012, dictated the terms for running cooperative societies. The provisions in the amendment, passed by Parliament without getting them ratified by State legislatures as required by the Constitution, went to the extent of determining the number of directors a society should have or their length of tenure and even the necessary expertise.

In a majority judgment authored by Justice Nariman, the court held that cooperative societies come under the "exclusive legislative power" of State legislatures. The judgment may be significant in the background of fears voiced by the



States whether the new Central Ministry of Cooperation would dis-empower them. The SC, however, said the Centre had power over mulcooperative societies. Part IX B, which consists

of Articles 243ZH to 243ZT, has "significantly and substantially impacted" State legislatures' "exclusive legislapower" over cooperative sector under Entry 32 of the State List. In fact, the court pointed out how Article 243ZI makes it clear that a State may only make law on the incorporation, regulation and winding up of a society subject to the provisions of Part IXB of the Constitution Amendment.

"There can be no doubt that our Constitution has been described as quasi-federal in that, so far as legislative powers are concerned, though there is a tilt in favour of the Centre vis-à-vis the States given the federal supremacy principle outlined herein above, yet within their own sphere, the States have exclusive power

> Gavai. "The 97th Amendment which inserts the chapter dealing with cooperative societies has not been so ratified by the States, though an amendment of the Constitution is the exercise of constituent power which differs from ordinary legislative power, such constituent power does not convert Parliament into an original constituent assembly. Parliament being the donee of a limited power may only exercise such power in accor-

dance with both the proced-

to legislate on topics re-

served exclusively to them,"

Justice Nariman wrote in his

89-page majority opinion

shared with Justice B.R.

and substantive ural limitations contained in the Constitution of India," Justice Nariman observed. However, the court did not strike down the portions

of Part IXB of the Amendment concerning "Multi State Cooperative Societies" due to the lack of ratifica-"When it comes to Multi

State Co-operative Societies (MSCS) with objects not confined to one State, the legislative power would be that of the Union of India which is contained in Entry 44 List I (Union List)... It is declared that Part IXB of the Constitution is operative only insofar as it concerns multi-State cooperative societies both within the various States and in the Union Territories," Iustice Nariman said.

In his dissent, Justice K.M. Joseph said the doctrine of severability would not operate to distinguish between single-State cooperatives and MSCS. The judge said the entire Part IXB should be struck down on the ground of absence of ratification.

Historians flag proposed revisions

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Over 100 historians from India and abroad recently endorsed a letter to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education expressing concern over proposed changes to National Council of Educational Research and Train-(NCERT) history textbooks.

A statement by Maya John of Delhi University, one of the signatories, said the historians submitted their response to the panel on July 15. Among the signatories were Romila Thapar, Mukul Kesavan and professors from Delhi University, Panjab University University of Toronto and Jawaharlal University.

"The historians expressed their dismay and penned numerous objections to the widely circulating allegations that the NCERT school history textbooks carry 'unhistorical facts and distortions'," the statement read.

Burning issue: Multiple funeral pyres of COVID-19 victims in New Delhi in April. The Supreme Court had pulled up the NDMA for failing to pay relief to the families. • AP

Centre seeks time to set ex gratia guidelines

Payment to kin of COVID-19 victims

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Centre has approached the Supreme Court to allow the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) more time to frame uniform guidelines for payment of ex gratia assistance to families of persons who died of CO-VID-19. The government has asked for a month more. A June 30 judgment of the Su-

preme Court had given the

NDMA six weeks to submit

its guidelines. The government said 'accelerated' formulation of guidelines would lead to The court had pulled up

the NDMA, of which the Prime Minister is the ex officio chairperson, for failing in its duty to recommend the assistance. "The National Authority

[NDMA] failed to perform its statutory duty... Ex gratia assistance on account of loss of life is part of minimum standards of relief which has to be provided to persons affected by disaster in the present case CO-VID-19 pandemic," the Supreme Court had observed in a 66-page judgment.

Activist's father seeks compensation

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Tuesday gave the Manipur government two weeks to respond to a plea for compensation made by the father of activist Erendra Leichongbam, who was detained for two months under the National Security Act (NSA) for his Facebook posts questioning the efficacy of cow dung and urine as a cure for CO-VID-19 in the context of the death of a BJP leader due to coronavirus.

A Bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and M.R. Shah on Monday directed the State to "forthwith" release Mr. Leichongbam, saying he should not spend another night in prison.

On Tuesday, Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for Manipur, strove for quietus in the case. He said the activist was released immediately after the apex court order. "We have shown the gesture of immediately releasing him... Now let it But Justice Chandra-

chud said "this was a serious matter" concerning personal liberty.

Anthony Blinken may visit India 'very soon'

Dates still being finalised, says official

SUHASINI HAIDAR

U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken is expected to make his first visit to India "very soon", sources said, indicating that planning for the visit is under way for a meeting as early as next week.

"The dates are still being finalised," an official told The Hindu, confirming the visit, while another official said meetings were being scheduled in New Delhi at the "end of July". Mr. Blinken's visit is ex-

pected to prepare the way for the Quad summit and bilateral meetings between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Joseph Biden due to be held in Washington later this year, and is also expected to discuss the emerging situation in Afghanistan, including Taliban advances after the U.S. troop pull-out with Indian officials. Mr. Blinken's proposed visit, which is yet to be announced, could coincide with the 3-day visit of Afghanistan Army Chief

Lt. Gen. Wali Mohammad Ahmadzai to Delhi. India and the U.S. have a



Antony Blinken

wide array of bilateral relations to discuss and Mr. Biden has made it clear that the America's Indo-Pacific strategy that includes India is an area of importance, particularly given increasing tensions between the U.S. and China.

India and the U.S. have pending talks on a free trade agreement and India's demand for a restoration of its GSP status for exports, rescinded by the previous Trump administration, and the two sides will discuss improving economic, defence, energy cooperation, and cooperation on countering COVID-19. The U.S.'s Quad initiative to produce a billion vaccines is based on Indian production.

Navy seeks bids to build submarines

DINAKAR PERI

The Defence Ministry on Tuesday issued the Request For Proposal (RFP) for construction of six advanced conventional submarines for the Navy under Project-75I.

The deal which has been delayed is the first under the strategic partnership model of the procurement procedure progress.

"The RFP was issued to shortlisted Strategic Partners (SPs) or Indian applicant companies for the project viz, Mazagaon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) and Larsen & Toubro (L&T)," the Defence Ministry said. The project cost is estimated upwards of ₹40,000 crore.

The Indian SP partners have to respond to the RFP within 12 weeks. They are free to tie up with any of the five Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) that have been shortlisted earlier. The procurement process now gets under way and will take at least two years for the deal to be signed, a defence official said.

In 2019, IT House panel

unsuccessfully tried to

discuss Pegasus breach

'121 people affected by spyware then'

SOBHANA K. NAIR

In 2019, during a probe by

the Standing Committee on

Information Technology

headed by Congress leader

the Pegasus spyware.

from the Department of

Atomic Energy and the Ku-

dankulam nuclear plant, the

sources said, stated that the

malware infection was only

found in the administrative

of

the

Officials of both MEITy

and the Ministry of Home

Affairs though neither con-

firmed nor denied the invol-

vement of the government

in snooping using the Pega-

sus spyware, which is sold

by the Israeli technology

The government also did

not clarify who these 121 in-

dividuals were or if they

were contacted for a de-

tailed probe into the issue.

when the Standing Commit-

tee wanted to discuss the is-

sue, the BJP members vehe-

mently opposed it. They

argued that it was illegal and

beyond the purview of the

The discussion could be-

gin only after the agenda

was voted down upon. Only

25 of the panel's 31 mem-

panel to discuss the issue.

On November 20, 2019,

firm NSO group.

plant's

side

operations.

NEW DELHI

TMC vows to stall Houses over snooping

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Trinamool Congress on Tuesday said it would not let Parliament function till the government comes clean on the Pegasus snooping issue.

According to media reports published so far, the phone numbers of former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, TMC general secretary Abhishek Banerjee and election strategist Prashant Kishor figure on the list of numbers allegedly under surveillance by the spyware Pegasus.

"This (Pegasus spyware) is a serious issue and the TMC will not compromise on it. We will not let either House run till this government comes clean on the charges of snooping and surveillance. The government has spent millions to hack into phones at a time when the country is dealing with a pandemic," TMC's Rajya Sabha MP Derek O'Brien said. The party held protests in both Houses of Parliament on the issue earlier in the day.

Pegasus: Oppn. seeks independent probe

Parties seek inquiry into alleged use of software for spying on Ministers, politicians and journalists

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Opposition parties on Tuesday again sought an independent investigation into the alleged use of Pegasus software for spying on Ministers, politicians and journalists, and answers from the Central government.

The Congress tweeted, "We unequivocally demand the resignation of the Home Minister, Mr. Amit Shah. Upholding our democratic & constitutional values & principles is paramount for the safety & security of all our citizens...we cannot stress this enough. A FOREIGN SPY-WARE meant only for GO-VERNMENTS has hacked into our CITIZENS' PHONES. must

accountability." Another tweet said, "If true, Modi govt's use of the 'Pegasus' spyware is nothing short of a total abdication of protecting 'national security'. Our national institutions have been infiltrated, the nasafety has been ieopardised."

Yet another tweet said,



Seeking accountability: A Congress worker being detained by security personnel while taking part in a demonstration against the alleged surveillance operation using Pegasus spyware. • AFP

"Free & fair elections are the foundations of our vibrant democracy, and Modi govt has employed all means available to subvert them. Money power & muscle power, notwithstanding, BJP has resorted to the help of foreign entities to destroy our sovereignty." The Prime Minister should also be under

the purview of investigation, the Congress added. and Constitution."

CPI(M)'s tweet

The CPI(M)'s Twitter handle said: "The Modi Govt is using Foreign Military grade spyware to hack into its own Journalists, Opposition Leaders and constitutional authorities. It is effectively wag-

ing a war on our Democracy

Samajwadi Party's Akhilesh Yadav said on Twitter that listening to people's personal talk by spying on the phone was a gross violation of the "right to privacy". If the Bharatiya Janata Party was getting it done, then it was punishable and if the

was not aware of it, then it was its failure on the issue of national security. 'Serious matter'

BJP government said that it

Bahujan Samaj Party supremo Mayawati tweeted that the dirty game of espionage and blackmail was not a new thing but breaching the privacy using very expensive equipment, spying on ministers, Opposition leaders, officials and journalists, etc. was a very serious matter. The Centre's clarifications, refutations and arguments had failed to convince the people. In the interest of the nation and the government, an independent and impartial investigation should be conducted at the earliest so that responsibility could be fixed, she said.

The Press Club of India also expressed deep concern "over the latest 'Snoopgate' expose in which Pegasus spyware was reportedly used to 'snoop' on Indian journalists, activists, Ministers, Parliamentarians and members

Shashi Tharoor, officials of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITy), according to sources, told the panel that 121 people were affected by The Kudankulam nuclear plant too had reported a cyber breach. The officials

der a common platform "Pegasus Targeted Persons". They included human rights activist Bela Bhatia, Marxist Dalit author Anand Teltumbde, Jagdalpur Legal Aid group member Shalini Gera, Chhattisgarh base civil rights activist Alok Shukla and human rights activist Jagdish Mesh-

The panel did not submit any report on the consulta-

Judicial investigation

Tharoor refused to comment on the deliberations. "Only governments have Pegasus. If our government has used it, then it is certainly illegal, the exceptions of national security and terrorism does not apply to Rahul Gandhi or Prashant Kishor. And if it is not our government's work, then it is even more serious since it is a breach of our national

There had to be a judicial investigation into it, he

In a tweet, he said, "If it turns out that it's our govt & it's authorised (to do it), GoI needs to give an explanation as the law only permits interception of communication for issues of national seotherwise, it's illegal. Essen-

tial for govt to cooperate in a

No snooping till I was CM, says Fadnavis

Denies allegations on use of spyware

STAFF REPORTER

Facing allegations that the Maharashtra government too may have used the spyware Pegasus to snoop on political opponents, former Chief Minister and BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday said the government did not avail of the services of the Israeli firm NSO till he was in the office.

"Maharashtra government did not avail services of the NSO till I was the Chief Minister," he said, addressing a press conference. Mr. Fadnavis, however, ack-

nowledged that a team from the DGIPR (the State government's publicity department) went to Israel after the 2019 elections before the new government was formed. "But the trip was for agriculture development purposes," he claimed.

During the previous regime, the Congress had alleged that several opposition leaders were under surveillance. Questions have been raised as to whether proof was digitally planted against the human rights activists arrested in the Koregaon-Bhima case.

Cong. to protest against snooping

Rajasthan unit workers to lay siege to Raj Bhawan, demand probe by SC

MOHAMMED IQBAL

The Congress workers in Raiasthan will lay siege to Raj Bhawan here on Thursday over the Pegasus snooping controversy and stage a massive demonstration. They will demand sacking of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and an inquiry by the Supreme Court into the matter.

'Probe PM's role'

They will submit a memorandum to Governor Kalraj Mishra with these demands.

Pradesh Congress Committee president Govind



Govind Singh Dotasra •

Singh Dotasra said here on Tuesday that a probe also be held against Prime Minister Narendra Modi because the circumstantial evidence suggested that the snooping could not have been carried out without the concurrence

of those sitting in the highest offices of power.

"Those in the high echelons of power have committed an illegal and anti-national act. Their real character has been exposed by the Pegasus episode," Mr. Dotasra said at a press conference here. He said even the BJP leaders, including former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje, were spied on through the tapping of phones of their personal secretaries. "They have not spared anyone... They spied on their own leaders, while conspiring to completely finish the Opposition. The truth behind dropping some Ministers in the recent Union Cabinet reshuffle should also be exposed," Mr. Dotasra said. Hitting back at the Con-

gress and Chief Minister Ash-

ok Gehlot, Deputy Leader of

the Opposition in the As-

sembly Rajendra Rathore

bers attended the meeting, said the State government in a reply to a question by BJP of which 12 voted against in-MLA Kalicharan Saraf in the itiating a meeting, while 12 House had admitted that it voted in favour. The final dehad tapped phones. "The gociding vote was cast by Mr. vernment should first clarify Tharoor. whose phones were tapped. The CM's OSD is the accused Panel meets 17 persons in an FIR registered with the In a subsequent meeting, Delhi police in connection the panel met 17 persons, with the phone tapping." who had come together un-

KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION e-TENDER



Rai Kundra sent to police custody

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

A magistrate court in Mumbai on Tuesday sent Rai Kundra, businessman and actor Shilpa Shetty's husband, to police custody till July 23 for allegedly producing and circulating pornographic videos through social media. The Mumbai police said, "Through investigation it is clear that Mr. Kundra is involved in making nude and vulgar videos, uploads them on social media and earns money." He was arrested by the Property Cell of the Mumbai Crime Branch on July 19 in connection with the pornography racket busted in February.

When the police raided a bungalow at Madh village in Malad on February 4, 2021, some boys and girls were found filming and recording nude and vulgar videos and uploading them on various online platforms. Investigation revealed that these videos were going to be uploaded on a website and mobile app. Actor Umesh Kamat confessed that Mr. Kundra is involved in broadcasting such videos on apps and has also made WhatsApp groups to stay in contact with the app.

A witness told the police that Mr. Kundra and his aide Saurabh Kushwah established Arms Prime Media Private Limited on February 5, 2019, and the said company sold the app to a company named Kenrin Limited for \$25,000. On December 11, 2019, Mr. Kundra resigned from the company. The police said, "It is clear that Mr. Kundra is involved in making the videos and earns money by establishing Arms Prime Media Private Limited which took over the app."

U.S. condemns extrajudicial surveillance of journalists

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN

The Biden administration has condemned the harassment and 'extrajudicial surveillance' of journalists and others in reaction to reports published by a consortium of news websites that Israeli company NSO Group's spyware, Pegasus, was used for illegal hacking and surveillance of individuals, including in India.

"The United States condemns the harassment or extrajudicial surveillance of journalists, human rights activists, or other perceived regime critics," a White House spokesperson said via email

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

tecedents of their candi-

dates before elections may

run the risk of derecognition

or a time-bound forfeiture of

A Bench of Justices Rohin-

ton Nariman and B.R. Gavai

on Tuesday extensively

heard the Election Commis-

sion of India (ECI) and ami-

cus curiae and senior advo-

cate K.V. Vishwanathan on

how to "punish" the political

parties that had not fully

complied with the February

13, 2020, judgment. The

court has reserved the con-

tempt case, which arose

from the Bihar Assembly

India (Marxist) (CPI-M),

The Communist Party of

election, for orders.

their election symbols.

NEW DELHI

to *The Hindu* in response to a question on what U.S. President Joe Biden's position on the issue was.

Only on Monday U.S. President Joe Biden had said that China and Russia were "protecting" and "even accommodating" cyber hackers and their hacking. The news reports on Pe-

gasus say that in addition to actually or potentially targeting journalists, leaders of the opposition in India, and others, a database of phone numbers that allegedly belonged to the NSO Group contained the numbers of two U.S. Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention (CDC) officials in New Delhi and employees of the Bill Melinda Gates Foundation.

Tuesday's statement from the White House spokesperson stopped short of naming Israel – where NSO Group is

"Just as states have the duty to protect human rights, businesses have a responsibility to respect human rights, including by ensuring that their products or services are not being used by endusers to abuse fundamental freedoms," the spokesperson said.

on and from 20.07.2021 from 1:00 P.M. from the website https://etender.wb.nic.in. ANNAMALAI W UNIVERSITY

C-ICMP (Supply), KMC invites tender online in two Bid systems

Name of the Work: Procurement of Raw materials for

fabrication of 20 numbers of sprayer machines mounted

on tri-cycle van. Estimated Cost: Rs. 9,02,000.00/-; Earnest

Money: Rs. 18,040/-; Last date and time of submission of

Bid: 31.07.2021 at 2:00 P.M.; The Tender will be opened on:

02.08.2021 at 2:00 P.M.: Tender documents will be available

NIT No.: KMC/C-ICMP(S)/19/A372/2021-2022

Accredited with 'A' Grade by NAAC

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sealed tender is invited from reputed & eligible firms under two cover system for Supply of Chemicals, Biochemicals, Glassware, Plastic vare and Lab ware on Annual Rate Contract basis during the academic

Tender Reference	F1/AU/Chemical Tender/ 2021-22; Date: 19.07.2021
Scope of Work	Supply of Chemicals, Biochemicals, Glass ware, Plastic ware and Lab ware on Annual Rate Contract basis during the academic year 2021-22
Last date and time for receipt of tender	12.08.2021 at 5.00 p.m.
Date, and time for opening of tender	13.08.2021 at 10.00 a.m.
Venue	Conference Hall, Golden Jubilee Building, Annamalai University,

Tenders should be submitted along with Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of Rs.20,000/- per tender.

The tender forms, other terms and conditions for the above tenders are available on the Annamalai University Website: www.annamalaiuniversity.ac.in. and www.tenders.tn.gov.in. Any change in the terms and conditions of the tender, time schedule, corrigendum, addendum etc. if any, will be published ONLY in the above websites. Tenderers should regularly visit the websites and keep themselves updated. University reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof

DIPR/ 2157 /TENDER/2021

OPEN TENDER ENQUIRY

NMDC Iron & Steel Plant, Nagarnar, invites sealed tenders in two/three big

) Name of Work: Installation of a High-Pressure Steam Pipeline fro Coke Dry Cooling Plant to Power & Blowing Station Tender No & Date NISP/Contracts//M&C/231/CDCP/2021/238 Dated: 20.07.2021| Last date: 04.08.2021

2021/239 Dt.19.07.2021 Last date: 11.08.2021) **Name of Work:** Conducting Environmental monitoring in & around a NMDC Iron & Steel Plant Nagarnar **Tender No & Date:** NISP

CONTRACTS/M&C/204/Envir Monitrg/2021/240 Dated: 19.07.2021 Last date: 11 08 2021 Name of Work: Supply of Installation Materials for HP Steam line Forn o PBS for pacakge - 20A **Tender No & Date:** NISP/MM-SP471/

ww.eprocure.gov.in in tender section. GM (Materials & Contracts)



ONLINE/WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

candidates may apply for an Online/Wa in-Interview for temporary positions of "JRF/SRF Project with Inhouse Funding supported by external grants". The details of positions, salary, application form, venue etc. can be downloaded from the website (www.nrcpb.res.in/www.nipb.icar.gov.in). Interview date shall be intimated on the website only in due course.

(Assistant Administrative Officer)

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ (Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India)

Officers to conduct the departmental inquiries under Central Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1965 read with DoPT guidelines issued from time to time as per the eligibility criteria mentioned below:

S.No | To conduct inquiry against

Group A Officers **Eligibility Criteria**: (i) Officers retired in Pay Level 14 and above (7th CPC) rom All India Service / Central Government / State Government corresponding equivalent grades or above, retired judges of High Court o (ii) Officers retired in Pay Level 12 and 13 (7th CPC) from All India Service

Group B&C **Eligibility Criteria**: Officers retired in Pay Level 10 and 11 (7^m CPC) from

The applicants should not have been penalized in a disciplinary proceeding case (no penalty in disciplinary proceedings or prosecution in criminal case). For further details visit: http://career.nirdpr.in/

Advt. No. 12/2021 (No.NIRDPR/Reg/IO-Empanelment)



ARCI, Hyderabad invites applications/nominations for filling up the post of DIRECTOR. The candidate shall be an Indian national having creative, innovative and dynamic leadership qualities with substantial experience and achievements in the area of

Scale of Pay: Pay Matrix Level 15 / ₹67,000-79,000 (HAG)

(annual increment@ 3%) plus allowances as per 7th CPC. Age limit: Not Exceeding 56 years as on 1st July, 2021. Experience: At least 20 years of R&D experience.

from a recognized University.

Desirable Qualifications: Post-doctoral research.

Experience in formulating and implementing multi-disciplinary and multiinstitutional R&D projects/programmes, preferably in the area of advanced and new materials, involving active interaction/participation with industries.

Experience in formulation and management of national/international collaborative ventures/Centres of Excellences

Experience in technology transfer related activities.

For complete details, log on to: http://www.arci.res.in/careers.html or http://www.dst.gov.in/whats_new/advertisements.htm

We don't buy this 'sorry', our orders Political parties facing conhave to be tempt for defying a Supreme followed Court judgment to declare JUSTICE NARIMAN or publicise the criminal an-

SC mulls over 'punishment'

for parties facing contempt

Reserves contempt case that arose from Bihar poll for orders

which heads the LDF government in Kerala, and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), a constituent of the ruling Maharashtra coalition, "unconditionally apologised" to the Supreme Court for not complying with the judgment.

Senior advocate Vikas Singh, for the ECI, submitted that the NCP fielded 26 candidates with criminal antecedents and the CPI(M) fielded four candidates with criminal pasts.

Justice Nariman said, "We don't buy this 'sorry', our orders have to be followed."

(RJD) was the biggest defaul-

Mr. Singh submitted that the Rashtriya Janata Dal

56 candidates involved in criminal cases. "Despite bringing out criminal antecedents in the public domain, criminalisation of politics has gone up," he pointed out. Both Mr. Singh and Mr. Vishwanathan suggested the suspension of election sym-

ter, with 103 candidates hav-

ing criminal antecedents.

The JD(U), which heads the

Bihar government, fronted

bols as a measure against parties propping up criminals as candidates. Senior advocate Harish Salve, also for the ECI, said,

"The change has to come from the heart of people. What we all want to see is that change should come to the system and it will come." Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, for the NCP, requested

the court to not invoke Rule 16A of the 1968 order.

Name of Work: Supply, O & M of ready to use Mobile Medical Van (One Number) with complete fittings of requisite equipment's along with manpower Tender No & Date: NISP/CONTRACTS/M&C/226/MMU/

INSULATION/5460 Dated: 19.07.2021 Last date: 04.08.2021 Tender documents can be downloaded from websites www.nmdc.co.in or

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

Speaking to The Hindu, Mr.

security," he stated.

Rajendranagar, Hyderabad - 500 030 NIRDPR, Hyderabad proposes to empanel the retired officers to function as Inquiry

entral Government / State Government or corresponding equivalent grades District Judge or equivalent grades

Last date for receipt of application is: 20-08-2021

NTERNATIONAL ADVANCED RESEARCH CENTRE FOR POWDER METALLURGY AND NEW MATERIALS (ARCI)

Advt . No. ARCI/HRD/RECT/1/2021 RECRUITMENT OF DIRECTOR

Essential Qualifications: Doctorate in Physical Sciences or Engineering / Technology

Evidence of high professional eminence by way of recognitions like fellowship of academies, national/international awards in science/Engineering etc.

Published research work of high standard and/or good record of patents granted

LAST DATE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS IS 30.08.2021

Assistant Registrar (E)

Himachal Pradesh 'excess deaths' are twice the official toll

State registers the lowest undercount factor in north India

SRINIVASAN RAMANI CHENNAI

The number of "excess deaths" registered by the Civil Registration System (CRS) in Himachal Pradesh ever since the COVID-19 pandemic hit (from April 2020 to May 2021) was 6,081, which is 1.9 times the official reported figure of 3,127 CO-VID-19 deaths for the same period.

This multiple is among the lowest for States for which excess deaths have been calculated. Interestingly, while the number of registered deaths peaked in May 2021 (7,267), excess deaths for 2021 were only 1.6 times the official tally unlike the months of April to December 2020 (corresponding to the first wave) when they were 2.8 times the official tally. In 2021, there were an estimat-

ed 3,543 excess deaths compared with the official tally of 2,205 (till May 2021). Between April and December 2020, there were an estimated 2,538 excess deaths compared with the 922 deaths related to COVID-19.

The figures were arrived at from data on deaths registered month-wise in the online CRS from January 2018 to May 2021 in Himachal Pradesh and accessed by The *Hindu*. Not all excess deaths could be related to CO-VID-19, but a bulk of them will be, during the pandemic period.

The online data showed that 40,133 and 40,970 deaths were registered in 2018 and 2019 respectively in the State in the CRS, which are close to 96% and 94% of the deaths reported by the Annual Report on Vi-

Low multiple

Himachal Pradesh's excess deaths - 6,081 during the pandemic period, calculated by comparing baseline mortality with prepandemic years (2018 and 2019) were 1.9 times more than the official COVID-19 tally recorded in the State till May 31, 2021

Period	Excess deaths	Multiple		
Apr. '20 - Dec. '20	2,538	921	2.8	
2021	3,543	2,205	1.6	
Apr. '20 - May '21	6,081	3,126	1.9	
Apr. '21 - May '21	4,879	2,092	2.3	

tal Statistics based on CRS-2019 for these years.

The excess deaths were calculated as the difference between the registered deaths in the pandemic period and the average number of deaths registered in 2018 and 2019 for the same months. The excess deaths being a lower multiple in 2021 could either be a reflection of a lag in registration of

deaths or a more accurate count of the dead due to CO-VID-19 and related factors. But the CRS-2019 report mentions that 92.1% of the death registrations are completed within 21 days of the occurrence in Himachal Pradesh.

The report also estimates that around 86.4% of the total deaths in the State were registered. This suggests that the excess death count and therefore the multiple could go up a bit more if all deaths are accounted for in later years compared with previous ones

Nevertheless, even if it is a slight underestimate, the estimated undercount factor of 1.9 for the State is lower than that of Haryana (7.3) and Madhya Pradesh (23.8) in the Andhra Pradesh (17.9), Tamil Nadu (6.4 adjusted to 4.4 if CRS COVID-19 tally is considered) and Karnataka (4.3) in the south, and only higher than that of Kerala (0.42 based on reconciled COVID-19 tally) if the same baseline is considered (deaths registered in 2018 and 2019).

'Deaths at home'

When asked about the discrepancy between the CRS data and the official CO-VID-19 death toll, Janak Raj, senior medical superintendent at Indira Gandhi Medical College in Shimla, told The Hindu that the discrepancy based on excess deaths could be because of the 'non-hospital' deaths (deaths at home).

"People who died at homes could be the ones who denied that they had CO-VID-19, be it intentionally or unintentionally. Also, there was a negative publicity surrounding COVID-19 treatment at hospitals. Besides, social stigma associated with COVID-19 seems to be another reason that discouraged people to visit hospitals for treatment. There was a sense of fear that if one died of CO-VID-19, there would be a problem in cremation, besides people will not visit one's home. There could be instances that with such fear in mind, some people who fell critically ill at home and didn't visit hospitals for treatment and eventually died," Dr. Raj said.

"Majority of deaths had

been within 24 hours of hospitalisation. Those patients, who managed to reach hospitals at an early stage, survived. It was mostly the critipatients cal

intentionally or unintentionally delayed visiting hospitals that succumbed to VID-19," he added.

District figures

A district-wise look at excess deaths in Himachal Pradesh showed that Kangra registered the highest estimated excess deaths of 2,647, which is 2.8 times the official CO-VID-19 tally of 933.

Shimla registered 971 excess deaths, 1.7 times the official tally of 558. The estimated undercount factor was the highest at 3.23 in Solan

(Data compiled and aggregated by Pratap Vardhan. With inputs from Vikas Vasudeva in Chandigarh and graphics support from Vignesh Radhakrishnan)

Congregational prayers for Id banned in J&K

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT SRINAGAR

The Jammu and Kashmir administration announced a series of restrictions including barring congregational prayers at traditional venues, closing of gardens and suspension of intra-Kashmir train services on Id-ul-Zuha, citing the risk of a third wave of infections. Further, only vaccinated individuals have been asked to carry out the ritual sacrifices.

Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Pandurang K. Pole has called for "a decentralised way of prayers" on the occasion.

Officials in Bandipora, while barring large congregations, have decided to close down all parks and gardens on the occasion. The intra-Kashmir rail service will also remain suspended for two days.



CBSE FAQs to help schools finalise results

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The CBSE offices will function on July 21, though it is a gazetted holiday for Id, to support schools to meet the deadline of finalising Class 12 results by July 22, according to a letter from **Controller of Examinations** Sanyam Bhardwaj. The CBSE has previously said the results will be declared by the end of the month.

Mr. Bhardwaj said the CBSE is also developing FAQs, which will be provided by noon on Wednesday, in response to queries from the schools.

In a letter sent to CBSE principals on Tuesday, Mr. Bhardwaj noted that the country would be celebrating Id on the following day. However, he also noted that the schools are busy preparing Class 10 and 12 results. As the board examinations were cancelled due to COVID this year. schools were asked to determine results via a formula using previous years' marks as well as internal

and practical scores. "For finalising the Class 12 result, the last date is 22.07.2021. It is informed that to meet the last date and to assist the schools, all the regional offices, CBSE and the Examination Department, CBSE HQ will be functioning from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.," said the

4 new vaccines in human trials stage

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Centre is funding the development of four vaccines, which are currently in various stages of human trials. One more vaccine is in a preclinical stage, Science Minister Jitendra Singh said in a written reply to Rajya Sabha on Tuesday. The government has also

funded clinical trial sites, animal challenge facilities (where viruses are tested on animals) and immunoassay

laboratories, all of which were collectively allotted a budget of ₹900 crore for 12 months, the Minister said.

The four vaccines, funded under Mission Covid Suraksha, are the DNA-based vaccine candidate by Cadila Healthcare, Ahmedabad, Gujarat; the protein sub-unit vaccine by Biological E Ltd, Hyderabad, Telangana; adenovirus intra-nasal vaccine by Bharat Biotech Ltd, Hyderabad, Telangana; and an mRNA vaccine by Gennova Biopharmaceuticals, Pune, Maharashtra.

Cadila and Biological E vaccines are in Phase 3 trials, Bharat Biotech's in Phase 2, and Gennova's in Phase 2 trial. A fifth vaccine candidate, which was a "virus-like particle" by Genique Life Sciences, based out of Gurugram, Haryana was in "advanced preclinical stage," the written statement by the Minister noted.

Financial support under the Mission was being provided to public funded research institutes; State and Central public sector enterprises; public and private hospitals; industries and organisations.

An amount of ₹710 crore has been committed till date to support these activities, the Minister said. At present, three vaccines

Serum Institute of India's Covishield, Bharat Biotech's Covaxin and Russian vaccine Sputnik V – are being admi-

Capt. Amarinder said the

outcome of the sentinel sero

surveillance survey, aimed

to assess the prevalence of

the infection among those

under 18, will be utilised to

determine further localised

Many States have unused vaccine doses: Mandaviya

Time given to plan inoculation drives, says Health Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Health and Family Welfare Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Tuesday told the Rajya Sabha that a lot more could have been done to handle the second wave of the CO-VID-19 pandemic and a lot more still needed to be done with regard to a potential third wave.

Replying to a discussion on the COVID-19 situation, Mr. Mandaviya countered allegations by some MPs that the Centre was hiding the true data of the number of deaths, saying that the States were responsible for registering deaths. The Centre only compiled the data given by States, he said.

Mr. Mandaviya was replying as Health Minister for the first time since the Cabinet reshuffle earlier this month which saw Harsh Vardhan dropped. Listing the efforts taken

by the Centre to boost oxygen supply during the second wave, the Minister said oxygen transportation capacity had been boosted to 10,000 metric tonnes.

"This is not a small feat. I admit there was still more to be done and we have to do a lot more in the coming days," he said, while appealing to everyone to work together.

On vaccinations, the Minister said there were many States that had 10-15 lakh vaccine doses lying unused, while their representatives in the House were asking the Centre to speed up the drive. He said the Centre informs States 15 days in advance of



MANSUKH MANDAVIYA

the vaccine availability, giving them time to plan their vaccination drives.

lot more in the

coming days

He said it wouldn't be appropriate to say that children would be more affected in the third wave. On the other hand, he said vaccine trials for children were ongoing.

In response to a question from Trinamool Congress MP Derek O'Brien, Mr. Mandaviya did not clarify what percentage of the population would be fully vaccinated by December 31, saying instead that the government's effort would be to vaccinate every Indian as soon as possible.

Oppn. raises queries

Earlier, Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge initiated the discussion on behalf of the Opposition. He said the pictures of bodies floating in the Ganga during the second wave had left an

so accused the government of severely under-reporting the number of casualties due to COVID. As per the official estimate a little over 5.5 lakh persons died due to the pandemic. Death toll

indelible impression. He al-

"There are more than six lakh villages in India. Even if five persons died in each of these villages due to COVID, the total casualty figure will cross 30 lakh. Similarly there are more than 7,000 towns and 18 metropolitan cities. If the deaths are properly recorded the cumulative figure will far exceed the government's estimates," he

The government's declaration that it will vaccinate everyone by December is misplaced, Mr. Kharge said. "On Modiji's appeal, people clapped, clanged utensils, lit diyas and confined themselves to their homes. What did he do in return? He failed in meeting all our expectations. Instead he sacked Dr. Harsh Vardhan. who is merely a scapegoat for PM Modi's own failures," Mr. Kharge said.

Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam MP Tiruchi Siva suggested that the modern vaccine manufacturing facility near Chennai lying unused be handed over to the State government to run.

He said Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin had written to the Centre proposing the same two months ago. In his response, Mr. Mandaviya said the suggestion was being examined.

Punjab demands 40 lakh vaccine doses

Only 3,500 doses of Covaxin left with State, says CM Amarinder Singh

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Citing a current demand of more than 2 lakh COVID vaccine doses for the second dose alone, Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh on Tuesday demanded 40 lakh more doses from the Centre on urgent basis to inoculate the State's eligible population.

Review meeting

The State was expecting 2.46 lakhs vaccines to arrive on Tuesday but the Chief Minister, during a COVID review virtual meeting, noted that the vaccine remains in short supply. The State has run out of Covishield and is left with only 3,500 Covaxin doses as of on July 19, he said

Punjab has already vaccinated more than 90 lakh persons (nearly 37% of eligible population) and has been utilising the stock without any wastage, said the Chief Minister. While the first dose has been administered to 75 lakh people, 15



A woman getting inoculated at a vaccination camp in

lakh had got the second dose too, he added.

The Centre needs to arrange for immediate delivery to the State to meet the shortfall and enable inoculation of all those needing the second dose, while continuing with the vaccination of other eligible persons, he

Pointing out that the doses being supplied to private hospitals were getting wasted as people preferred to go to government hospitals for free inoculation, Health Secretary Hussan Lal informed the meeting that the State

has sought diversion of the stocks from the private hospitals but had not received any response so far from the

Tuesday said it will start a sero survey, especially focused on children in the age group of 6 to 17 ahead of a possible third wave. The survey will start this month.

analysis of antibodies colblood lected through

restrictions as the State prepares for the third wave, according to a government statement. GIS-based surveillance and prevention tools will be used with an auto triggei mechanism for localised res-

trictions, he said.

Dr K.K. Talwar, head of State's expert committee on COVID-19, said in the first and second waves, 10% of those infected were under 18 and while there was no concrete data to support such a projection, the State was preparing to handle more cases of children in the third

The CM also ordered establishment of a paediatric unit in each district and one centre of excellence in paediatrics for the State.

(With PTI inputs)

TH GROSSWORD+ 13305 We are digital now. Come solve online.

@ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn 15 Drink beer and vodka, essentially getting smashed in America (7)

18 Tap dried grass around wicket in track (7) 20 Content of another monogram relating to heat (6)

22 Bone broke in the middle, cast applied (5)

24 Seaplane flying over Dubai's foremost promenade (9) 25 Ran into tavern, came back refreshed (7,2)

26 Agile Tarzan turns to trap badger-like animal (5) 27 Look at parent embracing good daughter (6)

28 Contains popular tips to secure date (8)

DOWN

1 Admit when caught on record, breaking law (6)

2 Exotic Latin girl enthralling fellows in association (9)

3 Wimp picking up a woman after he turned awfully drunk (5,3,7)

8 Affair with broad when wife's away in latter part of the day (8)

4 Alleged hint of conspiracy left media in a frenzy (7) 6 Use the very last of one's resources, like a hungry vagrant might do?

7 A clip about swarm, essentially of bees (5)

9 Wading bird at cove, injured (6) 16 Roasted meat consumed around special day (9)

19 Succumbs when delivery finally swings, knocking out wicket (6) 20 Slow bowler's variation in area around leg (7)

21 Women, beautiful women, going topless for American filmmaker (6)

SUDOKU



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FAITH

The realised soul

The Upanishads state that the Supreme Brahman is the highest principle and to reach Brahman is the ultimate goal of all beings. But how is Brahman to be known or seen? How is one to search for Brahman? In this context, it is interesting to note that Adi Sankara shows that Brahman can be seen in the lotus of one's heart through intense devotion and contemplation, pointed out Sri B. Sundarkumar in a discourse. Among the many epithets used by the acharya to propitiate Siva and Sakti in the hymn Sivananda Lahari, the term hridi punar bhavabhyam indicates the unique and repeated spiritual experiences of the devout souls who feel the presence of the Lord within their being.

In the Katopanishad, Yama tells Nachiketas that the 'Supreme Brahman, the primordial, effulgent Being and indwelling spirit, subtle, deep, and hidden in the lotus of the heart, is hard to know. But the wise, following the path of meditation, can know Him and thereby get freed from the pain and sorrow of samsara.' The Taittiriya Upanishad says that Brahman cannot be seen by any human being. That is why the Lord grants Divya Chakshus (divine eyes) to Arjuna

to enable him to behold His Vishwaroopa. Bhakti bhava in the devotee is the only way to evoke the presence of Brahman who is present within all beings without exception. Even in the most devout, it might happen as momentary flashes and very rarely too. But though fleeting, the experience lingers on, and, in due course, is the cause for the devotee to strive to make this illuminating experience permanent. The devotee is left overwhelmed with gratitude for this unique moment which was possible by His boundless compassion and grace.

ACROSS

- 1 A Mafia leader abducts baron leaving bar around Mexican city (8) 5 Fancy tea set in manor (6) 10 Youngster left boring, endless lecture (5)
- 11 Hint to sacrifice pawn in hostile push (9) 12 Film about a dynamic Roman general (9)
- **13** Jar contains popular wine (5)
- 14 Order a drug at retro party (6)

17 Key fight featuring great leading boxer (8)

23 Mad about girl getting hurt (5)

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

Sero survey of children The Punjab government on

Sero surveys or sero prevalence studies are based on

SCAN TO PLAY

Rockets target Kabul presidential palace 'India is welcome to join

IS claims responsibility for the attack; President Ghani says Taliban have 'no intention for peace'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

At least three rockets hit near the presidential palace on Tuesday shortly before Afghan President Ashraf Ghani was to give an address to mark the major Muslim holiday of Id al-Adha.

There were no injuries and the rockets landed outside the heavily fortified palace grounds, said Mirwais Stanikzai, spokesman for the interior minister.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack on its Amaq news channel.

Police quickly fanned out across the area. One car that was parked on a nearby street was completely destroyed; the police said that it had been used as a launching



Charred remains: Security personnel inspecting a damaged vehicle which fired the rockets in Kabul on Tuesday. • AP

pad for the rockets.

The palace is located in the middle of a so-called Green Zone that is fortified with giant cement blast walls and barbed wire, and streets near the palace have long been closed off.

The barrage came as the U.S. and NATO complete their final withdrawal from Afghanistan. Many Afghans are worried whether their war-ravaged country will fall more territory on the ground, having captured several districts and key border crossings with neighboring countries over the past weeks. The withdrawal is more than 95% complete and the

deeper into chaos and vio-

lence as foreign forces with-

draw and the Taliban gain

Biden said in an address earlier this month. "This Id has been named after Afghan forces to honour their sacrifices and courage, especially in the last three months," Mr. Ghani said in his address to the nation following morning

final U.S. soldier will be gone

by August 31, President Joe

"The Taliban have no intention and willingness for peace" Mr. Ghani said. "We have proven that we have the intention, the willingness and have sacrificed for peace."

However, Afghan forces have complained about being left without reinforcements and supplies, often running low on food as the Taliban advanced. In many instances, Afghan troops surrendered rather than fight. Washington's monitoring U.S. spending in Afghanistan reported that troops are deeply demoralised and corruption is rampant. After their pullout, the U.S. and NATO are committed to spending \$4 billion annually on Afghan forces until 2024, the majority of that money coming from Wash-

In dire need of vaccines

tan and the Maldives.

SUHASINI HAIDAR

India can join the China-led

South Asian initiative for CO-

VID-19 vaccines and poverty

alleviation too if it so desires,

said Bangladesh Foreign Mi-

nister A.K. Abdul Momen,

denying that a six-nation

grouping launched earlier

this month was meant to ex-

clude India. The creation of

the China-South Asian Coun-

tries Emergency Supplies

Reserve, and a Poverty Alle-

viation and Cooperative De-

velopment Centre set up in

China on July 8, the outcome

of a meeting of the Foreign

Ministers of China, Afghanis-

tan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pa-

kistan and Sri Lanka in

April, had raised eyebrows

in New Delhi, as it appeared

to leave out only India, Bhu-

"The Chinese approached us at a time we were in dire need of vaccines," Mr. Momen told The Hindu in an interaction on the sidelines of the connectivity conference in Tashkent last week, explaining that India's decision to suspend vaccine exports, including to Bangladesh, who had contracted and made advance payments for 5 million doses of Covishield per month, had become a "big issue" in the country, particularly as many had ta-

China-South Asia grouping'

Bangladesh denies the group was meant to exclude India

A.K. Abdul Momen

ken the first dose of the vaccine and had no access to the second.

Mr. Momen said that after Bangladesh requested vaccines from China, Foreign Minister Wang Yi decided to convene the six-nation China-South Asia meeting, where he suggested setting up a poverty alleviation centre to deal with economic issues arising in South Asia due to COVID, an ecommerce economic cooperation forum and an emergency storage facility for vac-

"We asked, how about India, and the Chinese [government] said this forum is open to India and India is welcome. In fact, even at the Foreign Minister's meeting which included Pakistan, they said India would be welcome to join," Mr. Momen said, stressing that the issues involved in the forum are common to all South Asian countries battling CO-

VID and its impact on GDPs in the region.

Aggression on LAC The Ministry of External Af-

fairs did not respond to a question on whether India had been invited to the forum or would consider joining the China-South Asia centre, now being established in the Southern Chinese city of Chongqing, in the future. However, given continuing tensions over Chinese aggression at the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh, and New Delhi's firm stand that other bilateral relations cannot move ahead without a resolution of the boundary stand-off, it is understood that India would be unlikely to consider a new grouping involving China, especially one that could be seen to dilute its role in the SAARC region.

The absence of India from the grouping as well as from a series of consultations on COVID relief between the Chinese Vice Foreign Minister and different combinations of all SAARC member countries (other than India and Bhutan) led some experts to suggest this was meant to be a "Minus India" initiative. India is the only country of all eight SAARC nations that has not requested or accepted Chinese CO-

'Best day ever': Jeff Bezos blasts into space on own rocket



Mission successful: Jeff Bezos giving a thumbs up after returning from space in Texas on Tuesday. • AFP

Irag reels as 36 killed in

Tuesday as at least 36 people

suicide blast on Id eve

Iraq was in mourning on

were killed when a bomb

ripped through a crowded

Baghdad market in what the

Islamic State group's jihadists

claimed was a suicide attack.

evening, one of the deadliest

in years, killed mostly women

and children on the eve of Id

al-Adha. It sparked revulsion

reach of the IS, which lost its

Mali leader unharmed in

last territory in Iraq after a

gruelling campaign that

ended in late 2017. AFP

stabbing attempt

Mali's interim President

Assimi Goita said he was

stab him on Tuesday at the

Grand Mosque in the capital amid celebrations for the

Muslim holiday of sacrifice,

security team quickly took

him away, and two men were

arrested, witnesses said. Mr.

Goita, a special forces Colonel

who staged two coups within

nine months, said, "It was an

isolated incident that was

brought under control." AP

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Tender ID

RFB No

Date of Publishing

Bid Submission End Date

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Tender Class

Eid al-Adha. Mr. Goita's

unharmed after a man tried to

BAMAKO

The blast on Monday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jeff Bezos blasted into space on Tuesday on his rocket company's first flight with people on board, becoming the second billionaire in just over a week to ride his own spacecraft.

The Amazon founder was accompanied by a handpicked group: his brother, an 18-vear-old from the Netherlands and an 82-year-old aviation pioneer from Texas the youngest and oldest to

Pedro Castillo declared

Peru's next President

ever fly in space.

"Best day ever!" Mr. Bezos said when the capsule touched down on the desert floor at the end of the 10-minute flight.

New Shepard

Named after America's first astronaut, Blue Origin's New Shepard rocket soared from remote West Texas on the 52nd anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing, a date chosen by Mr. Bezos for its historical significance. He

MEERA SRINIVASAN

COLOMBO

the efforts.

Rajapaksa.

Nearly 60,000 people

across the Northern Pro-

vince – Jaffna, Kilinochchi,

Mannar, Mullaitivu and Va-

vuniya – and about 74,000

people in the Eastern Pro-

vince -Trincomalee, Batti-

caloa and Ampara – have

received both doses of the

vaccine, according to

Geethanath Cassilingham,

coordinating secretary to

Prime Minister Mahinda

fully vaccinate everyone

over 30 years of age very

soon," said Mr. Cassiling-

ham, who is also the Reset-

tlement Facilitator for the

"We should be able to

held fast to it, even as Virgin Galactic's Richard Branson pushed up his own flight from New Mexico in the race for space tourist dollars and beat him to space by nine days. Unlike Mr. Branson's piloted rocket plane, Mr. Bezos' capsule was completely automated and required no official staff on board for the up-and-down flight.

Blue Origin reached an altitude of about 106 km, more than 16 km higher than Branson's July 11 ride.

who are sole bread winners

in their families. "We need

credible information on the

vaccines, like who should

avoid them, and what

symptoms to look for in

case of a reaction. The go-

vernment could use its net-

work of midwives to take

this message to the com-

The vaccination drive,

however, cannot by itself

turn the tide of economic

distress, unless the govern-

ment redoubles its efforts

towards resettlement and

livelihood revival, residents

said. Although the pan-

demic has severely impact-

ed the national economy

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

BUILDINGS (C&M) CIRCLE, COIMBATORE -

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamilnadu, Two cover system sealed

LUMPSUM CONTRACT - TWO COVER / ITEM RATE TENDER SYSTEM

TENDER NOTICE NIT : 07/BC/C&M/CBE/2021-22, Dt : 19.07.2021

Tenders viz.. Pre Qualification Bid and Financial Bid in separate covers both

inserted in single cover will be received upto 3.00 pm on 25.08.2021 from the PWD

Registered Contractors by the Superintending Engineer, PWD, Buildings (Construction

office and Pre Qualification Tender will be opened on the same day at 3.30 P.M. All other details are available in the website www.tenders.tn.gov.in If any changes

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU

Labour Office Building with basic Infrastructure in Tiruppur District."

corrections etc., to the tender, it will be published on the above website only.

& Maintenance) Circle, Coimbatore- 641001 for "Construction of Integrated

munity effectively."

'Vaccination is top priority in north and east'

Sri Lankan government says it will provide livelihood support in the Tamil-majority areas

He won by a margin of 44,000 votes AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Leftist school teacher Pedro Castillo was proclaimed Peru's President-elect Monday, six weeks after a polarising vote of which the results were delayed by claims of electoral fraud from his right-wing rival, Keiko Fujimori. The 51-year-old trade unionist's victory leaves Ms. Fujimori facing an imminent corruption trial.

"Dear compatriots, I bring here an open heart for each and every one of you," Mr. Castillo declared from the balcony after Jorge Luis Salas, head of the JNE Fujimori - most of whose obelections jury, announced his



Pedro Castillo

victory in a virtual ceremony. The INE validated the vote count by the ONPE elections body, which had given Mr. Castillo 50.12% of the ballots cast, some 44,000 more than Ms. jections the jury dismissed.

French President among potential spyware targets

Moroccan King's number also on the list

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Phone numbers used by French President Emmanuel Macron and top members of his government are among the potential targets for the Pegasus spyware supplied to several governments, the NGO that leaked the list of numbers said Tuesday.

Due date

02.08.2021

02.08.2021

04.08.2021

"If this fact is established, it's

nomic hardships. While of-North and East. Locals are hoping for wide vaccine The Sri Lankan governcoverage in the region so ment will give top priority they can return to their to COVID-19 vaccination jobs. There is some vaccine and livelihood support in hesitancy in the communithe Tamil-majority North ty, according to Sureshkuand East of the island namar Ushanandini, presition, according to an offident of a Kilinochchi-based cial tasked with overseeing organisation of women

A beneficiary of a housing programme in Jaffna district. • FILE PHOTO

and livelihoods across the country, families living in the North and East are worse off, as they were already struggling to put the devastating effects of a long civil war behind them. Studies have found that a quarter of those households are headed by women.

Economic hardships

Survivors of the war have repeatedly blamed the former Mahinda Rajapaksa administration [2005-2015] for their persisting ecoficials point to "an estimated \$1 billion" post-war investment on infrastructure in the area, people's lives hardly show a corresponding improvement. In fact, most families in

the northern and eastern districts resorted to predatory microfinance loans to survive during the last decade, getting entangled in a stifling web of debt.

If housing needs in the area have increased, retrieving land remains a challenge as owners return to their former plots, held by the military until recently. After successive governments' efforts, some 3,500 families who were internally displaced remain to be resettled, data shared by an ing agricultural lands, in official source showed. While military-held land has been returned to the people in many areas, at least a few thousand acres of state and private land,

www.keralaenergy.gov.in , Ph: 9400068318.

eligible contractors for the following works.

of AEE (NE-2) Sub Division.

including some six school buildings in Jaffna, are still with the tri-forces, according to the data. 'We are working with all

stakeholders to ensure housing needs are met swiftly, and people are provided with land," Mr. Cassilingham said. Additionally, building "strong livelihoods" in the agriculture and fisheries sectors is a 'key priority", he added.

Land is being fiercely contested in the region, according to N. Vethanayahan, a former top bureaucrat, who has served as Government Agent [corresponds to the district collector in Indial in all four northern districts.

"People's lands, includmany areas have been gazetted as forest lands now. They should be re-gazetted and returned to the people, who are the rightful owners of those lands," he said.

ENERGY MANAGEMENT CENTRE- KERALA

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY

AND SEWERAGE BOARD

Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 7th Floor,

Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009

No. BWSSB/EIC/CE(E)/ACE(E)-1/DCE(M)-I/TA(M)-II/994/2021-22 Date: 19.07.2021

INVITATION FOR TENDER (2nd Call)

(Only Through e-Procurement Portal)

BWSSB invites Item rate tenders in two stage tender system from

1) Providing & laying of 300 mm dia RCC line and 230 mm dia SW line

and construction of RCC manholes at various locations of Rajamahal

Guttahalli (Ward No. 64 and Sadashivanagar Ward No. 35) of

Malleshwaram Constituency coming under K.G. Tower Service Station

Amount put to tender: Rs. 229.57 Lakhs. EMD: Rs. 3,45,000/-.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Empanelment of Electric Vehicle Manufacturers /

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Energy Management Centre - Kerala invites expression of interest from eligible

Manufacturers /Dealers for supply of Electric Cars on outright purchase basis for

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Enlistment / Fixing of vendors for procurement of low Density Poly Ethylene granules for TNPL Unit-II for the

Detailed terms and conditions, Tender Fee, EMD, etc., are available in the tender document at our websites: www.tnpl.com/www.tenders.tn.gov.in.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY - e-TENDER NOTICE

Tender No: 122/2020-21/KWA/PHC/D2/TVM/RT1 KIIFB-WSS to Kottukal and Athiyannoor panchayath-Construction of 15mld WTP (Lamella), recycling unit, 10LL OHSR, 9m dia well

cum pump house, & 6LL clear water sump, supplying and laying raw water and clear water

pumping main using DI pipes, construction of substation building and compound wall supplying and installation of raw water pump set, clear water pump set, transformer and allied works including road restoration work EMD: ₹5,00,000/-. Tender fee: ₹15000/-.

Website: www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

Last Date for submitting Tender: 11.08.2021, 03:00 pm. Phone: 0471-2322303

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910000

Irrigation Dept., Project Circle, Kannur

Sd/- Superintending Engineer

Sodium Bicarbonate (Food grade) for TNPL-Unit-II

Description

Caustic Soda Lye for TNPL Unit-II

obviously very serious," a spokesman for the President's of-

Moroccan King Mohammed VI's phone is also on the list of numbers of people identified as potential targets by Morocco's intelligence services, French radio reported on Tuesday.

IndianOil SERVO NOTICE INVITING **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST Download Period:**

TNSO/LUBES/E0I/01/2021-22 e-Tender ID: 2021_SROTN_138185_1; eration of Quick Lube Oil Change (QLOC) Tel: +91 9445645769

WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Pennaiyar Basin Circle, Tiruvannamalai - 606 603. FORM OF CONTRACT : LUMPSUM - ITEM RATE CONTRACT TENDER NOTICE (Two cover System)
TENDER NOTICE NO. : 03/ PBC / T.V.Malai / 2021 - 2022 / F. 59 / JDO.4 / DATED : 20.07.2021 For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamilnadu, the Superintending Engineer, WRD.

Pennaiyar Basin Circle, Tiruvannamalai – 606 603, invites tender in Two cover system from eligible tenderers for the work of "Rehabilitation and Improvements to the Shenbagathope Reservoir Project in Polur Tauk of Tiruvannamalai District" (Value of work: Rs. 1,261.00 Lakh including GST) at his office upto 03.00 P.M. on 25.08.2021 in sealed cover. The tender will be opened at 03.30 P.M. at his chamber on the same day Other information as details of Work, Value, EMD, Cost of Tender schedule, Qualification details etc., will be available in the Government website www.tenders.tn.gov.in. Any

Superintending Engineer, (i/c) P.W.D.,

Buildings (C&M) Circle, Coimbatore.

Pennaiyar Basin Circle, Tiruvannamalai - 3

elangana State, the youngest state of India with glorious history of about 2500 years, has implemented world's largest multi-stage lift irrigation Kaleshwaram Project and presently planning "to develop four of the picturesque reservoir sites" as attractive tourism destination: All the sites are within 100 to 140 km distance from Hyderabad, the state capital. On behalf of Telangana Government, Telangana State Tourism Development Corporation Ltd (TSTDC) inviting Global EOI cum RFQ from eligible and interested firms for providing Maste

TELANGANA STATE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT Felangand
CORPORATION LIMITED (TSTDC)

Global Expression of Interest (EOI) cum Request for Qualification (RFQ)

Selection of Master Planning & Architectural Consultants for Development

of Mega Tourism Projects in Telangana State, India

Planning & Architectural Services for four mega projects i.e., Annapurna Reservoir Ranganayaka Sagar Reservoir, Upper Manair and Mid Manair Reservoir. THE BIDDING PROCESS: Two stage bidding process is being adopted for selection o qualified consultant. Further Project details like EOI & RFWQ document, presentations and videos will be uploaded on the website www.tstdc.in. The documents can be downloaded from 22.07.2021 and due date for submission through e-mail in PDF format is before

Contact details for any clarifications
Executive Director, Telangana State Tourism Development Corporation Ltd (TSTDC)
Tourism House, Himayathnagar, Hyderabad - 500 029 India Ph: +91-99660 00393, edprojects@ts Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR



Approximate value of work in Lakhs Name of Work Construction of New City Police Office ₹ 996.90 Building with development works at Tiruppur + GST @ 12% in **Tiruppur** City. (SE/NC/DB/1231/2021)

1) For Tender Document, visit www.tntenders.gov.in 2) Date and Time for Downloading and Submission of Tender Documents 09.08.2021 from 12.00 Noon to 23.08.2021 upto 6.00 P.M.

3) Date and time of Opening of the e-tender: 25.08.2021 at 11.15 A.M. 4) Detailed Tender Notice is available in the website www.tnphc.com & www.tnpolice.gov.in Superintending Engineer, North Circle, TNPHC Ltd.

2) Providing & laying of 300mm dia RCC line and construction of RCC manholes at various locations of Ward No.35 & 36 (part) of Malleshwaram Assembly Constituency coming under New BEL Road Service station of AEE (NE-3) Sub Division. Amount put to tender: Rs. 176.70 Lakhs. EMD: Rs. 2,81,100/-.

Last date and time for receipt of tenders will be on 03.08.2021 upto 16.00 hrs. Date of opening of tenders is on 05.08.2021 after 16.00 hrs. The details regarding the tender and participation in

the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in. For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours. DIPR/DDU/MIA/890/2021-22 Chief Engineer (East) STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE. 6 Feet Maintain

Follow Physical Distancing

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

16.00 hrs. IST on 12.08.2021.

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Kotak Bank		
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Titan		
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except yen at 4 p.m.	on July 2	20
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	74.42	74.74
Euro	87.66	88.03
British Pound	.101.31	101.78
Japanese Yen (100)	68.01	68.30
Chinese Yuan	11.48	11.53
Swiss Franc	80.91	81.27
Singapore Dollar	54.38	54.62
Canadian Dollar	58.29	58.54
Malaysian Ringitt	17.61	17.69

RML returns to black

Rane (Madras) Ltd. (RML) reported a standalone net profit of ₹3.7 crore for Q1 of

FY22, compared with a loss of

ADB trims FY22 growth forecast to 10%

Asian multilateral lender cites second wave; sees much of India's population vaccinated by 2022-23

NEW DELHI

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has pared its forecast for India's growth this year to 10%, from 11% projected in April, citing the curbs imposed across States during the second wave.

The lender also said on Tuesday it expects most of the country's population to be vaccinated by 2022-23, suggesting global observers are doubtful that India can meet its target of vaccinating all adults by December 2021.

A faster-than-expected spurt in fuel and food prices also nudged the ADB to raise its average inflation projection for 2021-22 to 5.5%, from 5.2% anticipated earlier. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has projected retail inflation at 5.1% for this period.

Retail inflation, which remained elevated at around



Back to business: Early indicators show activity resuming quickly after curbs were eased, says ADB. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

6.3% over May and June, is also expected to stay above the RBI's preferred target level of 4% in 2022-23, at 4.8%.

India's average inflation in 2020-21 was 6.2%, so the ADB's projections suggest almost three successive years of inflation hovering closer to the RBI's upper tolerance limit of 6% than the midpoint of the 2%-6% range it has to aim to maintain over the medium term, as per the Monetary Policy Committee's mandate.

Inflation had shot past the RBI's comfort zone in December 2019 to 7.4%, the fastest since July 2014. By March 2020, it had eased to 5.91% before quickening to

average 6.2% through the COVID-affected 2020-21.

South Asian impact

India is expected to record a growth of 7.5% in financial year 2022-23, the ADB said, an increase from the 7% it had projected earlier. The renewed outbreak of the CO-VID-19 pandemic had hampered economic activity across South Asia due to containment measures, it pointed out.

"South Asia's growth outlook for fiscal year 2021 [the ADB refers to the year that started in April 2021] is lowered to 8.9% from 9.5%. The forecast for India is downgraded by 1.0 percentage point to 10.0%. The inflation forecast for South Asia in 2021 is raised from 5.5% to 5.8%, mainly reflecting a higher forecast for India," the Bank's economists

averred in a supplement to the Asian Development Outlook (ADO) report for 2021.

While India's GDP growth recovered to 1.6% in the final quarter of 2020-21, the pandemic's second wave led many State governments to impose strict containment measures as new COVID-19 cases peaked at more than 4,00,000 a day in early May, before moderating to just above 40,000 in early July.

"Early indicators show economic activity resuming quickly after containment measures eased," the ADB said. "The growth projection for FY2021... reflects large base effects. The projection for FY2022 (2022-23), by which time much of India's population is expected to be vaccinated, is upgraded from 7.0% to 7.5% as economic activity normalizes," the lender added.

FinMin seeks nod for ₹1.87-lakh cr. expenditure

Bulk of cash outgo to aid COVID battle

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Finance Ministry has sought the Parliament's approval for fresh gross additional expenditure of ₹1.87 lakh crore through the first supplementary demand for grants in 2021-22, entailing a net cash outgo of about ₹23.675 crore.

Most of this actual outgo is earmarked for the battle against COVID-19, with almost ₹17,000 crore allocated to the Ministry of Health, while ₹1,750 crore has been sought to compensate banks for the compound interest component of the loan moratorium granted to borrowers last year.

'GST dues to States'

The gross expenditure of ₹1.87 lakh crore also includes the ₹1.59 lakh crore Net cash outgo of ₹23,675 cr. is part of supplementary demand for grants placed before the **Parliament**

to be raised through backto-back borrowings for pay-

ing States' GST dues. Last Thursday, the Centre released ₹75,000 crore to States through such borrowings and the balance is expected to be borrowed in the second half of the current financial year.

"The pending GST compensation for the period April 2020-March 2021 has been pegged at a sizeable ₹81,179 crore," said ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar.

"The financing options for the pending dues for April 2020-January 2021 remain unclear," she added.

Recovery to remain patchy, says Parekh

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

HDFC chairman Deepak Parekh said the unpredictability of the virus remained the key challenge to the overall macroeconomic environment.

"The world is still susceptible to recurring waves of infections. Thus, economic recovery will remain uneven and patchy," Mr. Parekh said addressing shareholders at the 44th AGM on Tuesday.

The veteran banker said owing to the second wave, the Indian economy would mirror a trend seen in FY21, wherein the second half of the financial year would be significantly stronger than the first.

Wipro to invest \$1 billion over three years in cloud

It unveils Wipro FullStride services

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Wipro Ltd. said it would invest \$1 billion in cloud technologies, capabilities, acquisitions and partnerships over the next three years. The firm unveiled Wipro

FullStride Cloud Services to bring together a full portfolio of its cloud-related capabilities, offerings and talent for the convenience of its global clients. This commitment builds

on Wipro's existing cloud business with clients and significantly expands the investment with its partners and hyperscalers, creating industry solutions that accelerate results for mutual clients, as per a filing.



"With our \$1 billion investment in cloud capabilities and the launch of Wipro FullStride Cloud Services, we are in a far stronger position to simplify, orchestrate and accelerate the cloud journey for our clients," said Thierry Delaporte, chief executive officer and managing director.

LIC introduces **'Arogya** Rakshak' plan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Life Insurance Corporation of India has introduced Arogya Rakshak, a nonlinked, non-participating, regular premium individual health insurance plan.

"This plan provides fixed benefit health insurance cover against certain specified health risks and provides timely support in case of medical emergencies and helps the insured and his family to remain financially independent in difficult times," LIC said.

An individual can insure himself/herself (as Principal Insured(PI), his/her spouse, children and parents under one policy, the state-run insurer added.

MRF working on green strategy: CMD Mammen

Firm developing local raw materials

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Leading tyre manufacturer MRF Ltd. is working on a multipronged '4R' strategy to improve sustainability of the industry.

The 4Rs relate to reduce, recycle, reuse and renewable, CMD K.M. Mammen said in the annual report.

MRF intends to reduce CO2 emissions by developing low-rolling resistance tyres, recycle from end-of-lifecycle tyres as raw material for new tyres, reuse by promoting multiple retreaded tyres and promote critical tyre raw materials from environmentally-sustainable sources such as biomass and waste materials. To become

more environment-friendly, the company has made some changes in the rawmaterial mix for two-wheeler and passenger car tyres.

Besides, it is also working with domestic sources on developing raw materials to attain import substitution.

On exports, MRF said it took a beating in the first half of last fiscal due to CO-VID-19 but saw 'good traction' in H2 leading to a spurt in overseas shipments.

"In the year gone by, many of MRF products have taken centre stage, strengthening the demand for our products," said Mr. Mammen. "Our focus on product quality over the past many decades has really paid off."

Zomato said to have raised \$1.26 bn in IPO

Food delivery start-up Zomato will raise \$1.26 billion by pricing its shares at ₹76 each in its initial public offering, according to two sources with direct knowledge of the matter.

The sources could not be named as the information has not yet been made public. Zomato did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Zomato, backed by Ant Group, will be valued at up to \$8 billion following the IPO, the first for a food delivery group in India. Pricing is set at the top of the flagged range of ₹72 to ₹76 a share at the start of the booking-building process.

₹21.9 crore a year earlier.

Tabraiz Shamsi spins South Africa to victory

Spinner Tabraiz Shamsi took four wickets as South Africa comfortably defeated Ireland by 33 runs in the first game of the three-match Twenty20 series here on Monday. Aiden Markram top-scored for the visitors with 39 as South Africa reached 165/7 in its 20 overs. Ireland could only muster 132/9 in reply. The scores: South Africa 165/7 in 20 overs (Aiden

Markram 39, Mark Adair 3/39) bt Ireland 132/9 in 20 overs (Harry Tector 36, Tabraiz Shamsi 4/27).

Vijender backs Indian pugilists to do well at Games

Says Mark Kom, Panghal and Vikas can finish on the podium in the Tokyo Olympics

BOXING

Y.B. SARANGI

Beijing Olympics bronze medallist Vijender Singh thinks that India's strong nine-member boxing squad is capable of winning medals in the upcoming Tokyo Games.

Vijender, the first Indian boxer to bag an Olympic medal, said the experienced hands - including six-time World champion Mary Kom (women's 51kg), former Worlds bronze medallist Vikas Krishan (69kg) and Worlds silver medallist Amit Panghal (52kg) - have a good chance.

"Mary Kom and Vikas have lots of experience. Amit is in good form. I think they will do



Ready to punch: Vijender Singh feels that seniors like Mary Kom and Vikas Krishan, with Olympic experience, should quide the others. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

better," Vijender, who will be part of Sony Sports live studio show, Sports Extraaa, for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games from July 23, said during an online select media interaction on Tuesday.

On Amit, Vijender said, "He is world No. 1 and that brings a lot of benefits. His style is exciting. I am told he boxed well in Dubai (in the Asian championships)."

On another southpaw Vikas, Vijender said, "This is his third Olympics and I hope he makes it (to the podium)."

Vijender admired Mary, who landed a bronze medal in the 2012 London Olympics. "She is a strong woman. I pray she comes back with a medal. She is fighting after having three kids and we must learn a lot from her."

Sharing experiences Vijender expected Mary and Vikas to share their expe-

rience with others. "Manish Kaushik (the Bhiwani boxer who qualified in 63kg) asked me about the Olympic Village. I shared my

know how it would be over there. Olympians like Mary and Vikas should share their experience with others."

experience so that he would

Vijender, who won his Olympic medal in the middleweight division, had a word of advice for fellow middleweight pugilist Ashish Kumar.

"Stay away from social media and save your energy. When you go to the Olympic Village, you are treated like a king. Whatever you want to do in the Village, you can do there. Don't waste your energy, just focus on why you are here and what you are doing."

Viiender urged the countrymen to encourage all the nine boxers who can perform better after the disappointing show in the Rio Games.

STAN RAYAN The Indian athletes will be

Need to pretend a lot at

the Olympics, says Anju

ATHLETICS

in Tokyo without any international experience this season and Anju Bobby George has offered a tip to long jumper M. Sreeshankar on to handle this

handicap. And it could turn out to very useful for the others

"There may be jumpers who have done 8.50 or 8.60m. So you will have to pretend you are a good jumper too. Your performance will all depend on how you behave that day," said Anju, the country's lone World championships medallist (long jump bronze, 2003), in a chat with *The Hindu*.

"Even if you're anxious during the event, pretend that your confidence is up and everything is okay with you. In fact, all the athletes will pretend.'

Anju explained that she did not have any jitters during her Olympic debut.

"Though 2004 was my first Olympics, I was already an established athlete. I had won the Worlds bronze, was among the world's top four



national record. "I did not have much pressure and I was all set. In fact, I achieved the qualification standard with my

with 6.83m which is still the

first jump at the Olympics." The qualification round will be the biggest hurdle at

the Olympics. "Even for top jumpers, the first round will be the biggest headache. If you don't qualify for the final with your first jump, you

will be under much pressure and the coach will have to play a crucial role," said the 44-year-old.

Onus on the individual: the pandemic has changed the rules



BETWEEN WICKETS SURESH MENON

he temptation must have been difficult to resist. Here's a young man, an international sportsman, with a chance of watching the kind of football he will not get back home. There might have been a residual fear about what could happen in cheering, screaming crowds after what happened in similar situations during a cricket series in India. But this is England, the rules are different, and what are the odds anyway?

Rishabh Pant may not have worked it out thus. But as a key player in the series to follow, he should have been aware of the risk he was taking when he decided to go – sans mask, it appears – to the England-Germany Euro 2020 the Board of Control for Cricket in India should have alerted him to it.

match at Wembley. Or if he didn't,

Mail sent, but...

The BCCI did send out a mail advising players caution, mentioning the football and Wimbledon specifically. But, according to a report in this newspaper, it was sent only "hours before the three-week break

That break, between the World Test Championship final against New Zealand and the regrouping at Durham in preparation for the five-Test England series, belonged to the individual players to relax how they wished to. No bubble, no staying together in tour hotels, no do's and

It is unlikely that the BCCI would have taken kindly to a player who decided to go mountain climbing or skiing or even scuba diving in this period. It would have said, in effect, "You are here on an assignment that needs you at your physical peak, and anything that interferes with that task is a no-no."

So why should attracting the coronavirus be any different? In fact, you put not only yourself in danger, but your teammates too, and in the worst case, perhaps the tour itself. And the players are contracted to the BCCI. No one is suggesting that young

athletes at the height of their powers should spend all their time cooped up indoors for three weeks. Sourav Ganguly, the BCCI president has said it is physically impossible to wear the mask all the time. But players on tour during a pandemic have to be discreet, avoid crowds. and understand the import of the many things that could go wrong.

Luckily for Pant and India, there is time enough for the player to recover before the first Test on August 4. This is not a tirade against Pant, who is a valuable player of the team, but merely points out the need for personal responsibility when on tour during a pandemic. The sporting season and the pandemic are both racing in England. Football, cricket, tennis and Formula One have had crowd management that has swung between the cautious and the reckless. Indian players have been seen at many of these events; they will argue that they are following local rules.

Keeping track of the rising cases is not impossible. Currently there are some 40,000 new cases daily. This should tell the tourists something – mainly that caution is advised.

Some years ago, India's first great opening batsman Vijay Merchant wrote about the dynamics within a touring party. Some players just want to have fun (especially if they realise their chances of playing a Test are nil), some want to strike a balance between enjoying themselves and contributing to the team effort. A third lot travels knowing the team depends on them and they cannot afford to veer away from the straight and narrow. It might have been a simplistic theory, but it did give an insight into the mind of the

touring cricketer those days. Since then, players have become more professional, teams travel with a whole range of support staff, and letting your hair down is not the primary objective for any individual. Players are treated as adults, which is a change from the 60s and 70s, and no one expects the manager, coach or director (as they have been variously known) to keep stating the obvious constantly.

Primary objective

The primary objective is to play and win cricket matches, and anything which works against that should be avoided. It is better to miss a Euro match as a spectator than a Test match as player.

Pant's is a cautionary tale not just for his teammates and for touring teams in general, but for his countrymen back home too. No matter that the green flag is waved, and at some point 'Freedom Day' is declared like it was in England on Monday, with nearly all the restrictions lifted.

Keeping safe is an individual responsibility, and if it involves wearing masks and keeping distances for longer than the official period, then these have to be done. The pandemic has changed all the rules.

Pragg bounces back

CHESS WC

RAKESH RAO

R. Praggnanandhaa, 15, became the youngest Indian to qualify to the fourth round of the chess World Cup in Sochi, Russia, on Tuesday. The youngster, who lost

from a winning position in the second game on Monday, bounced back strongly to blank Michael Krasenkow 2-0 in the two rapid tiebreak to win the marathon clash The results (Third round, tie-breaker): 25-minute Rapid:

In an all-India clash, Vidit

Guiarathi ended B. Adhi-

ban's resistance in the final

five-minute blitz tiebreaker

Vidit Gujrathi drew with B. Adhiban 1-1; R. Praggnanandhaa bt Michael Krasenkow (Pol) 2-0 (Praggnanandhaa wins 3-1). 10m-blitz: Vidit drew with Adhiban 1-1; 5m-blitz: Vidit bt Adhiban 1.5-0.5.

Focus on men's team and Deepika's performance

Consistency will be the password for the lone woman qualifier as she has her own reputation to defend

TOKYO OLYMPICS

A. VINOD

India, unlike in Rio 2016, will not have a full house in Tokyo, what with only four archers making the grade. The absence of the women's team will be felt greatly, which is inescapable as India will now take a shot in only four of the five events to be held.

The country is yet to win a medal in the sport at this level, though it has had a steady participation in the discipline since Seoul 1988. In Tokyo, the key focus, however, will be on the men's team and the performance of Deepika Kumari, the lone woman qualifier.

The talented Odisha archer, who has had her skills honed at the Jamshedpurbased Tata Sports Academy, is back as World No. 1. A lot is expected from Deepika as she shoots to a possible run for glory in her third Olympics. She was tipped to do well in both London 2012 and Rio four years later, but fared badly, going through her shots hurriedly and thus losing momentum.

This is the time for Deepika to make amends and prove her real worth as she will be in action in both the women's recurve singles and the mixed pairs alongside Atanu Das – an event which has been included in the Games for the first time.

Hopefully, consistency will be Deepika's password this time around as she has her own reputation to defend.

Besides Atanu, the men's team will comprise Tarun-



The target: The Indians will hope to come up with a good show in the ranking rounds and get a favourable draw. • TWITTER/ SAIMEDIA

ARCHERY

deep Rai and newcomer Pravin Jadhav. The latter was in great form in the trials in April as he surprisingly out-

scored both his seniors. While Atanu will be taking part in his second Games, it will three-in-a-row for veteran Tarundeep. The trio will be seen in action in the men's team as also the indivi-

dual event.

The competitions will be held from July 23 to July 31, but the first hurdle that the Indians will face will be the ranking rounds on the opening day. A good showing here will help them through a favourable draw thereafter.

But again, there will be no room for any faux pas as a poor outing could spell doom for the chances of the Indian team.

Limba — the trailblazer

He took part in three Olympics

REWIND

A. VINOD

Indian archery caught the Limagination of the public after Limba Ram, a tribal from Rajasthan, equalled the 30m world record at the Beijing Asian championships. This was in 1992 and naturally expectations were high of Limba being a potential medal winner in the Barcelona Games that year.

However, going into his second Olympics - Limba had participated in Seoul 1988 - the Indian was unlucky as he was tied for the eighth spot after the ranking round in the 70m event. His opponent had a scorecard of more tens than Limba and the latter was sadly knocked out.

But beyond the Games, Limba was a consistent performer at the Worlds, World Cups and other major events, winning medals for the country before he was forced to quit due to injury soon after the Atlanta Games in 1996.

Inspiring story

Yet, the inspiring story of how he came to the fore as a 15-year-old and continued to hold attention at the national level only speaks volumes of this trailblazer.

Of course, the current crop of the Indian archers too have gained a lot from Limba, who was the chief coach of the National teams, both in London 2012 and Rio 2016.

They certainly owe a great showing to their master, who strove hard from virtual poverty before emerging as one of the bestknown Indian archers

Sania & Co. have a herculean task awaiting them

The former doubles No. 1 has experience, but Ankita, Nagal have to punch above their weights

TENNIS

N. SUDARSHAN

India's faint hopes of a ten-Inis medal at the Tokyo Olympics will rest on Sania Mirza. The former doubles World No. 1 will be making her fourth Olympic appearance and the 34-year-old will have in tow Ankita Raina, six years her junior.

The challenge that awaits the Indian duo, however, will be herculean, with accomplished pairs such as Barbora Krejcikova-Katerina Siniakova of the Czech Republic (reigning French Open and three-time Major champions), Elena Vesnina-Vera Zvonareva of Russia (both three-time Slam champions) headlining the field.

United States' Bethanie

Mattek-Sands, France's Kristina Mladenovic, Hungary's Timea Babos, Belgium's Elise Mertens and Belarus' Aryna Sabalenka are other notable names, who have 19 Major women's doubles titles among them.

Noteworthy record

Sania's record - three women's doubles and three mixed-doubles Slam trophies – is similarly noteworthy, but her lack of match practice and current form are worries. In 2021, she has played just eight women's doubles matches across four tournaments, with a winloss record of 4-4.

None of these have come with Ankita, with whom Sania last played in the Group I Asia-Oceania Billie Jean King Cup round robin in March



Faint hopes: Sania Mirza will be making her fourth Olympic appearance — this time with Ankita Raina, six years her junior.

2020, winning all three

Since then, Ankita has entered the doubles top-100, won a WTA Tour-level trophy and featured in multiple Grand Slam main draws. But she will require a once-in-alifetime effort to come close

In men's singles, the late entry of Sumit Nagal brought cheer but hopes of a podium finish appear far-fetched. The 23-year-old's win-loss record of 13-13 since reaching the quarterfinals at the Buenos Aires ATP 250 in March is far from ideal going into an event that is almost Grand Slam-like, with nine of the world's top-15, including four of the top-five, present.

In fact, the last Indian to win a singles match at the Olympics was Leander Paes in 1996. Ending that drought will be a good achievement.

Nagal and Sania are eligible for mixed-doubles, but with a combined ranking of 153, they may struggle to be among the top-16 teams.

Paes' bronze, but little else

REWIND

N. SUDARSHAN

The spirit of tennis has I long straddled the conflicting worlds of nationalism and globalism. While the Davis Cup held a special place, many top players prioritised Grand Slams that brought individual glory and had global appeal. Tennis, in fact, was reintroduced as a medal-winning discipline at the Olympics only in 1988, after a gap of 64 years.

But for Indians, tennis has long been a source of national pride, riding on the exploits of the Krishnans (Ramanathan & Ramesh), Amritrajs (Anand and Vijay) and the rest. In this, Leander Paes' singles bronze from the 1996 Atlanta Olympics ranks high. It was independent India's second individual me-



Paes during the bronze medal

dal, ending a 44-year drought after K.D. Jadhav's bronze (wrestling, Helsinki 1952).

Paes beat a top-10 player in Thomas Enqvist, ruptured tendons in the wrist in the semifinal loss to Andre Agassi and fought back from a set down against Fernando Meligeni of Brazil in the playoff to bag the historic medal.

But for that, India has had

little success. There hasn't been a singles match win since Paes' effort and his famed partnership with Mahesh Bhupathi across four Olympics didn't fetch a single medal. The closest was at Athens 2004, but the duo lost a marathon bronze medal playoff to Croatia's Mario Ancic and Ivan Liubicic.

The nation's best chance was at London 2012, when it had Paes, Bhupathi and Rohan Bopanna in the top-20. But it will be best remembered for off-court bickering and a clash of egos.

Bopanna and Sania Mirza narrowly missed out at Rio 2016, losing the mixed-doubles semifinal against Venus Williams and Rajeev Ram in a match-tiebreak before being defeated in the bronze medal playoff by Czech Republic's Lucie Hradecka and Radek Stepanek.

Bhavani has a mountain to climb | Medals unlikely but history beckons

FENCING

Bhavani Devi is a trailblazer in Indian fencing. As the first-ever Indian fencer to make it to the Olympics, the 27-year-old's name will be etched in the annals of the sport. However, there is no guarantee of success in Tokvo.

With a world ranking of 42, Bhavani will have a mountain to climb.

She rose through the world rankings mainly through a good performance in the World championships in 2019 in Budapest. Bhavani entered the round of 16, the first-ever Indian fencer to achieve the feat.

Bhavani defeated two



Bhavani the first Indian fencer at the Olympics.

quality opponents - Tunisia's Azza Besbes (ranked 61 then) in the first round and a higher-ranked Canadian Gabriella Page (ranked 36 then) in the round of 32.

She lost a close battle (14-15) to Bianca Pascu of Romania in the pre-quarterfinals. After the Worlds, Bhavani jumped 23 places to be

ranked 44. But the competition will be fierce in Tokyo, with a handful of world class fencers waiting to light up the Makuhari Messe Hall from

2016 Rio Olympics gold medallist Yana Egorian of Russia, who has slipped to 23 in the world rankings, reigning World champion Olga Kharlan of Ukraine, World No. 1 Sofya Velikaya of Russia, who is a two-time Olympics silver medallist (2012, 2016), and two-time Olympic gold medallist Mariel Zagunis (2004, 2008) of USA have all done quite well in the sea-

son gone by. If Bhavani is able to get past two opponents, it will be an achievement to savour.

TABLE TENNIS

AMOL KARHADKAR

Listory is in the making. \prod Even if India's paddlers don't earn a first Olympic me dal in what has been conventionally considered a "lesser sport" by some in the Indian sports ecosystem, Tokyo 2020 will still be a historic occasion for the country's table tennis community.

Sharath's distinction

While veteran A. Sharath Kamal will become the first Indian paddler to feature in four Olympics, Manika Batra will be India's first female paddler to make a second successive appearance in the quadrennial extravaganza.

The two will also hope to



On a mission: India's paddlers will hope to elevate the

pull off a miracle in mixeddoubles and make their appearance even more signifithat has been introduced at the Olympics for the first medal hope, albeit remote, in

sport's stature by doing well in Tokyo. • TWITTER/SAIMEDIA

Tokyo.

The duo gave India its first

cant next week. In an event time, the pair of Sharath and Manika will be India's lone

table tennis medal at the Asian Games, in 2018, and ensured it wasn't a fluke by qualifying for the Olympics in

style. In a draw of the top-16 pairs in the world, it will be interesting to see if they can cause three upsets in a row. When it comes to singles, it will be a bridge too far. It will

be an excellent achievement if either Sharath or G. Sathiyan makes it to the round of

Manika, too, has admitted that her target is to beat at least one higher-ranked player in singles. Sutirtha Mukherjee will be keen on a decent showing on her Olympic debut.

Stepping stone

While for Sharath, 39, Tokyo is likely to be his final Olympics, Manika (26) and Sathiyan (24) will be treating the upcoming Games as a stepping stone for Paris 2024.

However, if Sharath and Manika can pull off a coup, they will ensure Indian table tennis is elevated in stature and will not be treated just as a recreational sport.

Content with participation

AMOL KARHADKAR

 □ ver since table tennis Γ was included as an Olympic sport in Seoul 1988, at least one Indian has participated in the Games every time. However, in true Olympic spirit, for all the last eight editions, India's paddlers have mostly been content with participation.

When it comes to men's singles, right from Chetan Baboor to A. Sharath Kamal – who have featured in three Olympics each - to Kamlesh Mehta, who figured in the 1988 and 1992 editions, no Indian paddler has entered the pre-quarterfinals; so has been the case with the women's and men's doubles entrants.

Chahar's knock helps India pull off an incredible win and go 2-0 up

Bhuvneshwar lends able support; Sri Lanka lets the match slip away after being in a commanding position

INDIA IN LANKA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tailender Deepak Chahar brought India back from the dead with a steely 69 off 82 balls and script the visiting team's series-sealing victory in the second ODI against Sri

Lanka here on Tuesday. Chasing 276, India was down and out at 193 for seven before Chahar and Bhuvneshwar Kumar (19 not out off 28) forged an unbeaten 84-run stand to clinch a memorable win for the visitors who extended their record of not losing an ODI on Sri Lanka soil since 2012.

A struggling Sri Lankan outfit has only itself to blame for not finishing the job from a commanding position.

Chahar, whose highest score before this game was 12, showed remarkable resolve and composure under pressure to take his team over the line with five balls to

It was expected to be another comfortable chase for India after Sri Lanka put an improved batting effort to post 275 for nine. However, questionable

shot selection from the ma-

jority of the Indian batsmen

gave their opponents hope. Barring Chahar and Suryakumar Yadav (53), the Indian batsmen faltered. **Stand-out bowler** Leg-spinner Wanindu Hasa-

ranga troubled the Indians

with his variations and ended up being the stand-out

bowler for his team.

India felt the heat early on in the chase with Prithvi Shaw and Ishan Kishan getting out to bad shots.

India, at one stage, was reeling at 116 for five. Earlier, Avishka Fernando (50 off 71) and Charith Asalanka (65 off 68) struck halfcenturies but the home team

could not post an imposing

Chamika Karunaratne (44 not out off 33 balls) came up with another timely cameo to take the team past 270.



half-century took India past the finish line. •AP

SCOREBOARD

SRI LANKA Avishka Fernando c Krunal b

Bhuvneshwar 50 (71b, 4x4, 1x6), Minod Bhanuka c Pandey b Chahal 36 (42b, 6x4), Bhanuka Rajapaksa c Ishan b Chahal O (1b), Dhananjaya de Silva c Dhawan b Deepak Chahar 32 (45b, 1x4), Charith Asalanka c sub (Padikkal) b Bhuvneshwar 65 (68b, 6x4), Dasun Shanaka b Chahal 16 (24b, 1x4), Wanindu Hasaranga b Deepak Chahar 8 (11b, 1x4), Chamika Karunaratne (not out) 44 (33b, 5x4), Dushmantha Chameera c sub (Padikkal) b Bhuvneshwar 2 (5b). Lakshan Sandakan run out O (1b), Kasun Rajitha (not out) 1 (1b); Extras (lb-6, w-13, nb-2): 21; Total (for nine wkts. in 50 overs): 275.

FALL OF WICKETS 1-77 (Minod, 13.2 overs), 2-77 (Rajapaksa, 13.3), 3-124 (Avishka, 24.6), 4-134 (de Silva, 27.2), 5-

172 (Shanaka, 35.2), 6-194 (Has-

aranga, 39.1), 7-244 (Asalanka,

47.1), 8-264 (Chameera, 49.1), 9-

266 (Sandakan, 49.3). **INDIA BOWLING** 10-0-54-3, Bhuvneshwar

Deepak Chahar 8-0-53-2, Hardik 4-0-20-0, Chahal 10-1-50-3, Kuldeep 10-0-55-0, Krunal 8-0-37-0.

INDIA Prithvi Shaw b Hasaranga 13

(11b, 3x4), Shikhar Dhawan lbw b Hasaranga 29 (38b, 6x4), Ishan Kishan b Rajitha 1 (4b), Manish Pandey run out 37 (31b, 3x4), Suryakumar Yadav lbw b Sandakan 53 (44b, 6x4), Hardik Pandya c de Silva b Shanaka O (3b), Krunal Pandya b Hasaranga 35 (54b, 3x4), Deepak Chahar (not out) 69 (82b, 7x4, 1x6), Bhuvneshwar Kumar (not out) 19 (28b, 2x4); Extras (b-1, lb-4, w-16): 21: Total (for seven wkts. in 49.1 overs): 277.

FALL OF WICKETS 1-28 (Shaw, 2.6 overs), 2-39 (Ishan, 4.6), 3-65 (Dhawan, 11.6), 4-115 (Pandey, 17.2), 5-116 (Hardik, 17.6), 6-160 (Suryakumar, 26.6), 7-193 (Krunal, 35.1).

SRI LANKA BOWLING Rajitha 7.1-0-53-1, Chameera 10-0-65-0, Hasaranga 10-0-37-3, Sandakan 10-0-71-1, Karunaratne 6-1-26-0, Shanaka 3-0-10-1, de Silva 3-0-10-0.

Toss: Sri Lanka

with five balls to spare and took an unassailable 2-0 lead. Third and final ODI: July 23, R. Premadasa Stadium, Colombo, 3 p.m. IST.

India won by three wickets

warm up in style

Rahul and Jadeja

INDIA IN ENG PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DURHAM

K.L. Rahul (101 retired out) and Ravindra Jadeja (75) powered the Indians to 306 for nine in 90 overs on the opening day of the warm-up

game against County Select

XI on Tuesday. Rahul and Jadeja, who came together with the side wobbling at 107 for four, added 127 for the fifth wicket. The former was at his fluent best during his 150-ball knock, stroking 11 fours and a six. The latter's 146-ball innings had five fours and a

Rohit Sharma, leading the side in the absence of Virat Kohli and Ajinkya Rahane who were rested for the match with minor niggles, fell for nine. Mayank Agarwal contributed 28.

Cheteshwar Pujara (21) and Hanuma Vihari (24) failed to click before it was left to Rahul and Jadeja to resurrect the innings. India's fringe players Avesh 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



Khan and Washington Sundar turned up for County Select after the home team lost players due to COVIDrelated isolation. Avesh bowled 9.5 overs before sustaining a thumb injury.

The scores: Indians 306/9 in 90 overs (K.L. Rahul retd. out 101. Ravindra Jadeia 75. Craig Miles 3/39) vs County Select XI; Toss: Indians.





TV PICKS

TNPL 2021: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m



Maymol steps down as women's football coach

NEW DELHI After four years in charge of the senior Indian women's football team, head coach Maymol Rocky has stepped down due to personal reasons. She thanked the AIFF for its "trust" in her abilities. PTI

All set for The Hundred

LONDON The Hundred, a brand new 100 balls per side format of cricket, starts on Wednesday. The Hundred will feature eight franchise teams - all featuring men's and women's sides. The tournament will begin with a standalone women's match, between Oval Invincibles and Manchester Originals. AFP

'Best chance for a medal in last 20 years'

This is the most open men's tournament in the last five editions, says former India captain Rasquinha

OLYMPICS

Y.B. SARANGI KOLKATA

Former India hockey captain Viren Rasquinha feels the Indian team has a realistic chance to win an Olympics medal in Tokyo.

Assessing the Indian men's team's chances, Rasquinha underlined the Manpreet Singh-led side's improvement.

"This is the best chance for a medal in the last 20 years. Our last chance was in Sydney 2000 when we just missed out on a place in the semifinals. This team has really played well. They have improved gradually and consistently and have beaten all the top teams over the last four-year Olympic cycle.

First goal

"The first goal should be to come out of the pool to the quarterfinals. We are not going to get an easy quarterfi-



Dedicated stint: Rasquinha said P.R. Sreejesh, in pic, and Manpreet deserved to win an Olympic medal for their long service. • TWITTER

nal match," Rasquinha, who will be part of Sony Sports live studio show, Sports Extraaa, for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games from July 23, told *The Hindu* on Tuesday.

Rasquinha appreciated the Graham Reid-coached side. "There is a lot of freshness, enthusiasm and hard running. A lot on the lines of different positions. Undoubtedly, it's a very good team."

A former midfielder, Rasquinha praised India's current linkmen. "With Manpreet leading the midfield, he is the fulcrum, he is the guy with boundless energy and is the bridge between defence and attack. Vivek Sagar Prasad is a crafty midfielder. A lot of depth in the mid-

field and they are going to

play an important role." Rasquinha said P.R. Sreejesh and Manpreet deserved to win an Olympic medal for their long service to Indian hockey.

"This is the most open men's hockey tournament in the last five Olympics. There is no clear favourite. Any of

can win gold. If India plays well consistently under pressure, you have to have six-seven really good consistent matches, it can win that

Rasquinha said the women's side became fit in recent times. "I see them doing weight training regularly. Now they are able to match the Europeans who play a tough body game with a lot of close marking."

Inspirational leader

Rasquinha said women's team captain Rani Rampal should inspire the side. "Rani is a great leader, also an incredible goal scorer under pressure. A lot relies on her shoulder. She has to inspire the entire forward line. She cannot do it alone."

Rasquinha, who works for Olympic Gold Quest, praised the synergy between government agencies and NGOs in supporting the Tokyo-bound

SHORT TAKES

to series sweep

fastest century in One-Day

Bangladesh beat Zimbabwe by

five wickets to complete a 3-0

series whitewash on Tuesday.

Earlier Zimbabwe exceeded

the expectations of captain

in the third and final ODI.

Brendan Taylor by posting 298

International cricket as

Mithali back on top of women's ODI rankings

Mithali Raj is back on top of the ICC Women's ODI rankings list with 762 points while Smriti Mandhana is ninth. In the bowlers' list, Jhulan Goswami is the lone Indian in the top-10 at the fifth spot while Deepti Sharma holds an identical slot in the



In the T20I rankings, Smriti attained a career-best

equalling third position.

84, Ryan Burl 59, Sikandar

Raza 57. Mustafizur 3/57.

Saifuddin 3/87) lost to

Tamim leads Bangladesh Opener Regis Chakabva laid the foundation with a brisk 84. The scores: Zimbabwe 298 in Captain Tamim Igbal hit his 49.3 overs (Regis Chakabva

> Bangladesh 302 for five in 48 overs (Tamim Igbal 112, Nurul Hasan 45 n.o.). **Toss:** Bangladesh. MoM: Tamim MoS: Shakib. Bangladesh wins by five wickets and the series

Women's Asian Cup's official logo unveiled

The tournament logo of next year's Women's Asia Cup to be held in India was unveiled by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and the Local Organising Committee (LOC) on Tuesday. The tournament will be conducted in Mumbai and Pune from January 20 to Feb. 6. The 2022 edition has been expanded to 12 teams four more than the last four editions. It will also feature a newly-introduced quarterfinal stage for the first time in Asian

3-0. AP

We can definitely beat the best, says Ankita Raina

She eyes podium finish at the Games, playing doubles alongside Sania Mirza

TENNIS

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

At 28, Ankita Raina, who will be making her Olympics debut partnering six-time Grand Slam winner Sania Mirza in the Tokyo Games tennis competition, says her own enthusiasm and Sania's experience could well be the surprise weapon in their campaign to win an Olym-

"There's a big mix of emotions - excitement, nerves, pride! But, I'm determined to focus on the task at hand, and give it my best shot," Ankita informed The Hindu before leaving for Tokyo after training at the Sania Mirza Tennis Academy here in the last few days.

"We are continuing to work on building on our partnership and understanding. Preparing for the Olympics requires its own tactics, routines, and planning, and we and our teams have been very focused and dedicated towards that," Ankita on playing with Sania.

"It's of course great to partner with someone like Sania, who has been a role model for me! To be representing the country, at the



Sania Mirza and Ankita Raina SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Olympics by her side, is extremely motivating. There of course will be some pressure," she said.

"I'm someone who plays

aggressively and runs down the balls. I've been working on my serve and net game which is a process and I feel it's improved as I've had good performances this year," she said.

Fans will be missed

"It's natural to have nerves. But, my best has always come when I've played for the flag, and this pressure is a privilege," Ankita said even while stressing that the fans would be missed in Tokyo.

"We're up against the best in the world with many challenges. I think we just have to trust in ourselves and keep the faith and keep fighting," she said.

"Sania has beaten the best in the world, and I've had a good season as well, having also won an Asiad medal be-

"I think we just have to stick to our guns, and we can definitely beat the best," she

"We obviously want to aim for the best, but it's important to just take it one match at a time, bring laurels to the country, and a podium finish would be where I would like to see us at the end of the Games," Ankita

GENERAL

Tiwary has no problems wearing two hats

I will gel with other players like a friend, says former India player

CRICKET

Y.B. SARANGI KOLKATA

Wearing two hats, that of a minister and of a professional cricketer, is not a problem for former India cricketer Manoj Tiwary.

The inclusion of Tiwary among 39 Bengal probables for the forthcoming domestic season was a surprise for many. But the 35-year-old never had any confusion about the challenging decision he took a few months

"When Didi (West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee) asked me to join pol-

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THE NEXT GENERATION?

DO YOU HAVE

itics, I could not say no. When I told her that I wanted to play and did not want to end my career abruptly, she said, 'You can play as long as vou can'," Tiwary, a Trinamool Congress MLA from Shibpur, told The Hindu on Tuesday.

For Tiwary, who is West Bengal's Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports, it's about managing the two jobs well. "I have a very good team which knows how to handle different situations. I was confident that managing the two things would not be difficult," said Tiwary, a former Bengal skipper.

"My job is to work on my

fitness and skill set. By God's grace, I have been contributing to the team with my batting, bowling and fielding for the last 18 years."

Tiwary said his position in the government would not affect his relationship with fellow-players in the Bengal side. "I am not going to present myself as a minister. I will gel with other players like a friend. And they can crack jokes on me."

Tiwary wants to see Bengal as the Ranji champion again. "A lot of investment has been made on younger players in the last five-seven years... We want to achieve that (title) as a team," he said.

THE HINDU

GENERAL



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ON OR BEFORE 15TH AUGUST, 2021 www.srmap.edu.in/careers HR DEPARTMENT, CONTACT: +91 9790733507 / +91 9032067774 SRM UNIVERSITY AP, NEERUKONDA, MANGALAGIRI MANDAL, GUNTUR DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH - 522 240.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR RESUME ONLINE WITH YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND REFERENCES

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