

Government introduces Bill on insurance firms in Lok Sabha



Govt.'s denial of manual says Bezwada Wilson



Pakistan, U.S. discuss

Zverev ends Djokovic's Golden Slam hopes, meets Khachanov in final

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scavenging deaths cruel,



political settlement in Afghanistan page 13

page 16





India and China to hold 12th round of talks today

India and China are scheduled to hold the 12th round of Corps Commander talks on Saturday with the focus on working out an agreement for the second phase of disengagement from Gogra and Hot Springs in Eastern Ladakh.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 10

Blockade lifted at **Assam-Mizoram border**

The situation on the Assam-Mizoram border remained tense but under control as CRPF troops have started patrolling National Highway 306 between the two States. Officials in Assam's Barak Valley said the blockade on Assam's roads leading to Mizoram had been lifted.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 10

HC notice to Delhi govt. over Muslim marriages

NEW DELHI The Delhi High Court on Friday issued notice to the Delhi government on a petition alleging that Muslim marriages were being registered under the Special Marriage Act and not under the Compulsory Marriage Order where marriages are registered immediately.

REGION ▶ PAGE 7

SC to hear plea against snooping next week

Probe sought into mass surveillance of over 140 'targets'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to hear next week a petition filed by senior journalists N. Ram and Sashi Kumar for an independent investigation, headed by a former or a sitting judge, of mass surveillance of more than 142 potential "targets", including journalists, lawyers, Ministers, Opposition politicians, constitutional functionaries and civil society activists, using the military-grade Israeli spyware Pegasus.

The petition was mentioned by senior advocate Kapil Sibal before a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana.

He submitted that the petition ought to be heard urgently as it concerned issues affecting the fundamental rights and civil liberties of citizens and even national security. The issue was making waves not only in India but also globally.

The Supreme Court website shows the petition is likely to be taken up on August 6.

'Abridging rights'

"Such mass surveillance using a military-grade spyware abridges several fundamental rights and appears to represent an attempt to infilof public safety, and the existence of such conditions must be inferred reasonably and cannot be determined solely on the assessment of the government... The hack/interception/decryption occasioned by the Pegasus spyware constitutes a criminal offence PETITION IN THE SUPREME COURT

Surveillance/interception is justified only in

cases of public emergency or in the interests

trate, attack and destabilise independent institutions that act as critical pillars of our democratic set-up," the petition said.

It sought a full disclosure from the government of whether it had authorised the snooping which, the petition said, seemed to be an attempt to muzzle free speech and chill dissent.

The government had still not given a straight answer to whether the hacking was done with its blessings, it pointed out. "Respondents [Ministries

of Home, Information Technology and Communications] have not categorically ruled out obtaining Pegasus licences to conduct surveillance in their response, and have taken no steps to ensure a credible and independent investigation into these extremely serious allega-

tions," it noted. The spying had caused serious dents on the rights to free speech and privacy. It had no legal basis. In fact, the legal regime for surveillance under Section 5(2) of the Telegraph Act had been completely bypassed. Civilians had become targets, it said.

'A criminal offence'

"Surveillance/interception is justified only in cases of public emergency or in the interests of public safety, and the existence of such conditions must be inferred reasonably and cannot be determined solely on the assessment of the government... The hack/interception/decryption occasioned by the Pegasus spyware constitutes a criminal offence," it highlighted.

Lovlina assures India of a second medal

Boxer guaranteed a bronze in Tokyo; Sindhu moves into badminton semifinal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

India's quest for a second medal at the Tokyo Olympics gained a fillip as Lovlina Borgohain punched her way into the women's welterweight (69 kg) boxing semifinal, which guaranteed her a bronze. During Friday's quarterfinal, Lovlina defeated Nein-Chin Chen of Chinese Taipei through a 4-1 split decision.

The 23-year-old from Assam will now take on the top-seeded Busenaz Surmeneli of Turkey in the semifinal on Wednesday.

Lovlina's rousing stint was a perfect start to a fine day for the Indian contingent as badminton ace P.V. Sindhu went past Akane Yamaguchi of Japan 21-13, 22-20 in the quarterfinal, and the men's hockey team beat Japan 5-3 to complete its pool proceedings. It will meet Great Britain in the quarterfinal.

MORE REPORTS > PAGE 10, 15, 16



Packing a punch: Lovlina Borgohain, in red, and Nien-Chin Chen of Chinese Taipei fighting during the women's welterweight category quaterfinal in Tokyo on Friday. • PTI

'Excess deaths' in Punjab are 3 times official COVID-19 toll

VIKAS VASUDEVA SRINIVASAN RAMANI CHANDIGARH/CHENNAI

The number of "excess deaths" registered by the Civil Registration System (CRS) in Punjab ever since the CO-VID-19 pandemic hit (from April 2020 to May 2021) was an estimated 47,571, which is 3.3 times the official reported figure of 14,450 COVID-19 deaths for the same period.

The figures were arrived at from the data on deaths registered month-wise in the CRS from January 2015 to June 2021 in Punjab and accessed by The Hindu.

If data for June 2021 were added to the analysis, the excess deaths multiple in**Counting the dead** | The number of excess deaths in Punjab between April 2020 and May 2021 was estimated at 47,571, which is 3.3 times the number of COVID-19 deaths recorded in the same period

	Period	deaths	COVID toll
	Apr Dec. '20	17,186	3.2
7	Jan May '21	30,385	3.3
	🕽 Jan June '21	40,550	3.8
	Apr. '20 - May '21	47,571	3.3
DIA	Apr. '20- June '21	57,735	3.6
~~ v	Apr. '21 - May '21	30,681	4
	Apr. '21-June '21	40,910	4.5
_			

creased to 3.6. The excess deaths were calculated as the difference between the month-wise total number of registered deaths during the pandemic period and average of deaths registered for the same months during the pre-pandemic period (2018 and 2019).

LOW MULTIPLE ▶ PAGE 10

99.4% students pass CBSE Class 12 exam

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) recorded a pass percentage of 99.37 in this year's Class 12 results, declared on Friday, a huge leap from the 88.78% pass of the previous year.

A whopping 70,000 students scored above 95%. Two years ago, before CO-VID-19 disrupted the education system, it was just 17,693 students.

Overall, 2.2 lakh students, 17% of their class, scored above 90% this year.

FULL REPORT ON ▶ PAGE 12 99.84 PASS PERCENTAGE IN DELHI ▶ PAGE 2

Unfamiliar waters



River swell: A man rows a makeshift raft with a woman and her belongings. Many hutments along the Yamuna have been washed away with the river flowing above the 'danger mark' on Friday. • SANDEEP SAXENA (REPORT ON PAGE 6)

Delhi Assembly bats for repeal of farm laws

Maken hints at fresh faces in Rajasthan Cabinet

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Amid speculation of a Cabinet reshuffle in Rajasthan, All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary Ajay Maken on Friday hinted that some Ministers may be dropped to make way for fresh faces. Mr. Maken said some of the Cabinet members had conveved their desire to work for the party organisation.

Mr. Maken was in Jaipur for the last two days to interact with Congress MLAs and Independents supporting the Congress to get their feedback on the State government's performance. Several legislators reportedly expressed dissatisfaction with some Ministers and accused them of being inaccessible.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 11

Judge death case has wider ramifications: SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Spurred by the alleged murder of a judge in Jharkhand, the Supreme Court on Friday took suo motu cognisance of the mounting conjudiciary, especially trial judges, in the line of duty.

A Bench, led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, noted that the death of judge Uttam Anand, who was fatally knocked down by a vehiramifications" on the independence of the judiciary.

The suo motu case has been titled 'In Re: Safeguarding courts and protecting judges (death of Additional Sessions Judge, Dhanbad).

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

cerns about the dangers cle in Dhanbad on Wednesfaced by the subordinate day, "wider SHUBHRA RANJAN





& many more....



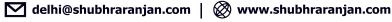
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sembly, during the concluding day of the monsoon session on Friday, "noted with concern" that the Central go-

The Delhi Legislative As-

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

vernment had not "heeded the demands by the farmers" for withdrawal of the farm laws in spite of their peaceful protests "Keeping in view the genuine demand of the farmers and also the fact that many farmers have lost their lives in this long struggle, this House strongly recommends

that the Union Government

should immediately repeal

the three Farm Laws and call

the farmers' association for

talks to understand their

tion, which was later adopted by the Assembly.

GNCTD Act

The House also discussed the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2021, which gives more teeth to the Lieutenant Governor in the city's administration.

Delhi Home Minister Satyendar Jain and Aam Aadmi Party MLAs protested against the Act with Mr. Jain alleging that it was "a violation of the Constitution."

MLA Raghav Chadha alleged that the BJP wanted to "indirectly capture Delhi government" since it "cannot run it directly". Senior AAP leader and MLA Atishi said that the BJP had not only ta-



On last day of monsoon session, House asks Centre to talk to protesters and understand their grievances

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal speaking in the Assembly on Friday. ■PTI

ken away the strength of the

Delhi government but also that of the Assembly. "It is clear that the BJP knows it is not going to come to power in Delhi. Because of this, it is trying to grab power in Delhi by entering from

the side doors," alleged AAP

recommending that only doctors and paramedics who have served people in the Capital during the pandemic be nominated by the Delhi government for the Padma awards. It recommended honouring the entire Indian medical fraternity by conferring the Bharat Ratna on the 'Bharatiya Doctor'. "We have all seen how not just our country but the entire world has been suffering

because of the COVID-19

pandemic. During this pe-

riod, our doctors and para-

medics put their lives at

stake to serve the nation. In

such a time, it is the duty of

The Assembly also unani-

mously passed a resolution

wal told the House. On his part, Leader of the Opposition Ramvir Singh

to the medical community,"

Chief Minister Arvind Kejri-

Bidhuri requested the CM to "fulfil his widely advertised promise of giving Delhi's farmers 50% more than the minimum support price (MSP) and alternative plots to those farmers whose land has been acquired by the government, and implement Central government policies for their benefit." He demanded that the Delhi government fulfil its promise of compensating the families of 'Corona Warriors' belonging to the civic bodies as well.

the whole society to thank **DELHI ASSEMBLY PASSES GST** and give the utmost respect (AMENDMENT) BILL ▶ PAGE 6

99.84% Class XII students clear CBSE exam in Delhi

Region secures second spot in pass percentage nationwide

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

In the CBSE Class XII results released on Friday, Delhi East and Delhi West saw a pass percentage of 99.84% - the second-highest in the coun-Trivandrum

Last year, the pass percentage for Delhi was 94.39%. In 2019, Delhi had a pass percentage of 91.87% and in 2018 result, it was 89%.

Region-wise, in 2020, Delhi West and Delhi East were placed in fourth and fifth positions respectively in the national list with Trivandrum, Bengaluru and Chennai regions scoring better.

The CBSE Class XII examination was scheduled to be conducted on May 4 but was cancelled due to the sharp rise in COVID cases.

The board came out with an alternative policy for assessment that was cleared by the Supreme Court on June 17. The policy gave 40% contribution to marks obtained by students in Class XII based on unit test/mid-term and pre-board examination, 30%



Students celebrate after the announcement of CBSE Class XII results in New Delhi on Friday. • PTI

contribution to Class XI marks based on the theory component and 30% on the average theory component of the best three performing subjects out of main five subjects in Class X.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal took to Twitter to announce the results of the performance of Delhi govt. schools: "Congratulations to Delhi govt. schools students, teachers and parents Congrats Team Delhi Education Overall pass: 99.96% (97.92% last yr) 875 Schools have 100% result (396 last year) 885 students score above 95% (442 students last yr) Its historic! [sic]."

Congratulating the students, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisoida tweeted: "Congratulations to all our class 12th students on your board exam results. I am extremely proud of you as you have survived extraordinary circumstances and adapted to the new form of learning. My best wishes for your journey ahead [sic]."

This year, the CBSE had not released a merit list of a breakup of results between private and government schools in the Capital. The result for over 65,000 candidates is still being prepared and will be declared by August 5, the CBSE said.

'Cut-offs for many UG courses likely to go up in Delhi University'

Principals cite more CBSE students scoring over 95% as reason

STAFF REPORTER

Principals of several colleges under Delhi University on Friday said the cut-offs for various merit-based undergraduate courses are likely to go up this year due to a higher number of students scoring above 95%.

According to data provided by the CBSE, over 5.3% of candidates - a total of 70,004 students - have scored above 95%.

70,000 seats in DU

According to DU officials, there are around 70,000 UG seats on offer this year. In 2020, over 38,000 students - 3.24% of candidates - had scored above 95%

Last year, the highest cutoffs announced in DU was by Lady Shri Ram College, with an asking score of 100% for three honours courses. Following the declaration of

CBSE XII results, LSR principal Suman Sharma said while students have scored well this year, deliberations and analysis of data provided by DU will be required to project this year's cut-off marks.

Gargi College principal Promila Kumar said: "The cut-offs will definitely increase substantially. The university is in the process of framing policies. We can only analyse the data after that and see. But there is no doubt that the cut-offs will increase."

Several principals also ad-

ded that the cut-off marks will also depend on the number of students applying to particular courses and colleges. Gyantosh Jha, principal of Atma Ram Sanatan Dharma College, said: "The high board exam scores will have an effect on the cut-off marks, but it will also depend on how many students apply..." Manoj Sinha, principal of Aryabhatta College, said: "The cut-offs will go higher but how much higher is something that will differ from college to college..."

Delhi Police officers divided on Asthana's appointment as chief

Some bank on 'more clarity', others say it is a political move

HEMANI BHANDARI NEW DELHI

Delhi Police officers are divided on their opinion about the appointment of Rakesh Asas the Police thana Commissioner.

Mr. Asthana, a 1984-batch Gujarat cadre IPS officer, assumed office on Wednesday - a day after the Ministry of Home Affairs issued an order and just four days before his retirement.

A senior IPS officer termed it a good move, saying Mr. Asthana will have "clarity" on actions. "S.N. Shrivastava was the acting Commissioner in his entire tenure, but for one month. Balaji Srivastava was the interim chief till the new Commissioner was found. In Mr. Asthana, we have an officer who has been made the chief for the next one year in a clearly written order. Unlike his predecessors, he will feel more confident in taking decisions because he doesn't need to ensure that his position is safe."

The officer added that there is "nothing unconstitutional" in the appointment of Mr. Asthana as due proce-

dure has been followed. "The appointment of the chief of police, especially in Delhi, is political move and the Home Minister has the right to choose in his power. One cannot question Mr. Asthana's seniority as he is senior to both the former Commissioners. There is no pending investigation against him...,

he said.

Another senior IPS officer said since Mr. Asthana has been a trusted officer of the Home Minister and the Prime Minister for years, "there will be clarity in decision making". "In Delhi, a lot of things happen in the national interest. For instance, riots broke out and investigations took place around the 'toolkit'. As Mr. Asthana has a direct line with the top bosses, he will know what decision has to be taken and when. Because there will be no panic at his level... it will not percolate down the ranks," he said.

The officer added that Mr. Asthana's - before his fallout with former CBI director Alok Verma wherein both levelled corruption charges against each other - was "brilliant"

and known for his integrity. However, another senior IPS officer had a different opinion on the appointment and believed that it reflects badly on the AGMUT cadre. "Everyone knows he is a political appointee. A question arises on whether officers in the AG-MUT cadre weren't good enough that a Gujarat cadre officer had to be brought in. Has the leadership in AGMUT cadre failed," he asked, adding that the appointment of Mr. Asthana may be challenged in court by someone wondering if the due course was followed.

"The reason of his appointment has been given to be in public interest citing pandemic and farmer's agitation. However, a pandemic is not a law and order issue and farmers have been sitting for eight months now," he added.

An Inspector-rank officer said he only hopes that Mr. Asthana's arrival would lead to transparency and meritbased appointment of Station House Officers unlike "others" who used "different means" of selection.



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The survey conducted by CPI(M) shows 27% of households got less than 5 kg ration per person in May. ■FILE PHOTO

Out of nearly 2,000 people, 65% had no job in April and May, shows CPI(M) survey

STAFF REPORTER

The Delhi unit of CPI(M) on Friday released a report on the impact of the second CO-VID wave in Delhi-NCR.

The survey showed that despite the additional ration entitlement announced by the government, 27% of the nouseholds got less than 5 kg ration per person in May this year. The survey also said out of 1,917 respondents across the Capital and Ghaziabad, 65% had no employ-

ment in April and May. "Even the rest faced a considerable loss of employment. Around 14% of them did not find any work for more than 30 days in two months, 6% for 15-30 days in two months and 4% for 15 days in two months. Only 3% of the respondents reported that they did not face any loss of employment," the report read.

The report also reflected that 72% of those, who worked as casual workers before the second wave, had no jobs during April and

"While most casual workers became unemployed, those who were self-employed were also unable to work for many days. Hence, they saw their incomes falling drastically," the report

The survey also showed

that a large section was also unable to access subsidised foodgrains through the public distribution system during the second wave.

Letter to CM

In a letter to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the party said around 78% of the workers had not received their first dose of COVID vaccine.

"This tardy pace has to be reversed and the government must ensure at least one dose vaccination for all workers in the unorganised sector by August 15. This should form part of the preparedness of the Delhi government for an imminent third wave. The health infrastructure must be ramped up in tune with the peak load of the second wave with oxygen plants at hospitals, more ICU beds and fresh recruitment of health workers," the memorandum read.

CPI(M) Polit Bureau member Brinda Karat said the survey underlined the urgent need for cash transfer of ₹7,500 to the workingclass households.

Man held for killing uncle over 'construction work'

Two of his accomplices also arrested

STAFF REPORTER

A 27-year-old man has been arrested for killing his uncle in Dwarka, the police said on Friday. Two others have also been held in connection with the case.

DCP (Dwarka) S.K. Meena said the accused have been identified as Rajbeer (27) and his friends Abhishek (19) and Lalit (24). The trio shot 63-year-old Ajeet Singh

while he was sleeping. After this, the trio robbed food delivery boy of his

motocycle at gunpoint. On July 26, the victim had a fight with his nephew over

construction work that was under way at the former's house. The victim's son and the accused's father were also involved in the fight. Rajbeer had also allegedly threatened to kill Singh.

The same day, he booked a room with his friends, got drunk and hatched a plan to kill Singh.

Mr. Meena said with the help of technical surveillance, they traced Rajbeer's location near Galaxy Royal hotel Ramphal chowk. A pistol with two live cartridges, the robbed motorcycle and mobile phones were recovered, they added.

Dr. Dinesh Sharma

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

Government of Uttar Pradesh

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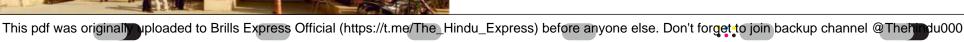




Govt. of Uttar Pradesh









Cash, gold seized from Odisha govt. employee

STAFF REPORTER

The vigilance department has unearthed assets worth ₹3.79 crore from a private secretary to a member of the Odisha Staff Selection Commission (OSSC).

The assets are hugely disproportionate to the known source of income of Biranchi

Narayan Sahoo, whose houses and that of his relatives were searched at six different locations in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack on Friday.

Three teams, comprising 4 Deputy Superintendents of Police, 13 inspectors and other staff, were involved in the operation after the vigilance directorate was tipped off.

They recovered cash amounting to ₹12 lakh from Mr. Sahoo's house and ₹13 lakh from his brother-inlaw's residence. Gold ornaments worth over ₹60 lakh

Two double-storey buildings at Niladri Vihar, a posh locality of Bhubaneswar, two buildings at Bhakti Vihar

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M/S Harsh Speciality Coating Pyt

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Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code, 2016 has been filed against YOU (Corporate Debtor) before NCLT,

Delhi. The Tribunal, vide an order dated 15.01.2021, issued notice to

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Delhi 110065 and email ID harshspeciality@hotmail.com You are hereby informed via this

Public Notice that that the matter is

NCLT, New Delhi, Court - VI on 02.08.2021. If you do not appear before the Tribunal in person or

through an authorized counsel the Tribunal may proceed to hear

the Petition in your absence and decide the same ex parte. Mayank Kshirsagar Advocate for M/s Sherwin Williams Coatings

Pvt. Ltd. (Operational Creditor) Ph - 9899967801

Email – mayank104@gmail.com

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in Bhubaneswar and Godibandha in Cuttack districts were found to be in Mr. Sahoo's possession.

Besides, 14 prime plots were purchased by him in Bhubaneswar, Khordha and Puri. The vigilance department also came across insurance deposits worth over ₹56 lakh.

MGNREGS registration needs improvement in Bihar: CAG

State Assembly

The Comptroller and Auditor Employment

Bihar. The report also says

highest number of landless casual labourers in the country at 88.61 lakh and 60.88 lakh (69%) were surveyed. only 3.34% (3,007 out of 90,161 of willing landless households) were issued job cards. In the test-checked districts, less than one per cent job-seekers (146 out of 22,678 willing landless households)

were issued job cards and survey work was discontinued. Specific plans, as required, for providing employment opportunity to the vulnerable group of households were not prepared," said the CAG report, which was tabled in the Bihar State Assembly on July 29.

The report further observed that only 9%-14% of the registered disabled persons and 5%-9% of senior citizens were provided employment under the scheme during the 2014-19 period.

Three trekkers missing in H.P.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA SHIMLA

Three trekkers have gone missing in Himachal Pra-

ment Director Sudesh Kumar Mokhta said a trekker from Rajasthan, Nikunj Jaiswal, and his two companions went missing at Ghepan Peak.

Timings

DELHI			
SATURDA	Y, JUL. 31	L	
RISE	05:43	SET	19:13
RISE	23.53	SFT	12.24

Delhi Weather max min Delhi City 32 24 Safdarjang 32 24

Delhi Palam Todav

shower likely at some places with cloudy sky and gentle

and thundershower likely at some places with cloudy sky

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Report tabled in

AMARNATH TEWARY

General (CAG) report for the vear ending March 31, 2019, has observed that registration of all potential job seekers, especially landless casual labourers, under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) needs to be substantially improved in that the Bihar Mahadalit Vikas Mission (BMVM) had ineffective financial management. "Though Bihar has the

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Samvad 13/2022/40/3971/I/199/3 **HIMACHAL PRADESH**

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) e-Procurement Notice **INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

The Superintending Engineer 12th Circle HPPWD Nahan Distt Sirmour H.P on behalf of invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of roads under National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD WORK) in the District Sirmour for RIDF-XXVI (4) number of works with estimated cost totaling to Rs. 2642.07 lacs including their maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors registered with HPPWD and HP Jal Shakti Vibhag (Contractors of HP Jal Shakti Vibhag are eligible to participate for the works having amount put to tender above Rs. 100 Lacs). Non registered contractors may submit the bids; however successful bidder has to register in appropriate class with appropriate authority in HPPWD

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (construction Part)	Maintenance Part	EMD (Rs.)	Cost of Tender (Rs.)		Eligible class of contractor
1.	M/T on Kawal Bandli Tharu Road Km. 0/0 to 5/600 (SH:- Retaining wall, Breast Wall, Wire Crate structure, Cross Drainage Works, Granular for WBM-II WBM-III, M/T work, Road side V-Shape Drain, essential Parapets, Metal Beam Crash Barrier & P/F Sign Board, Km stone under NABARD RIDF-XXVI).	3,55,26,749/-	3424512/-	739000/-	5,000/-	Eighteen Months	Class "A"
2.	Metalling Tarring on Maryog Lana Ravna road & C/O Sarsoo via Behanar road km 0/0 to 20/265 under Nabard.(SH:- Removal of Formation Defficiency in km 0/0 to 13/00 & C/O 5/7 Mtr wide road in km 13/00 to 20/265). i/c cross drainage works, P/L GSB, WBM - II, WBM-III, Metalling Tarring, Side drain, Parapets and road sign boards and dumping sites) under NABARD RIDF-XXVI	15,46,98,095/-	12392452/-	3342000/-	5,000/-	Eighteen Months	Class "A"
3.	Construiction of link road from Shamsherpur to Nawada via Heerpur Matralion Rampurghat Km. 0/0 to 7/720 (SH:- Formastion cutting 5/7 Mtr wide road including retaining wall structures, construction of 6.00 Mtr span RCC slab Culvert, P/L GSB, WBM-II & III, Premix Carpet surfacing, Construction of essential parapets, V-Shape side Drain in Km. 0/0 to 7/270 under NABARD RIDF-XXVI)	4,28,15,,849/-	4234048/-	941000/-	5,000/-	Eighteen Months	Class "A"
4.	Improvement of road including metalling and tarring and cross drainage works on Jamniwala to Bodhwala Bridge via Rihala Basti Jamniwala to Khadar Basti in Gram Panchayat Pardooni Tehsil Paonta District Sirmour HP (SH:_ C/O 5/7 Mtr wide road including retaining walls, earth filling , C/O Cross Drainage works, P/L granular Sub-Base, WBM-II & III premix Carpet surfacing Cement Concrete Pavement road, C/O essential Parapets and drains in Km. 0/0 to 2/576 under NABARD RIDF-XXVI)	3,11,66,457/-	1500262/-	654000/-	5,000/-	Eighteen Months	Class "A"
5.	Construction of link road from Syasu to Morar Km. 0/0 to 3/500 (SH:- formation cutting 5/7 Mtr wide road , CD works, Katcha road side drain essential Parapets in Km. 0/0 tyo 3/500 under NABARD RIDF-XXVI).	1,93,78,125/-	Nil	388000/-	5,000/-	Twelve Months	Class "C"
6.	Construction of link road from Dheera to Moryoun Nadali Neon road in GP Mahipur Km. 0/0 to 7/120 (SH:- Formation cutting 5/7 Mtr , CD Works, Retaining structure and providing and laying Soling Parapets and sign boards etc. in Km. 0/0 to 7/120) under NABARD RIDF-XXV.	3,54,46,664/-	Nil	709000/-	5,000/-	Twelve Months	Class "B"

. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and should be submitted online in www.hptenders.gov.in . The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (a) (ii) of ITB with Superintending Engineer 12th Circle HPPWD Nahan (address and details of office where to be submitted), on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive. *Non-registered bidders may submit bids; however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the

contract.

1. Date of Online Publication 2.8.2021 at 17:00 HRS 2. Document Download Start and End Date 2.8.2021 at 17.30 HRS upto 17.8.2021 10:00 HRS 3. Bid Submission Start and End Date 2.8.2021 11:00 HRS upto 17.8.2021 at 10:00 HRS 4. Physical Submission of EMD and Cost of Tender Document 17.8.2021 Upto 10:30 HRS 5. Date of Technical Bid opening, Evaluation of Technical Bid followed by Opening of Financial Bid. 17.8.2021 at 11:00 HRS

. Cost of Bid Form: Rs. 5000 per package/job (non-refundable) only in form of Demand Draft/Through On-line mode in favour of Executive Engineer B&R Division Division

TENDER DETAILS: The Tender Documents shall be uploaded online in 2 Cover Cover 1: shall contain scanned copies of all "Technical Documents/ Eligibility Information".

Cover 2: shall contain "BOQ/Financial Bid", where contractor will quote his offer for each item.

SUBMISSION OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS: The bidders are required to submit the proof of depositing the EMD/Cost of tender and submit the Affidavit that information furnished with the bid documents is correct and other Technical Documents in the office of Superintending Engineer 12th Circle HPPWD Nahan Distr Sirmour H.P as specified in Key dates Sr. No. 3 on Tender Opening Date, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive. Last Date/ Time for receipt of bids through e-tendering: 17.8.2021 up-to 10.00 Hours.

The site for the work is available. Only online submission of bids is permitted, therefore; bids must be submitted online on website www.hptenders.gov.in. The technical qualification part of the bids will be opened

online at 11.00 Hours (time) on 17.8.2021 (date) in the office of Superintending Engineer 12th Circle HPPWD Nahan by the authorized officers. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened online on the next working day at the same time. 10. The bidder is not required to quote his rate for routine maintenance. The rates to be paid for routine maintenance are indicated in the Bill of Quantities. Further, the payment for

 $routine\ maintenance\ to\ the\ contractor\ shall\ be\ regulated\ based\ on\ his\ performance\ of\ maintenance\ activities.$ 11 The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than Seventy Five (75) days after the deadline date for bid submission. 12. Bidders may bid for any one or more of the works mentioned in the Table above. To qualify for a package of contracts made up of this and other contracts for which bids are invited in

the same NIT, the bidder must demonstrate having experience and resources sufficient to meet the aggregate of the qualifying criteria for the individual contracts.13. GST will be applicable as per the guideline of Center/State Govt. If applicable.

14. The provision of notification issued vide Additional Chief Secretary (PW) to the Govt. of HP Shimla notification No. PBW (B) 22-1/2002 dated 26.05.2015 shall also be applicable.

15. Contractor carried out the Routine Maintenance after completion of construction work as per terms and conditions of the bid documents. 16. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The Employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will

HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender. 7. Bidders are advised to submit their bids as per notification issued by the Additional Chief Secretary (PW) to the Govt of HP vide notification No. PBW(B)A(3)1/2020 dated

Superintending Engineer 12th Circle HPPWD Nahan **Distt Sirmour HP**

on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

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Tender Notification No.TF/GG/SAG/364/2021-22, Dt.30.07.2021 Telangana Foods invites Tenders for procurement of Dates (Seedless), Protein Biscuits, Iron with Zinc Syrup, Calcium with Multivitamin Tablets and HM-HDPE Bags. For details please visit website: https://tender.eprocurement.gov.in and website: https://tfoods.telangana.gov.in from 31.07-2021 at 11.00 AM onwards. Bids submission closing date is 07-08-2021 upto 2.00 PM.

RO No: 2033-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2021-22 MANAGING DIRECTOR

Expression of Interest (EoI) The bids are invited from original equipment manufacturer or their authorized supplier for procurement of Mobile X-Ray with DR system-100 mA for various hospitals of Uttarakhand in context of Covid-19 case manageme Interested Firms are requested to submit the below mentioned information to the Office of the Director General, Medical Health & Family Welfare, Danda Lakhaund, Sahastradhara Road, PO Gujrada, Dehradun at room number 25 in tender box on or before 07-08-2021 at 03:00 p.m

 Name of equipment to be procured: Mobile X-Ray with DR system-100 mA . Quantity of equipment to be procured: 05 General information:

3.1 Rates shall be quoted at F.O.R. destination 3.2 Rates quoted shall not be higher than the reference PO including CMC rates.

3.3 Successful Bidder shall have demonstration of the offered equipment 3.4 50% of the quantity may be increased or decreased 3.5 Deliver period shall be 21 days

3.6 The Director General Medical Health & FW, Uttarakhand, Dehradun reserves all the rights to reject or postpone the EoI without assigning an reason thereon at any stage

4.1 Self attested copy of complete purchase order, complete specification along with catalogue of the equipment and comple agreement of the equipment that the Bidder has offered and supplied to any Government of India institution(s) or any AIIMS or any State Medical Corporation (s) under rate contract/quantity contract during 2019-20 or later. Please note that it should be the same make, model that the Bidde has offered as in envelope 2 and rates and CMC rates should not be

2.2 Turnover of last 3 financial years certified by Chartered Accountant It should not be less than 5 Crores per year.

2.3 GST registration of the Bidder. 2.4 Authorization letter of the original manufacturing firm if the Bidder is not original manufacturer

2.5 Bid Security Declaration Financial Envelope 2:

5.1 Name, make and model of offered equipment $5.2 \ \ Unit \, rate, \, GST/any \, taxes \, and \, CMC \, rates \, of \, offered \, equipment$

Director General

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001931 All other terms and conditions are as per our earlier Advertisement dated 18/07/2021TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper DIPR/2272/Tender/2021

AS-CFMS (A Registered Society under Finance Department) **Assam Society for Comprehensive Financial Management**

System F Block, Assam Secretariat, Dispur, Guwahati-781006 (Assam, India)

No.: ASPIRe/95/2020/157 **Request for Recruitment**

Assam Society for Comprehensive Financial Management System (AS-CFMS) invites Expression of Interest from eligible candidates for employment on Contractual Basis for Establishment and Operationalization of PMU under Institutional Finance Department, Govt. of Assam.

SI.	Position	CTP Range / Month (Rupees)			
no					
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2	Legal Expert	1,50,000-2,15,00			
3	Banking Expert	95,000-1,60,000			
4	DBT Domain Expert	1,50,000-2,15,00			
5	Training and	95,000-1,60,000			
	Coordination Expert				
6	IT Support Associate	55,000-90,000			
7	Grievance Redressal	35,000-51,500			
	Associate				
8	Multi-tasking Assistant	20,000-25,000			
Detailed ReOI, Terms of Reference (ToR) and Application formats					

are available in the following link: https://finance.assam.gov.in/portlets/as-cfms Project Director, AS-CFMS Janasanyog /D/3150/21

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Mail:- hp-nah@nic.in

desh's Lahaul-Spiti district. State Disaster Manage-

SUNDAY, AUG. 01 RISE 05:43 SET 19:13 □ RISE 00:00 SET 13:18

MONDAY, AUG. 02 RISE 05:44 SET 19:12 RISE 00:25 SET 14:12

33

32°C Light rain and thunder-

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 31°C Few spells of light rain

Day would remain remain

THE HINDU

IN BRIEF



joins Congress

Former Janata Dal (Secular) MLA Madhu Bangarappa formally joined the Congress in Hubballi on Friday in the presence of Congress's Karnataka-in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala, KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar and Opposition leader Siddaramaiah. The KPCC chief recalled his association with late S. Bangarappa, former Karnataka CM and Mr. Madhu's father, and said he was pained when the senior Bangarappa left the party.

SC to hear appeal in marines' case on Aug. 2

The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to hear on Monday a claim for compensation for the "moral harm" made by crew of the fishing boat St. Antony, who survived the hail of bullets from two Italian marines aboard Enrica Lexie off the coast of Kerala nine years ago. They are the 10 members of the crew who escaped death. Two of their friends were killed in the shooting. They said not a penny from the ₹10 crore in compensation paid by Italy had reached them.

Top court declines Kerala youth's bail petition

NEW DELHI The Supreme Court on Friday refused a plea to immediately grant interim bail to Thwaha Fasal, a Kerala vouth booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for Maoist links. Justice Navin Sinha said the Union of India had filed an appeal in the top court against the Kerala High Court's decision not to interfere in the grant of bail to Fasal's co-accused, Allan Shuaib. The court said both petitions have to be heard jointly. The Bench listed the case for August 24.

Kerala announces ₹5,650 cr. relief plan

Package covers traders, industries, farmers; govt. will bear up to 4% interest on loans under ₹2 lakh

The Kerala government has come out with a ₹5,650 crore package to help small traders, industries and farmers hit hard by the pandemic.

Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal announced the supplementary package in the Assembly on Friday.

A ₹2,000-crore interest subsidy scheme for loans ta-

COVID-19

ken from Central and State financial institutions, cooperative sector institutions and commercial banks is a major component.

Under the scheme, the government will bear up to 4% of the interest on loans of ₹2 lakh or less, applicable to those taken from August 1



Steady demand: People waiting for COVID-19 vaccine at a camp in Thiruvananthapuram on Friday •PTI

for a period of six months. The scheme would benefit around one lakh people. Further, the rent on government space let out to shops would be waived till December 31. For MSMEs, the government also waived building tax, rent and fixed charge on electricity con-

nection from July to December. Other components of the special package include schemes implemented by the Kerala Financial Corporation (KFC) and Kerala State Financial Enterprises Ltd (KSFE).

The KSFE will waive penal interest on all defaulted loans dating from January 20, 2021, till September 30. Further, 50% to 100% of the interest and the penal interest on chit fund dues will be waived till September 30.

The term of the loan scheme for families affected by COVID-19 – up to ₹1 lakh at 5% interest – has been extended till September 30.

The KFC announced three schemes for industries. A 'Startup Kerala' scheme offers loans up to ₹1 crore without collateral security. The KFC will earmark ₹50 crore for this.

A ₹500-crore special loan scheme would cover units in industrial estates, at maximum ₹20 crore per unit. The third is the restructured Chief Minister's Entrepreneurship Development Programme, with loans up to ₹1 crore at 5% interest, planned for 2,500 industrial

units for five years at 500 units a year.

Kerala reported 20,772 cases on Friday and test positivity rate (TPR) of 13.61%.. The State added 116 recent deaths to the official list of COVID fatalities.

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai declared a high alert in State districts bordering Kerala because of the high number of cases there.

On Friday, Karnataka reported 1,890 new cases of CO-VID-19. There were 34 deaths.

Tamil Nadu registered an increase in fresh cases for the second day in a row as 1,947 persons tested positive on Friday. Another 27 persons died.

Andhra Pradesh reported 22 deaths and 2,068 new infections on Friday. Telangana recorded 614 new

cases and four more deaths. (With inputs from

Bengaluru, Vijayawada and Hyderabad bureaus)

Stalker shoots dead dental student, kills self in Kerala

The two had met on social media

STAFF REPORTER

A young woman doing her Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) was allegedly shot dead by a man, who then shot himself and died moments later at Nellikuzhi in Ernakulam district of Kerala, on Friday evening.

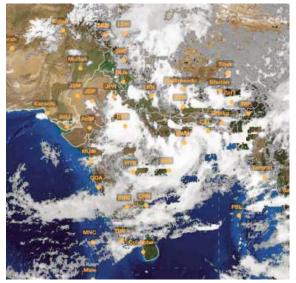
The 24-year-old woman from Kannur was doing her internship at the Indira Gandhi Institute of Dental Sciences at Nellikuzhi. The accused was identified as Rakhil, 32, also from Kannur. The two had met on Instagram about a year ago.

The victim was at her paying guest accommodation when Rakhil turned up with a country-made pistol.

Power Dept. to set up disaster management cell

She was having food with three others then. He reportedly summoned her to the next room, following which gunshots were heard. While the woman sustained bullet wounds on her head and chest, the man sustained a wound on his head. They were rushed to a nearby hospital where both were declared brought dead.

It is learnt that the accused had been stalking the victim in the locality for nearly a month. There are unconfirmed reports that the victim, along with her family, and Rakhil had met in the presence of the police in Kannur and the latter had assured them that he would not meet her again.



Forecast for Saturday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Sikkim, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, central Maharashtra and Konkan & Goa. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram

CITT	KAIN	IVIAA	IVITIV	CITT	KAIN	IVIAA	IVII
Agartala	19	30.3	25.7	Kozhikode	3	31.0	.23.
Ahmedabad		31.0	25.2	Kurnool		33.2	.25.
Aizawl		26.0	–	Lucknow		33.2	26.
Allahabad		33.8	26.1	Madurai		39.7	24.
Bengaluru		28.7	19.6	Mangaluru	. 15.3	29.3	.24.
Bhopal	7	25.3	23.0	Mumbai	4	29.9	.26.
Bhubaneswar	0.2	29.2	24.5	Mysuru		29.8	.20.
Chandigarh	27.2	32.5	26.1	New Delhi	72	32.0	24.
Chennai		35.5	29.3	Patna	11	32.4	25.
Coimbatore		31.9	23.0	Port Blair	7	31.6	26.
Dehradun	35	32.8	23.4	Puducherry		36.2	26.
Gangtok	15	19.7	18.3	Pune	6.8	25.2	21.
Goa		31.4	24.7	Raipur	4.4	25.5	23.
Guwahati	18	31.0	26.4	Ranchi	50	24.7	.22.
Hubballi				Shillong			
Hyderabad				Shimla			
Imphal				Srinagar			
Jaipur				Thiruvananthapuram			
Kochi				Tiruchi			
Kohima				Vijayawada			
Kolkata	146	30.2	25.5	Visakhapatnam	0.6	33.2	26.
(Rainfall data i	in mm;	tempera	ature in (Celsius)			

..6 .37 10318 ...41

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

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

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

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

6 migrant workers killed in explosion at Guntur

Four labourers escape unhurt; shrimp farm owner arrested

STAFF REPORTER

Six migrant workers from Odisha were killed in a mysterious explosion in a room near a shrimp farm in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh in the early hours of Friday.

They had been working at the farm in Lankevanidibba near Repalle. Local people said they heard a loud explosion a little after midnight. Of the 10 persons sleeping in the room, four saved themselves by rushing out.

Natives of Odisha The victims were from Gunupur village in Rayagada



Cause unclear: Police officials examining the site of blast near a shrimp farm in Guntur district, A.P.. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

district of Odisha. The police have taken the owner of the shrimp farm into custody. The police and forensic teams are probing the cause of the explosion. Governor milies of the deceased.

Biswa Bhusan Harichandan expressed grief over the deaths. District Collector Vivek Yadav said compensation would be paid to the fa-

Maharashtra's active case tally drops below 78,000

State records 6,600 new cases. 7.431 recoveries

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Maharashtra on Friday recorded 7,431 recoveries as against 6,600 new COVID-19 cases. The active case tally has dipped to 77,494, while 190 deaths have pushed the total toll to 1,32,335, with the case fatality rate climbing to 2.1%.

The total case tally has reached 62,96,756, while cumulative recoveries have risen to 60,83,319, with the recovery rate at 96.61%.

"Of 4,77,60,862 laboratory samples tested thus far, 62,96,756 (with the average case positivity falling incrementally to 13.18%) have returned positive, with over 2.01 lakh samples being tested in the last 24 hours," said State Surveillance Officer Dr. Pradeep Awate.

Pune recorded 1,087 new cases, taking its tally to 10,88,340. Nine

Rajasthan govt.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

mulls new policy

for private colleges

A new policy for establishment of private

colleges is being considered in Rajasthan,

with the emphasis on following the norms

needs of higher education, technical edu-

Energy Minister B.D. Kalla, who heads a Ca-

binet sub-committee on private colleges,

said here on Friday that the policy would

The private colleges will cater to the

laid down by all-India regulatory bodies.

cation and skills development.

'Will set criteria'

deaths pushed the toll over 18,296. As per district authorities, the active case tally has risen to 9,600.

Mumbai reported 322 new cases to take its total case tally to 7,34,434, while the active case tally dipped to 5,402. Seven fatalities took the city's death toll to 15,880. Ahmednagar reported more than 850 cases and eight deaths,

taking its total cases to 2,83,272, of whom 4,709 are active. Its death toll has risen to 6,129. Kolhapur reported 650 new cases, taking its tally to 1,93,174. The active cases dipped to 6,581, and 37 deaths saw the toll rise to 5,495.

Satara district reported 830 cases and 40 deaths as its tally rose to 2,17,868, of whom 7,936 are active, while the death toll climbed to 5,255. Sangli reported more than 750 new cases and 12 deaths.

STAFF REPORTER

With several parts of Maharashtra being prone to natural calamities, resulting in loss who is on a tour of the flood-hit regions.

of power supply, the Power Department is planning to set up its own disaster management cell, said Power Minister Nitin Raut,



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Office of the Chief Executive Officer IT & Communication Division E-mail: ceo.rapdrp.a@gmail.com

FRESH TENDER NOTICE INVITING E-BIDS E-NIT NO: 07 OF 2021 DATED: 26/07/2021

INVITATION:

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-Tenders are hereby invite from Telecom Service Providers / Network Bandwidth service providers and related service providers for providing of MPLS VPN based Wide Area Network Services, under RTDAS Project under the jurisdiction of Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Ltd. (KPDCL)

Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Ltd. (JPDCL)
 Ladakh Power Corporation Ltd. (LPCL)
 Ladakh Power Corporation Ltd. (LPCL)
Through Nodal Officer IT Projects (Chief Engineer Distribution, KPDCL) for a period of 5 years from the date.

Bidders a re advised to study the Biddidng Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications by the bidder. The tender document is available on website http://jktenders.gov.in. Interested bidders may vie download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time

mentioned in the table below: Date of issue of Tender Notice 26/07/2021 27/07/2021:03:00 PM Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document 28/07/2021 11:00 AM Clarifications start date 06/08/2021:02:00 PM Clarifications end date e-Bid submission (start) date & time (Submission of e-tender 06/08/2021 02:30 PM fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS 21/08/2021 03:00 PM e-Bid submission (end) date & time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS Online Technical e-Bid Opening date and Time 24/08/2021 02:30 PM Office of the Chief Engineer Distribution, KPDCL Online Financial e-Bid Opening date and Time Will be separately communicated t the technically eligible bidders Estimated Cost Rs. Rs. 2.67 Crores (Approx.) Rs. 5,000.00 (Rupees Five Cost of e-Bid documer Thousand only, Non-refundable) Last Date for Submission of cost of tender document 23/08/2021 03:00 PM Address for submission of Hard Copies Office of the Chief Executive Office IT & Communication Division (Dat Center) PDD Complex Bemin

Kashmir The bidders need to submit the proof/cost of e-Bid document as stated in the above table through non refundable Demand Draft (Any Nationalized Bank or Scheduled Commercial Banks Preferably J&h Bank / State Bank of India) pledged to Chief Accounts Officer, Office of the Chief Enginee Distribution (KPDCL) and payable at Srinagar. The scanned copy of the Demand Draft must be enclosed along with the e-Bids but the original Demand Draft should reach the office of Chief Executive Officer, IT & Communication Division Kashmir (Data Center), PDD Complex Bemina up to

All the e-Bids must be accompanied by Bid Security Declaration in the format given in Annexure I of

The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site http://jktenders.gov.in. This shall be conveyed t o the qualified bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids shall be opened accordingly online on the same Web Site at the office of the Chief Engineer distribution (KPDCL) The e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose

attend at the identified venue on indicated date and time mentioned in the above table or an subsequent day to the convenience of the Tender Opening Committee. An authority letter of bidder representative will be required to be produced. The Corporation reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any reason thereof. The decision of department will be final and binding

In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being declared a holiday/closed day for department's office then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working day at the appointed time All the required documents excluding Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded by the e- Bidde electronically in the PDF format, whereas Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded electronically in the

10. To participate in e-bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' class III (b as per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding Other details can be found in the standard bidding document.

same BOQ sheet provided with the SBD.

DIP/K- 2097-NB

REGIONAL CANCER CENTRE **THIRUVANANTHAPURAM-695011**

Applications are invited from qualified candidates for appointment to the post of Assistant Professor in Radiation Oncology (3 posts), Medical Oncology (2 posts), Surgical Services (Orthopedics) (1 post) and Transfusion Medicine (1 post) on regular basis. Last date for receipt of application is 14/08/2021. For more details

visit our Website - www.rcctvm.gov.in No. RCC/29/2021-ADMN.1

Date: 20/07/2021

(Sd/-) DIRECTOR RO/01254/D3/2021/I&PRD

Notice Inviting Tender

PUNJAB STATE GRAINS PROCUREMENT CORPORATION (PUNGRAIN)

E-Tender for purchase of New B-Twill Light weight Jute bags for packing of 50 Kg Foodgrains (Paddy/Rice) for KMS 2021-22 Online bids under two bid system i.e., Technical Bid and Financial Bid are invite

for supply of New B-Twill Light weight Jute bags for packing of 50 kg Foodgrains to be procured during KMS 2021-22 by the State Procurement Agencies in the State of Punjab. Bids can be submitted from 01:00 PM on 31.07.2021 till 03:00 PM on 13.08.2021 through e-tendering portal of Govt. of Punjab i.e. https://eproc.punjab.gov.in. The details terms and conditions are also available or website www.foodsuppb.gov.in. The cost of tender form (non-refundable) is Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only)

Technical bids will be opened on 13.08.2021 at 04:00 P.M. in the Committee Room Anaaj Bhawan, Sector-39 C, Chandigarh in the presence of bidders who may wish to be present. The date and time of opening of financial bids will be notified online to

Note: Tenders will be accepted through e-Tendering only. Any further communication will be done through e-Tendering site in form of addendum / corrigendum. MD, Pungrain reserves the right to cancel the tender without assigning any reason

DPRPB NA/12/3880/2021/6353

Managing Director PUNGRAIN



Tender Inquiry No. 03/2122/CD Dated: 30.07.2021 Dy. Chief Engineer/CIVIL DESIGN, PSPCL, E-2, Shakti Vihar, Patiala, invites E-tender for MANUFACTURING, TESTING, SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF 4mm DIAMETER INDENTED HT STEEL WIRE FOR USE IN PRESTRESSED CONCRETE POLES CONFORMING TO IS:6003-1983 (REAFFIRMED 2010) - AT PSPCL PILOT WORKSHOPS MOHALI. MUKTSAR & SARNA— QUANTITY= 1400 MT. For detailed NIT & tender specification, please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov

in (Contact No- 0172-2970263, 0172-2970284) from dated 30.07.2021 from 11:00 Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online a

https://eproc.punjab.gov.in C - 282/21



Assistants / Programmer / Lab Attender To work under the Bharathiar Cancer Theranostics

Deadline: 23rd AUGUST 2021 (05.00 pm IST)

set the criteria for colleges imparting education in the domains of medical and health, Sanskrit, technical learning, agriculture and animal husbandry and skills development.

oilfield situated at Amguri (Sivasagar district), Assam ndia. It is joint venture with Assam Company India Limited. Expression of Interest (EOI) is invited from experienced bidders for providing various services and goods as listed below for oilfield operations in

(6) WIRELINE LOGGING (7) SLICKLINE UNITS (8) WELL TESTING PACKAGES (9) FISHING TOOLS (10) WELLHEADS/ XMAS TRESS (11) DRILL BITS (12) INTEGRATED PROJECT MANAGEMENT SERVICES (13)

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF ON SHORE OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION UNIT (14) SECURITY SERVICES (15) CATERING (16) HOUSEKEEPING AND CLEANING (17) OIL TRANSPORT TANKER LORRIES (18) WASTE **MANAGEMENT SERVICES (19) EFFLUENT TREATMENT** PLANT (20) TEST SEPARATOR SKID

categories of interest. EOI with details of past experience, company financials (health), resources (equipment and manpower) in a neat brief manner (preferably tabular format) along with supporting documents should be submitted online through the following email: procurement@oilmax.in EOI should be submitted to above email id within 2 weeks of this advertisement.

PLEASE CONTACT

Mr. N SELVA KUMAR

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

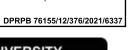
THE HINDU India's National Newspaper

Oilmax Energy Pvt Ltd is the operator for Amguri

(1) ONSHORE RIGS (2) CASING/ TUBING/ CASING ACCESSORIES (3) MUD LOGGING (4) MUD ENGINEERING SERVICES (5) CEMENTING SERVICES

Vendor can submit EOI for one or more of the categories mentioned above, explicitly mentioning

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Research Centre. For Details: https://www.b-u.ac.in

July 28, 2021 Registrar i/c

FIR against hospital on charges of extortion

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

An FIR has been registered against Paras Hospital management in Sector 43 on charges of extortion for illegally charging parking fee from vehicles parked in the

According to the FIR, the police involved the complainant Ramesh Kumar into the investigation following a complaint from the Zonal Taxation Officer-III of the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) in this connection and found that the Paras Hospital management had committed an offence under Section 384 (extortion) of the IPC by illegally charging parking fee from the vehicles parked in the open. The FIR has been registered at Sushant Lok Police Station.

Mr. Kumar, an RTI activist, said he had gone to the hospital in September last when the hospital charged him for parking his vehicle outside the hospital premises on the roadside.

"A little investigation on my part revealed that the hospital was seeking rebate in property tax from the corporation municipal claiming that basement-2 of the hospital was allowed for free parking. But it was found that commercial activities were being run from second basement. When the MCG pointed out this, the hospital readily paid ₹16 lakh property tax with penalty," said Mr. Kumar.

Paras Hospital spokesperson, in a statement, said: "At Paras Hospitals, Gurugram, we have a freeof-cost parking space in our basement for multiple cars. In our hospital premises, we also have a valet parking facility that resumes only when the basement parking is full. The valet parking is free for first 15 minutes...All these parking details are mentioned near the entrance gate for the convenience of our patients. We are ready to cooperate with the officials for further investigation into the matter."

ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

b) Age: DA: 18 to 50 years and EQ-upto 65 years.

FO-Any central/State Goyt, retired officer/official

Assembly passes GST (Amendment) Bill

the proposed amendment,

Mr. Sisodia said one of its key

features was the removal of

the requirement of compul-

sory submission of audited

annual accounts and recon-

ciliation statements for the

conciliation was earlier ne-

cessary, traders had to be re-

liant on chartered and cost

Further, in case of deten-

tion, seizure and release of

goods and conveyance in

transit, the goods can be re-

leased on the payment of pe-

nalty only as opposed to the

previous practice of goods

"Since, the audit and re-

registered taxpayers.

accountants," he said.

House clears amendments to 'Bed and Breakfast Scheme'; houses can now get registered in 30 days

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Delhi Legislative Assembly, on the final day of its two-day monsoon session, passed the Delhi GST (Amendment) Bill 2021 and amendments to the ambitious 'Bed and Breakfast Scheme'.

While the GST (Amendment) Bill was presented for the dual purpose of removing difficulties faced by taxpayers of the Capital and to increase the accountability of people who evade taxes by making them liable, the amended Bed and Breakfast Scheme will seek to promote tourism in Delhi.

'There have been small changes in 15 sections in the Bill and Schedule II, paragraph 7 is being omitted from the Bill," Mr. Sisodia, who also holds the finance portfolio, said while tabling the Bill.

"These changes have been incurred after looking at the experiences and receiving feedback of the business people and these amendments have been approved in the 39th GST Council Meeting after wide deliberations," he



Deputy CM Manish Sisodia arrives at Delhi Secretariat on the second day of monsoon session on Friday. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

also said.

He stated that the proposed Delhi GST (Amendment) Bill 2021 has been brought up to ease the difficulties of people, smoothen the process of GST and to further make all those people who took advantage of the GST being a new act accountable and "hence took money from the people but did not commit it to the go-

Lens on tax evaders

This proposed amendment Bill will hold all these people who evade taxes as liable, he said. Listing the features of

being released on the payment of applicable tax and

To stop some wrong practices of evading taxes, the GST council has ascertained that attachment of property and bank accounts is permitted not only of the taxable person but also of the other beneficiaries.

This amendment, he said, was targeted at those individuals who set up fake firms under names of other individuals and get away with claiming taxes. "Now, this amendment will ensure these master minds are held liable," he said.

Fillip to tourism

Mr. Sisodia also moved a motion before the House to amend the 'Bed and Breakfast Scheme' under which houses will now get registered in 30 days instead of 90 days.

The Deputy Chief Minister, who also holds the tourism portfolio, stated touespecially foreign tourists, can stay in an Indian family's home for the purpose of experiencing Inculture under the scheme. In order to cover more and more households under it, he said, the Delhi government had reduced the entire process of registration from 90 days to 30 days by making

changes in it. "Along with this, the landlords will not have to go to the offices to get the certificate, but will be provided with the certificate online," he said.

Under the scheme, landlords who live in properties along with their families with one to six rooms that are empty and not in the category of a guest house, lodge, or hotel can apply, he said.

This scheme, Mr. Sisodia stated, will not only benefit tourists but will also be a source of income for the hosts. Tourists, he added, can directly contact the landlord without coming in contact with any middleman.

"So far 1,630 rooms of 347 houses have been registered under the 'Bed and Breakfast Scheme'. This number will increase rapidly after the government changes the rules to promote tourism," he stat-

Respond to shooter's plea, HC tells panel

'Should have made the plea a bit earlier'

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday asked the Paralympics Committee of India (PCI) to respond to an appeal by five-time Paralympian shooter Naresh Kumar Sharma challenging a July 27 High Court order that declined to interfere with his non-selection for the upcoming Tokyo Paralympics.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh also issued notice to the Centre on the plea and posted it for hearing on August 6.

Advocate Varun Singh, representing Mr. Sharma, sought an early date for the hearing as the Tokyo Paralympics will commence on August 24, and the deadline for the Tokyo Paralympics 2020 (postponed because of the pandemic) Organising Committee to receive sports entry forms submitted by National Paralympic

The High Court, however, refused the plea on the ground that Mr. Sharma



should have approach the court "a little earlier and not at the last moment".

Mr. Sharma, an Arjuna and Rajiv Gandhi State Sports Awardee, said the High Court's July 27 order failed to consider the facts in proper perspective when it refused to grant any relief to him, in spite of noting that the PCI had acted in violation of its own criteria in the selection of the Paralympic shooting team.

The appeal stated that the Tokyo Paralympics are set to commence from August 24 and therefore, a direction can still be passed to the PCI to send Mr. Sharma's name for his participation in

Water crosses 'danger mark' in the Yamuna

Govt. starts evacuating people living close to river as water level continues to rise

STAFF REPORTER

The water level of the Yamuna in Delhi crossed the 'danger mark' on Friday morning and continued to rise during day, according to authorities.

The level measured at the Old Railway Bridge in Delhi was 205.34 metres at 11 a.m. and it increased to 205.58 by 8 p.m., as per official data.

The warning level of Yamuna in Delhi is 204.5 metres and the danger mark is 205.33 metres – both mea sured at the Old Railway

The government has also started evacuation of people living close to the river, a process which happens during most monsoons in the national capital.

"The government has

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Candidates may come with their bio-data, proof of age, educational qualification/required certificate, 1 passport size

Of Categories: Unemployed / self employed Youth, Ex life advisors/agents of any insurance company, Aangan wad workers, Mahila Mandal workers, SHGs, Ex-servicemen, Retd teachers or any intending person having above

Postriple Endows are used in the control of the con

(Suresh Kumar Bhardwaj), Supdt. of Post Offices New Delhi Central Division, New Delhi-110001.

Appeal for Identification

General public is hereby informed

that one person Name: Unknown,

S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age:

45 Yrs. About, Height: 5'7", Sex:

Male, Complexion: Wheatish,

Built: Medium, Face: Oval,

Wearing: White Sandow Baniyan &

Matmela Colour Pant, Place of

Recovery: Found dead on

P.S. G.T.B. Enclave, Delhi

7065036031, 9873322997

Ph.: 011-22580947 &



A bullock cart on Old Yamuna bridge in the Capital as one side of the road is closed due to flood on Friday. • SANDEEP SAXENA

been preparing since June and a control room was set up on June 15. In the East district, 15 vulnerable points were identified and we are erecting tents and are in the process of moving some people from these vulnerable points. It is an ongoing process and the administration is fully prepared," said Sonika Singh, District Magistrate

The level is expected to rise further during the night. "At 6 p.m., 37,109 cusecs of water was being released

from Hathnikund barrage in

Haryana and we expect the water level to rise during the night in Delhi," an official said.

Hathnikund barrage is a point along the river in Haryana, upstream of Delhi, and water released from the barrage affects the flow of the river in Delhi.

Orange alert issued

Meanwhile, the India Meteorological Department has issued an orange alert, predicting moderate rain on Saturday and warning of possible waterlogging in low-lying areas and major traffic disruptions The department has issued a yellow alert for Sunday, and orange alert also for Monday. The Capital recorded 42.8 mm of rainfall between 8.30 am and 5.30 pm on Friday, it said.

Report sought on illegal construction

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Delhi High Court has directed South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) to submit a report on the properties being constructed in the vicinity of Qutub Minar and directed its commissioner to fix responsibility on officers who have permitted illegal and unauthorised

Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva further directed SDMC to ensure that none of the illegally constructed properties are permitted to be occupied, if not already occupied and sought the presence of the Deputy Commissioner (South Zone) before it on the next date of hearing on August 20.

The order was passed on petition by one Rinku

Some respite for Delhiites as COVID-19 cases remain low

63 fresh infections, 3 deaths reported; 72,478 inoculated

VACCINATION
DOSES 99,65,405*

DOSE 2

JAB METER

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The city reported 63 new COVID-19 cases in the past 24 hours, taking the total cases to 14,36,207, as per a bulletin released by the Delhi government on Friday. There were three deaths and the total number of deaths stood at 25,052.

A total of 70,111 tests were done in a day and the test positivity rate (TPR) was 0.09%. Of the total cases, 14.10,575 have recovered, which leaves only 580 active cases.

More vaccination

Also, the number of daily COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in the city increased on Thursday, as per government data. A total of 72,478 doses of vaccine were administered, compared to 57,752 on Wednesday, as per another bulletin. But still VACCINATION -CATEGORY 48,24,844 32,15,520 19,25,001 Male 57,24,293 **VACCINE TYPE** Covidshield Covaxir

26,01,846

fewer people were vaccinated compared to many days this month.

For about two weeks this month, the city faced a vaccine shortage and the number of daily vaccinations was also low. The number of daily vaccinations is expected to pick up as people who are 18 and above, who started

May 1, have become eligible for the second dose this

SITES CONDUCTING INOCULATION

45-60

Private Total

Above 60

Government

VACCINATION BY AGE

The vaccine stock of the city on Thursday morning would last for four days and there were 5,60,750 doses of Covishield and 2,10,010 doses of Covaxin, as per the data. Till now, 99,09,749 doses of vaccines have been admigetting their first dose from nistered in the city.

Reply to misinformation charge, HC tells Ramdev

Court to hear the case on August 10

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday sought response from Yoga guru Ramdev on a lawsuit filed by several doctors' associations accusing him of spreading misinformation through his statements against allopathy COVID-19 amid the pandemic.

Iustice C. Hari Shankar granted him a week's time to submit his response. "Public nuisance has some consequences on the defendant [Mr. Ramdev]. It is open to the defendant to say that there is no case. Can't say that I won't give him an opportunity," the court said.

The court's remark came after senior advocate Akhil Sibal, appearing for the doctors' associations, argued that to grant permission to institute the suit, the

court had to only look at the plea before it and need not seek the other party's

response. Thecourt will hear the case on August 10.

They alleged that Mr .Ramdev was misleading and misrepresenting to the public at large that allopathy was responsible for several people infected with COVID-19 dying, and insindeaths. The associations

uating that allopathic doctors were causing the have submitted that the yoga guru was sowing doubts in the minds of general public with respect to the safety and efficacy of not only allopathic treatments, but also COVID-19 vaccines. It said that Mr. Ramdev being a highly influential person, it was apprehended that the statements could influence lakhs of people.

near monument

NEW DELH

constructions.

Under Mahatma's watch



Multitasking: A family of balloon sellers preparing lunch on a pavement at Kingsway Camp in New Delhi on Friday. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

27.07.2021 in the area of P.S. G.T.B. Enclave, Delhi.

In this regard FIR/DD No. 71A, Dated 27.07.2021 has

been lodged at Police Station, G.T.B. Enclave, Delhi.

Any clue come to notice please inform undersign.



DP/514/SHD/2021

General Public is hereby informed that one girl **Namely:** Raj Nandani, **D/o:** Sanjay Sahah, **R/o:** H.N. Gali No. 6, Vijay Colony, Bawana, Delhi, **Age:** 13 Years, **Height:** 4'10", Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Wearing: Pink Colour Kurti & Pajami, Pink Colour Hawai Chappal in feet has been missing/ kidnapped since 06.07.2021 from the area of P.S. Bawana, Delhi. In this regard FIR No. 470/21, U/s 363 IPC, Dated 08.07.2021, has been lodged at P.S. Bawana, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing/ kidnapped girl please inform the undersigned.

Web-site : http://cbi.nic.in E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in Fax: 011-23011334 DP/1158/ON/2021

SHO P.S. Bawana, Delhi Ph.: 011-27752534

Government of Jharkhand Directorate of Food & Consumer Affairs Ground Floor, Engineers Hostel, HEC, Sector - III Dhurwa, Ranchi - 834004, Jharkhand

Letter no: kha.Up.Ni.01(vividh)-119/2021 - 1072 Date - 29.07.2021

Corrigendum Notice

With reference to tender number 977 date 13-07-2021 and advertisement under "PR 249504 Directorate of Food and Consumer Affairs (20-21)" for "Expression of Interest for selection of agency to provide the services of Reverse e-Auction Platform". The last date for submission of bid is

hereby extended to 06.08.2021 Dilip Tirkey

Director

Directorate of Food & Consumer Affairs PR 250523 (Directorate of Food and Consumer Affairs) 21-22 (D)

Ozone levels exceeding permitted levels: study

Despite lockdown, more days witnessed higher and longer duration of ozone spells

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A Centre for Science and Environment study has found that ozone levels are exceeding the permitted levels even during winter in Delhi-NCR, making the smog more "tox-

"Ozone is now a roundthe-year problem requiring urgent [action] and the situation demands refinement of clean air action plan to add strategies for ozone mitigation, with stronger action on vehicles, industry and waste

burning," says CSE Executive Director Anumita Roychowd-

Despite the pandemic and lockdowns, more days and locations witnessed higher and longer duration of ozone spells, the study said.

Year-round menace Ozone, a highly reactive gas

and dangerous for those suffering from respiratory conditions and asthma, is becoming more widespread in Delhi and NCR across all seasons, the CSE said.

that ozone, produced photochemically from interaction between gases in the presence of sunlight, is predominantly a summer phenomenon, the analysis finds the gas has emerged as an equally strong concern during winter as well," it said.

"Contrary to the notion

The study was done by analysing the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data. The CSE analysis found that the city-wide average largely remains within the standard with just occasional ex-

shows that exceedance of the eight-hour average standard is quite widely distributed in the city. At the moment, it is not possible to compute the peak pollution in the city as the data that is available from CPCB is capped at 200 ug/ m3. This also makes daily AQI reporting ineffective," the study said.

ceedance. But the 'good'

category days have fallen to

115 days in 2020, which is 24

presents a different story. It

"A location-wise analysis

days less than in 2019.



COVID-appropriate travel guidelines were recently revised in the national capital to allow metro trains and buses to operate at '100% seating capacity'. Though standing travel is explicitly barred, initial lack of enforcement and public confusion over the new rules led to packed coaches during peak hours









Long lines outside metro stations and at bus stops are a common sight across the city as authorities are attempting to implement COVID-19 safety guidelines by regulating entry of commuters.

PHOTOS BY R.V. MOORTHY, SANDEEP SAXENA,







+ Juvenile nabbed for stabbing two friends

'He had demanded ₹50 to buy alcohol'

A 17-year-old juvenile was apprehended for allegedly stabbing his two friends when they refused to give him ₹50 to buy alcohol, the police said on Friday.

Two absconding

The victims, both residents of Bindapur here - were stabbed by their juvenile friend with the help of two others, who are absconding, they said.

The police said one victim sustained seven stab injuries, mostly on his hands and hips. He is stable but still admitted while the other victim has been discharged from the hospital.

According to the police, the incident took place on July 24, when the two victims were going on a scooter and met the juvenile near Harijan Basti in Bindapur.

The juvenile demanded ₹50 from the duo to pur chase alcohol, but when they refused to give him any money, he along with his two accomplices started beating them.

The juvenile then took out a knife and stabbed the duo and fled from the spot along with his associates later, the police said.

'Wanted in 5 cases'

"The juvenile is wanted in five other cases, including that of theft and snatching. He was apprehended on Wednesday and sent to an observation home. Efforts are being made to nab his two other accomplices," said Santosh Kumar Meena, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka).

HC notice to Delhi govt. on delay in registering Muslim marriages

Registration stipulations under the SMA delay process for 30 days, says plea

The Delhi High Court on Friday issued notice to the Delhi government on a petition alleging that Muslim marriages were being registered under the Special Marriage Act (SMA) and not under the Compulsory Marriage Order where marriages are registered immediately.

> Justice Rekha Palli gave three weeks' time to the Delhi government to respond to petition collectively moved by an NGO, Dhanak for Humanity, and a man from Uttar Pradesh.

> Parents' opposition The man said both he and his girl friend practice Islam,

> but had left their home town

in Delhi as their parents were opposed to their relationship.

He said despite their marriage under the Muslim marriage rites and ceremonies, they were not given the option by the Delhi government to register the same under the Compulsory Marriage Order.

The man submitted that the practice of registering Muslim marriage under the Special Marriage Act requires 30 days' notice period which is a very cumbersome process for the applicant who came from another

The plea said the couple were in hiding and had sought refuge in the NGO's

to solemnise their marriage office in Delhi. It said several tion of marriages solemnised of their family members are residing in Delhi and hence they feared getting caught during the process of regis-

tering their marriage.

All marriages done under the Special Marriage Act require publication of the names of the couple for inviting objections from the public for 30 days. Within this period, anyone can object to the marriage on the ground that it would contravene one or more of the conditions specified under the

"Under the Compulsory Registration Marriage Order, the marriages are registered immediately and without any delay or notice. It is submitted that for the registraunder the Muslim marriage rites and ceremonies, the respondent no.1 (Delhi Govt.) has not given the option to register the marriage under the Compulsory Marriage Order," the petition

The plea also argued that the exclusion violated the fundamental rights of the parties.

'Right to live'

"Petitioner 2 has right to live which has been threatened and curtailed and respondents should protect the same by registering the marriage immediately," the peti-

The High Court will hear the case next on October 4.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Two more held in vegetable $_{+}$ vendor's murder case

The accused constable has been dismissed from service

STAFF REPORTER

Two more persons have been arrested in connection with murder of a vegetable vendor, Ajeet Kumar, who was beaten to death allegedly by a constable, Monu Sirohi, and his friends in East Delhi's New Ashok Nagar, the police said.

Accused identified

Deputy Commissioner of Police (East) Priyanka Kashyap said the accused have been identified as Vikas Sirohi, a manager at a salon in Noida, and Vineet, who works with a property dealer in Mumbai

Both were arrested from Jaipur.

Kalra free to assail order cancelling

registration to run restaurants: court

He has been accused of black-marketing oxygen concentrators

"Both the accused were known to accused Monu Sirohi. On the fateful night, they came to see Monu Sirohi regarding a marriage proposal for Vineet. It learnt that to evade their arrest, both the accused persons had fled to Mumbai. Immediately a team was rushed to Mumbai where it came to our notice that the accused persons had shifted their hideout to Jaipur," Ms. Kashyap.

She added that a team was rushed to Jaipur.

Searching for body The police said efforts are

underway to find the body of the deceased. Divers are searching the Gang Nahar Canal in Murad Nagar.

Constable Monu Sirohi, who was posted in Pandav Nagar police station, has been dismissed from ser-

Five people arrested for running fake call centre

They had duped foreigners by offering tech support: police

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Five people, including a woman, were arrested for allegedly running an illegal call centre and duping citizens of foreign countries by impersonating themselves as representatives of a tech support company in south Delhi's Malviya Nagar, the police said on Friday.

The owner of the call centre, Pritpal Singh (35), and his associates Mayank (26), Chandan Gupta (24), Subham Kumar (22), and HR head Kinkini Das (35) were operating from the third floor of a building in Panchsheel Vihar, they said.

Based on a tip off, the police conducted a raid at the illegal call centre on Thursday and arrested the accused.

ing foreign citizens, mainly from the USA, on the pretext of giving them tech support saying their systems were under a cyber threat, the police said.

They were allegedly target-

High-end software

Subham and Chandan were junior callers while Mayank was a senior caller. They had been working here for the last seven months and had been calling up customers using high-end technical software "X-lite/ Eye Beam" through cloud servers.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Atul Kumar Thakur said, "The accused approached USA-based customers using "X-lite/ Eye Beam" and duped them on the pretext of providing them tech support if they paid a fee of US \$100 to US \$400. They asked the customer to provide the amount through various payments methods or payment wallets." "They were taking wrong-

ful gain as they would first send a pop-up message or bug to the customer after obtaining their data from cloud servers, then say that their system has been attacked by a cyber threat and later ask them to obtain support from them to technically eradicate the pop-up bug or cyber threat from their systems," he said.

The police claimed to have recovered 13 computer systems with two pen drives and two note books from the call centre.

Reply to plea challenging JMI V-C appointment: HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Delhi High Court Friday sought response from the Centre, Central Vigilance Commission and Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) on a plea challenging the appointment of the varsity's current Vice-Chancellor Najma

The court was hearing an appeal challenging a singlejudge's March 5 order that dismissed the plea challenging the JMI VC's appointment saying there was no merit in the petition.

A Bench of Justices Rajiv Shakdher and Talwant Singh also issued notices to University Grants Commission (UGC) and Akhtar on the petition and asked the authorities to file their replies while listing the matter for further hearing on Sep-

The appeal has been filed



by M. Ethesham-Ul-Hague, an alumnus of Faculty of Law at JMI, challenging the appointment claiming that there was violation of regulations issued by the UGC and JMI Act.

Mobashshir Advocates Sarwar and M J Shaikh, representing the appellant, claimed that the entire process culminating into the appointment of Akhtar is a colourable exercise of power and in flagrant violation and total non-compliance of the statutory provisions of the JMI Act.

neet Kalra, accused in the case of alleged black marketing of oxygen concentrators, was free to assail in accordance with law the

The Delhi High Court Fri-

cancellation of the registration certificate to run his restaurants - Khan Chacha and Town Hall - in Khan Justice Rekha Palli, who

was hearing Mr. Kalra's petition challenging a showcause notice and order suspending the registration certificate, clarified that she was not expressing any opinion on the claims made in his plea.

"It will be open to the petitioner [Kalra] to assail the order in accordance with law. This court has not ex-



pressed any opinion on the claims," the judge said.

Mr. Kalra's counsel Gurinder Pal Singh submitted that the registration certificate was cancelled by the authorities by an order dated July 23 and nothing survived in the petition.

Mr. Kalra had challenged the May 11 order-cum-show cause notice issued by the Joint Commissioner of Police (Licensing) and the subsequent suspension of the registration certificate to run the two eateries in Khan Market here. In its status report, the

Licencing Unit of Delhi Police informed that it cancelled the registration certificate for 'Khan Chacha' and 'Town Hall' following the recovery of several illegally kept oxygen concentrators from there.

The Licencing Unit said, "96 boxes of oxygen concentrators were recovered from subject entity i.e. M/s Khan Chacha restaurant, Khan Market which were kept illegally in the subject restaurant" and that "DCP, Crime Branch, Delhi Police intimated that Navneet Kalra was arrested on May 17, 2021".

Law and lawmakers

SC is right in saying legislative privilege cannot be a cover for crimes in the House

The Supreme Court ruling that legislative privilege cannot be extended to provide legal immunity to criminal acts committed by lawmakers ought to be welcomed for two reasons. It lays down that legislators charged with unruly behaviour that results in offences under penal laws cannot be protected either by their privilege or their free speech rights. Second, the decision revivifies the law relating to a prosecutor's role in withdrawing an ongoing criminal case. The LDF government in Kerala has suffered a setback as it strongly favoured the withdrawal of cases against six members sought to be prosecuted for creating a ruckus in the Assembly on March 13, 2015, when they boisterously tried to interrupt the presentation of the Budget presented by the erstwhile UDF regime. Their action resulted in destruction or damage to some items, amounting to a loss of ₹2.20 lakh. Based on the Assembly Secretary's complaint, the police registered a case and later filed a charge sheet against them for committing mischief and trespass under the IPC and destroying public property under the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act, 1984. This year, the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Thiruvananthapuram, had rejected the application by the public prosecutor for withdrawal from prosecution, an order that was later affirmed by the Kerala HC. It is not surprising that the apex court concurred with these decisions, as it is indeed an unacceptable argument that the alleged vandalism took place as part of the legislators' right to protest on the floor of the House.

Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan, who has rejected calls for asking his General Education Minister, V. Sivankutty, one of the accused, to resign and face trial, maintains that the matter ought to have been seen as a political protest and something that should not have been taken into the domain of criminal prosecution. He is indeed right when he says that courts ought not to re-appraise a prosecutor's decision to withdraw a case, and that they should only examine whether the prosecutor had applied his mind independently. However, there is equal force in the proposition that it is the court's duty to decide whether the withdrawal is in good faith, is in the interest of public policy, and is not aimed at thwarting the process of law. Legislative privilege and parliamentary free speech are necessary elements of a lawmaker's freedom to function, but it is difficult to disagree with the Court's conclusion that an alleged act of destroying public property within the House cannot be considered "essential" for their legislative functions. It is indeed quite legal for Mr. Sivankutty to remain in office, as he is yet to be convicted. However, he will be well-advised to take a cue from several recent precedents of those in ministerial positions stepping down until their names are cleared by due process.

Patchwork progress

Move to hasten insured bank deposits' repayment need not have taken this long

he Government hopes to ring in fresh changes the 1961 Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation law in the monsoon session, after the Cabinet nod this week. From savers' perspective, the most significant modification on the anvil is a 90day deadline for the Corporation (DICGC) to remit the insured deposits of customers in troubled banks. As per the plan, once the RBI imposes curbs on a bank, the clock will start ticking and by the 91st day or thereabouts, account holders will get their outstanding balance back with a cap of ₹5 lakh. While Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said this will not apply retrospectively, she did indicate that this would apply to cases of lenders already under a moratorium. In the last two years, Yes Bank, Lakshmi Vilas Bank and the PMC Bank, have faced such a bar on depositors seeking to withdraw. PMC Bank accounts still face such curbs, even as savings parked in other co-operative lenders that have gone under continue to elude their rightful owners. The Minister said it normally takes eight to 10 years for insured deposits to be forked out, from the time a bank hits a hurdle and myriad conditions are imposed on withdrawals. But these delays were well-known last year too, when the insured deposit amount was raised to ₹5 lakh from ₹1 lakh laid down in 1993.

Making incremental changes in quick succession suggests a piecemeal approach to governance rather than a system-wide view, even though the government stressed it has been working 'overtime' to resolve the PMC Bank crisis. Nevertheless, given the rising distress in households and the downward momentum in savings levels due to the pandemic, this change must be allowed to make it through the din in Parliament. As per RBI data, ₹76.21 lakh crore or almost 51% of deposits are now insured, but 98.3% of all accounts have balances of ₹5 lakh or less so they are fully insured. This can be a source of renewed comfort for people in the banking system, grappling with bad loans, dwindling deposits and a still-fledgling insolvency framework. It is important for financial stability that people feel it is safer to park their money in a bank than stashing it under a mattress. For several people with limited financial literacy and access to retirement savings instruments, with lifetime earnings (possibly over ₹5 lakh) parked in a neighbourhood co-operative bank, this would still be a less than perfect outcome. The RBI needs to up its oversight game, and the Centre, which has recently made the Department of Cooperation a full-scale ministry, needs to allow it to do so. Moreover, just as the latest amendments have an enabling provision to raise the premium paid by banks to the DICGC in future, there should have been one to raise the insured deposit limit in line with inflation and per capita income trends.

Visualising the Himalaya with other coordinates

Looking at it only through the prism of geopolitics and security concerns ignores its other crucial frameworks



SWATAHSIDDHA SARKAR

conceptual audit of questions related to geopolitics and security concerns while talking or thinking about the Himalaya is perhaps long overdue. There is no gainsaying the truth that we have been examining the Himalaya mainly through the coordinates of geopolitics and security while relegating others as either irrelevant or incompatible. In a certain sense, our intellectual concerns over the Himalaya have been largely shaped by the assumption of fear, suspicion, rivalry, invasion, encroachment and pugnacity. If during colonial times it was Russophobia, then now it is Sinophobia or Pakistan phobia that in fact determines our concerns over the Himalava. Within the domain of geopolitics and security, conceived by that which lies outside the Himalaya, a process that decolonial scholars such as Pauline Hountondji refers to as extroversion. Ironically it is the Delhi-Beijing-Islamabad triad, and not the mountain per se, that defines our concerns about the Himalaya. Are we not really leading Himalayan studies towards the dead end of violent intellectual pursuits?

A national Himalava

If extroversion in the field of knowledge production has resulted in academic dependency, in the case of Himalayan studies it has given birth to the political compulsion of territorialising the Himalaya on a par with the imperatives of nationalism. Thus the attempt to create a national Himalaya by each of the five nations (Nepal, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, and Tibet/China)that fall within this transnational landmass called the Himalaya. The National Mission on Himalayan Studies, for example, under the Ministry of

Change, Government of India, is a classic case in point that provides funds for research and technological innovations, but creating policies only for the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR). The Mission document avowedly claims: "The Government of India has come-up with this Mission in recognition of the fact that the Himalayan Ecosystem is important for ecological security of India (https:// bit.ly/3x8dOMB)". Thus, comes the Indian Himalaya. It reminds us of that ancient parable where a few blind men were trying to fathom how huge an elephant was by touching only the different parts of its body.

By considering cartographic fixations as the natural limit of scholarship, we have overburdened Himalayan studies with the concerns of States in place of people, culture, market or ecology. India's understanding of the Himalaya is informed by a certain kind of realism, as the Himalava continues to remain as a space largely defined in terms of sovereign territoriality. in contrast to alternative imaginations such as community, ecology or market. It may be perceived that such an alternative conceptualisation of Himalaya is not only possible but also necessary. But can we really work out such an alternative imagination especially when we find territorialisation and securitisation to be the two dominant modes through which the Himalaya is imagined both in the official context, and, by extension, in popular discourses.

A historical logjam

The Himalaya's territorialisation bears a colonial legacy which also sets up its post-colonial destiny as played out within the dynamics of nation states. The arbitration of relationships between and among the five nation states falling within the Himalayan landmass has failed to transcend the approach derived from the given categories of territoriality, sovereignty and difference. As such, the fact that the lines of peoplehood and the national border, especially within the context of the Himalaya, never

coincided, is bound to give birth to tensions while working out projects predicated upon national sovereignty. Given this historical logiam, what we can only expect is the escalation of territorial disputes as the immediate fallout when infrastructure development projects in the border areas are adopted by constituting nation states to secure their respective territories falling within the Himalayan landmass.

Borders and their differences

It needs to be recognised that political borders and cultural borders are not the same thing. Political borders are to be considered as space-making strategies of modern nation-states that do not necessarily coincide with cultural borders. In other words, while a statist imagination has a telling effect on the way a border is understood in political terms, culture in that sense defies the (political) idea of border or at best considers it as permeable, penetrable, connective, heterogeneous and one that can be accounted for mainly through dreams, passions, flows and livelihoods. The singular statist conception of a political border would then appear to become a 'polysemic' or even 'rhizomatic' when viewed in cultural terms, and, by extension, in terms of trade and ecology or the environ-

It needs to be realised that human security cannot be effectively appreciated through the paradigm of sovereign territoriality, although state systems operating within the Himalaya have failed to devise any other framework to grapple with the issue of security. More often than not, the state has dominated the agenda of defining

the domain of non-traditional security (such as human rights, cases of ecological devastation, climate change, human trafficking, migration, forced exodus of people, transnational crime, resource scarcity, and even pandemics) besides setting the tone of an approach to handling traditional security threats (such as military, political and diplomatic conflicts that were considered as threats against the essential values of the state, territorial integrity, and political sovereignty). Interestingly enough, it has often appeared as a fact that the measures to deal with traditional security threats from outside have in fact triggered nontraditional insecurities on several fronts on the inside.

Understanding the Himalaya

Keeping these arguments in order, it is proposed that there could be several alternate ways of reading the geopolitical and the security concerns of the Himalava and if the statist meaning (territoriality, sovereignty and difference) is privileged over and above those of the anthropological, historical, cultural, and ecological ones, it would continue to reflect a set of mental processes predicated on a certain conception of spatial imagination that could be anything but 'unHimalayan' or, for that matter, antithetical to the very idea of the Himalaya itself. How long should one go on referring to the Himalaya as the one of the largest biodiversity hotspots? Or as the largest water tower of Asia? Or as a zone that is culturally and linguistically diverse, sharing a common historical pool of resources, communities, cultures, civilisations and memories, and susceptible to climate change and ecological vulnerabilities? When would these terms of references be predicated in our scholarly, and, by extension, pedestrian, attempts to understand the Himalaya and produce impactful policy research on the Himalaya?

The argument is simple. The Himalaya being a naturally evolved phenomenon should be underlaya. The Himalaya needs to be visualised with an open eye and taken in as a whole instead of in parts unlike the ancient parable of the efforts of the blind men in trying to understand the elephant in parts. The Himalaya is a space whose history defines its geography rather than the other way round. Since histories are always made rather than given, we need to be careful about what kind of Himalayan history we are trying to inject or project in the way we imagine the Himalaya. Viewing the Himalaya as a space of political power and, by extension, through the coordinates of nation states epitomising differential national histories is a violent choice, which actually enriched ultra-sensitivity towards territorial claims and border management.

A road map of other routes

In contrast to this, if we are ready to consider the Himalava as a space that is deeply embedded in human subjectivities, we can possibly come out of the grip of a national absolute space, which is actually necessary if we are to address the concerns of trade, commerce, community, ecology and environment – issues which are no less important when we are to think of securing livelihoods, cultures and the environment in the Himalaya. In fact, the road map of all these alternative routes trade, community, environment are located beyond the absolutist statist position. The need is that these alternative imaginations of security should be given the required space in the way policy making, state-building strategies and diplomatic relations are worked out in relation to the Himalaya. The time has come when we need to take position between the Himalaya as a national space and as a space of dwelling instead of avoiding our encounter with this ambivalence.

Swatahsiddha Sarkar is Professor and Director, Centre for Himalayan Studies,

A Hindu-Muslim dialogue without conditions

A genuine dialogue the RSS chief hopes to initiate must also recognise that India belongs equally to all communities in it



n what has been widely perceived as a gesture of concilia-**⊥** tion towards Muslims, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat said in a respeech bit.ly/3j2Oe6t) that Hindus lynching minorities for cow slaughter were acting against Hindutva, and those asserting that Muslims have no place in India were not Hindus. He also tried to allay Muslim fears about the bleak future of Islam in India saying the religion was not in danger, and asked Muslims to help the RSS in making the country a world leader (vishwaguru) on the basis of the fact that all Indians, being the descendants of common ancestors from the last 40,000

years, have the same DNA.

The viewpoints Muslim opinion makers either brushed off Mr. Bhagwat's remarks as "mere rhetoric" because "RSS leaders often spoke with a forked tongue", or tried to mollify him by saying that "if there is someone who can initiate perestroika in the RSS, it is Bhagwat" because, "in a gradual manner he has been trying to change the Sangh's attitude

towards Muslims" If the untenability of the first viewpoint is based on a dismissive distrust of the RSS, the second amounts to nothing more than complaisant backslapping. Such facile responses, to say the least, exude an attitude that is not conducive to a genuine Hindu-Muslim

dialogue the RSS chief hopes to in-

To his credit, the RSS chief spoke with an open mind and wanted the mistrust (avishwaas) between Hindus and Muslims to be understood and dispelled in an atmosphere of forthright outspokenness (khari khari baat ko jaisa hai waisa samajna). However, communal unity (ekta) through such a dialogue was possible only if Muslims acknowledge India as their motherland; accept its traditions and culture (parampara, sanskriti), and honour their common ancestors (samaan purvai).

Mr. Bhagwat virtually rendered these three prerequisites a sine quo non for establishing one's Indianness with the condescending summation: baaai hamaare vahaan sab swatantrata hai (there is freedom for everything else in our

A melding

This attempt to meld Indianness and Hinduness together is eerily similar to V.D. Savarkar's credo which defines a Hindu as one who regards the entire subcontinent as his fatherland (pitrubhu); descended of Hindu parents, and considers this land holy (punyabhu). For Savarkar these three conditions signified a common nation (rashtra), a common race (jati) and a common culture (sanskriti), respectively, and together they form the foundation on which Hindutva

Several assertions of Mr. Bhagwat reflected this attitude. For instance, his full statement on cow vigilantism was Hindustan Hindu Rashtra hai, gaumata pujya hai; lekin lynching karne waale yeh Hindutva ke khilaf jaarahe hain (India is a Hindu nation, the cow is worthy of worship; but the lynchers



are going against Hindutva).

He also quoted the RSS founder K.B. Hedgewar as stating that Hindus were wrong in blaming the British and the Muslims for their pitiable state (durwasta) because, despite being the owners (maalik) of their country, and their large numbers, if Hindus could be reduced to such a state then there must be some shortcoming (kami) in them that needs to be addressed.

This, Mr. Bhagwat said, is how the RSS conceptualises the situation and therefore, in its view the minorities are not the reason for the miserable condition of the Hindus in a Hindu country (Hinduon ke desh mein).

Portraiture of India

Had the Muslim commentators listened to Mr. Bhagwat's 34-minute speech made in Ghaziabad – instead of relying on selective versions of it publicised by the media they would perhaps have challenged, in the spirit of the candidness he suggested, the portraiture of India as indigenously Hindu with a non-native population.

Nonetheless, was Mr. Bhagwat trying to say that Muslims, even if they are "our own brethren" (hamaare apne bhai) now, are outsid-

But he did want the people to

know that Islam's entry into India was aggressive (woh aakramakon se saath aaya), but even so, all those who came to our land are still here coexisting peacefully (ha-living in India today, the 'First In-

Islam in the subcontinent

Mr. Bhagwat should have known that Islam in the subcontinent predates the forays of invaders such as Mahmud of Ghazni, Muhammad Ghori, and Muhammad bin Qasim who captured Sindh and Multan from Raja Dahir around 711 CE. It was around 630 CE that Islamised Arab merchants started arriving in the coastal regions of Konkan-Gujarat and Malabar in continuation of the trade links they had with India from pre-Islamic times. The cordiality of this transactive relationship was such that it resulted in the spread of Is-

lamic culture and religion in India. Thus, most Indian Muslims today are the descendants of the locals who converted to Islam and, therefore, they have always considered India their motherland and respected it traditions, culture, and diversity. The ultimate proof of this patriotism was demonstrated when they chose India over Pakistan after Partition.

But it would be unfair to expect this loyalism to be rooted in the subliminal recognition of an autochthonous Indian race that magnanimously "accommodated" them. For there is no evidence to show that such a race existed in India, nor are the Muslims aliens.

Researcher Tony Joseph, in his engrossing book Early Indians: The Story of Our Ancestors and Where We Came From and subsequent articles, has shown that Indians are a multi-source civilisation who draw their cultural

impulses, traditions and practices from a variety of heredities and migration histories. He calls the earliest direct ancestors of people maare yahaan jojo aaya hai woh dians'. They were the descendants of the Out of Africa (OoA) migrants who arrived here about 65,000 years ago. The First Indians were later joined by Zagrosian herders from Iran with whom they formed the Harappan civilisation.

After 2000 BCE came the Arvans, the Austroasiatic and Tibeto-Burman-language speakers, and, much later, the Greeks, the Jews, the Huns, the Sakas, the Parsis, the Syrians, the Mughals, the Portuguese, the British, the Siddis all of whom left small marks all over the subcontinent.

In short, says Mr. Joseph, almost all the population groups of India carry 50-65% of their ancestry from the First Indians, no matter where in the caste hierarchy they stand, what language they speak, which region they inhabit or what religion they belong to.

This being the truth, India cannot be spoken of in terms of Hinduon ka desh (Hindu country) or Musalmaanon ka desh (Muslim country). It belongs equally to all communities living here, and as pointed out by the RSS chief himself, India being a democracy cannot countenance the dominance of Hindus or Muslims.

Likewise, any Hindu-Muslim dialogue must be unconditional and take place in an atmosphere of peace and harmony. In Mr. Bhagwat's own words: Darke maare ekta hona nahin hai (Let there not be unity out of fear).

A. Faizur Rahman is the Secretary-General of the Islamic Forum for the Promotion of Moderate Thought. E-mail:themoderates2020@gmail.com

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.

Intentional act

The murder of an Additional Sessions judge in Dhanbad in broad daylight strikes at the root of democracy (Page 1, July 30). It is another instance of judicial officers facing grave threats, attacks and allurements for handling cases with political dimensions or wider

ramifications. It is an irony that security for judicial officers is unsatisfactory and that they have to rely on the executive and law enforcement machinery. V. JOHAN DHANAKUMAR,

■ The citizen's last bastion of hope rests with the judiciary. The role of judges is even

today. The incident is a threat to the independence of our judiciary. If we cannot protect our judges, then how can we protect our democracy? PANKHURI KAUSHIK,

more crucial in the India of

■ The main blame for failure of justice lies with the illegal

Education in Japan and impermissible political As a student of Class 12, I felt pressure on investigation and prosecution. Press reports point to such possibilities in the present case also. Is it whither our law and order system? The only solace this time is the suo motu intervention by the higher

I have done nothing in my school life after reading the article, "Japanese education spells holistic development" ((Editorial page, July 29). I have not even planted a tree on my own when, in contrast, Japanese primary students spend quality time with nature and have a

nature notebook. Moral education is very important but in our country, teachers cover the subject more out of a necessity to cover the syllabus. The Government needs to make changes to the education policy. P.S. RAJAGOPAL, Chennai



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

judiciary.

P.R.V. RAJA,

Pandalam, Kerala

Lights dim for roving troupes

COVID-19 has hit Assam's itinerant theatre groups hard, forcing several artists to find other forms of livelihood. **Rahul Karmakar** reports on how Bhramyoman groups, which are a distinct feature of the culture of the State, are on the verge of closure

any men in Manikpur spend seven-nine months of an Assa-**⊥** mese year on the road. A large village in Assam's Bongaigaon district, about 185 km west of Guwahati, Manikpur has for decades been the 'setting' source of several Bhramyoman groups.

The Assamese year of 365 days starts mid-April of a Gregorian calendar. Bhramyoman translates into mobile theatre and 'setting' entails a range of activities from putting up tents to decorating the stage. A travelling theatre group of an average of 150 persons has 55-60 stage workers engaged in settings.

About five months ago, more than 30 stage workers boarded a bus in Manikpur. "This would have been routine had the bus not been sent by a Kerala-based firm that offered them jobs," says Abhijit Bhattacharya, a playwright associated with mobile theatres for 22 years.

About one-fourth of some 4,000 stage workers and technicians employed directly by at least 30 Bhramyomans have left Assam for jobs or in search of greener pastures after the first COVID-19 wave eased by October 2020. Most of those who stayed back, primarily because of age and because they had not picked up any other skill, have been struggling to sustain their families.

Gunajit Das, who played multiple musical instruments for 30 years, has switched to vending fish on a bicycle after selling vegetables that did not earn him enough for his family of five. Fellow musician Prabhat Roy, who spent 35 years with mobile theatre groups, has become a 'jogali' (helper) to a mason. Pratap Boro, who played the violin, mandolin and flute for 32 years, has opened a small pan shop. Stage craftsman Lohit Pathak earns whenever people need his service for cutting or filling up earth. The situation is similar for theatre troupe cooks Dharma Roy and Dilip Das. Setting specialist Remsing Teron wields an axe to sell firewood. All of them are from districts across Assam: Bajali, Baksa, Barpeta and Nalbari.

The more resourceful have managed to stay afloat. Music director Jatin Pathak of Manikpur turned his attention to his agricultural land to become an organic farmer. He commands a good price for his produce. "Many of us never thought beyond theatre. The lockdown taught me to have a backup plan," he says. Popular actor and playwright Champak Sarma opened a restaurant in Guwahati's Gorchuk. "The new business has not been profitable with the restrictions in place but I hope to see better days for the restaurant as well as for mobile theatre," he says. Two of his plays - Danab (Demon) for the Itihash Theatre group and Draupadir Bastraharan (Draupadi's Disrobing) for the Kohinoor Theatre group - were among the last to be staged before the 2019-2020 mobile theatre season ended prematurely in March 2020 because of the CO-VID-19 pandemic.

Struck by a virus

Pathsala, about 80 km east of Bongaigaon, is perhaps the only town that "prospered" post-lockdown in 2020. In August that year, it became the headquarters of Bajali, Assam's 34th district carved out of Barpeta.

Prior to the administrative upgrade, Pathsala was known primarily as the hub of Assam's mobile theatre. It was here that Achyut Lahkar, a pioneering dramatist, actor, director and producer, founded the Nataraj Theatre, the first of the Bhramyomans in 1963.

He was inspired by the Jatra, a popular folk theatre form of Bengal, but tailored his theatrical presentations to local specifications and tastes besides adopting a unique business model. He let a local committee in Pathsala publicise his plays, organise the shows and take a share of the profit in return. All the 132 mobile theatre groups - at least 32 of them remain - born after Nataraj have followed this cooperative business model based on informal agreements. Nataraj Theatre folded up after the death of Achyut Lahkar, revered as the

father of the Bhramyoman, in 2016. A stone's throw from Achyut Lahkar's house is the complex that his relative Ratan Lahkar constructed in Jyotinagar, a locality in Pathsala near the landmark Bhattadev University. Ratan Lahkar, who died in 2017, founded the Kohinoor Theatre in 1976 after several groups tried to do a Nataraj only to fade away. Kohinoor's co-founder Krishna Roy broke away to form the Abahan Theatre in 1978 but sold it to popular Assamese cinema and theatre actor Prastuti Parashar a few years ago.

Kohinoor brought in the element of special effects with Mahabharat, a costume drama that took the audience by storm in 1984 with cinematic fight sequences. It shot to international fame by adapting Titanic in 1998, using indigenous special effects to turn and sink the ill-fated luxury ship on stage. In 2010, Kohinoor became the first Assamese mobile theatre group to stage three plays at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts at the invitation of



Workers clean a theatre hall which has been closed since the COVID-19 outbreak, in Guwahati. (Below): Workers ready the theatre at Bhagyadevi Theatre in Marowa, Nalbari district of Assam. •RITU RAJ KONWAR



the National School of Drama in New Delhi. Apart from plays, the troupe presented special effects scenes in the Titanic and Dinosaur, a play base ven Spielberg's Jurassic Park.

Kohinoor soared as the *Titanic* sank in more than 200 shows during the 1998-99 season. The Bhramyoman season starts mid-July. Two months go into readying three plays and rehearsing with the actors, dancers and musicians. The shows start around Vishwakarma Puja (mostly September 17) and end on the eve of Bohag or Rongali Bihu (usually April 13). Each troupe sets up its temporary stage and hall for three nights each at 75-80 places, ending a season without breaks even if there are natural calamities or political disturbances, with 210-235 shows.

"Mobile theatres have withstood many a challenge. Often, our theatrical adaptations became more popular than the films they were adapted from. The travelling theatres thrived as the Assamese film industry suffered. We held our own against all other forms of entertainment - cinema, television and even digital. But an invisible virus has deflated us," says Tapan Lahkar who took over charge of Kohinoor from his father.

Kohinoor lost about ₹15 lakh when shows were cancelled for 12 days during the violence that erupted against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act in December 2019. Most Bhramyomans thought it was a temporary setback like the twomonth hiatus in 1983 at the peak of the anti-foreigner Assam Agitation. The mobile theatres overcame the outlawed United Liberation Front of Asom's threat in 2007 to stop them from destroying Assamese culture with "Bollywood-inspired stories" and the counterinsurgency operations in the 1990s when security forces discouraged people from venturing out at night. The mobile theatres have traditionally been staged at night with the last show at 5

Mapping the route

Representatives of the All-Assam Mobile Theatre Producers' Association headed by Bordoisila Theatre owner Nazrul Islam met Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma over a fortnight ago for restarting the show to bail out of poverty hundreds of people associated with the industry.

The association has so far recognised 22 theatre groups, the criteria for membership being at least two consecutive years of sustainable operation. There

are about 10 non-member groups that have a small budget and operate mostly in villages within a district or two unlike the big-budget groups that perform across Assam and beyond.

"If we can start the 2021-22 season in October even with 500-600 viewers compared to the normal 1,500-2,000, we may be able to stay afloat. The government said it will ramp up the vaccination drive. This will facilitate a sizeable audience for the mobile theatres. If the situation does not improve, it could be very tough for theatre groups to be revived later," Tapan Lahkar says.

The glimmer of hope has made the likes of Lankeswar Barman, the manager of Kohinoor Theatre, fish out the seasonal travel map. "Our travel route is planned around where our group will perform on Shasthi (sixth day of the 10day Durga Puja, usually in October). Our performance calendar is fixed as and when we ink an agreement with a local organising committee. Experience is needed to juggle with the dates of more than 70 organising committees every season and plan the routes so that we don't end up travelling 100-150 km in different directions," he says.

Each travel theatre has two sets of - bamboos, wooden planks, iron frames, etc. - of a 130x90 ft temporary hall inclusive of a two-in-one stage. The route is planned in such a way that the stage workers travel the least on the night of the third and final day of the shows from place A to set up the theatre in place B in time for the first show there. The last stop of a group is invariably a place 15-20 km from its

Important for the rural economy The survival of the mobile theatres is

crucial not only for the groups but also the rural economy, says Suresh Ranjan Goduka, a mass communication design researcher at the Indian Institute of Technology-Guwahati. He had done a project on the Bhramyoman-driven economy more than a decade ago. "Mobile theatres work on two payment systems - a nine-month contract and lump sum.

In the first category are the star actors mostly from cinema and TV and the general character actors, dancers, members of the orchestra, sound arrangers, background voice artists, make-up artists, costume designers, tent and stage workers, lighting technicians, set designers, transporters, managers and up to eight cooks for the entire travelling team. On lump sum pay are the directors, choreographers, music directors, art directors, playwrights and lyricists," he says.

There are also graphic designers and printers, who have been deprived of their "assured" seasonal income from the theatre groups since the 2020 lock-

"Before the pandemic, the annual turnover of the Bhramyomans averaged ₹25 crore with the major groups investing about \mathbb{Z}_2 crore. Some attracted corporate sponsorship. More importantly, Bhramyomans stimulate various indirect economic activities by contributing to the local economy with seasonal employment and community contribution. Numerous *namghars* (Vaishnav prayer halls), libraries, voluntary associations and schools have been built all across Assam and mostly in rural and semi-urban areas as a result of the profit-sharing between the theatre troupes and the host committees," Goduka says.

A local committee negotiates the deal with a theatre group ahead of the season and pays an advance ranging from ₹50,000 to ₹1.5 lakh. The advance is adjusted with a fixed amount per first show per night to be paid to a theatre group. The organising committee takes 30%-40% of the money collected from the second show and gives the rest to a group. The collection from the third show - in the case of smash-hit plays - is shared 50:50.

"Whether or not a committee profits from the first show, it has to pay us the fixed amount according to that agreement. Besides, a committee takes care of the accommodation of the troupe members, provides a kitchen and firewood. We spend on transportation and food," says Subodh Majumdar, producer of Theatre Bhagyadevi based in Nalbari district's Morowa. Founded by his father Sarat Majumdar in 1976, this group had made a passenger aircraft take off in the play *Hijack*, based on the 1999 hijacking of an Indian Airlines flight in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

The way forward

Kalpajit Hazarika, producer of the Jorhat-based Hengul Theatre believes staging a comeback would be an uphill task. One reason is the damage of acoustic and other equipment and tent and stage materials because of non-use over a long period of time.

"Starting afresh needs an investment of ₹40-45 lakh, and we are not sure of recovering the cost because of the prevailing uncertainty. More importantly, the issue is to get experienced technicians, many of whom have gone out for jobs," he says.

Synchronising a play on a double stage is a special skill set not many can handle. The scenes move from one stage to the other like a fast change of frame in a film.

Some groups have taken strength from Gitashree Theatre, a small budget group based in Morigaon. Gitashree was the only group to stage some plays adhering to guidelines such as physical distancing and providing hand sanitisers to the viewers for a few months before the second COVID-19 wave struck.

"The emotional attachment with and popularity of Bhramyoman should see us through a difficult phase. But it will be easier for smaller groups with a minimal budget to rebound compared to the major groups which have more to lose because of the volume of investment," Abahan's Parashar says.

Bhagyadevi's Majumdar is apprehensive of how the audience will react after the gap. "We are not sure how the country's economy has impacted them, whether they can afford spending on a non-essential mode of entertainment and whether the younger generations will get over their addiction to their smartphones," he says.

He has already begun thinking in terms of leaving the theatre business if the "age of social distancing" does not give way to "social gathering" that the Bhramyomans depend on. "I sold off three trucks and have started undertaking local contractual assignments to fall back upon," he says.

Jiten Das, a dancer-choreographer for 18 years, has joined him as an employee for contractual jobs. "This is better than going out with a spade and shovel in search of work back home in Poritopa Thutikata village (Nalbari district)," he says.

According to Tapan Lahkar, the mobile theatres began feeling the pinch with producers competing to add glamour to their plays. It began with Assamese film star Jatin Bora in 2005-06, who ended up earning six-seven times more from the theatre than from movies. The budgets subsequently became

bigger as producers broke a tradition by bringing film effects specialists from elsewhere to execute plays that turned Bora into a dwarf or a fat blob on stage. The oneupmanship saw another actor, Mridul Chutia, playing triple roles - a +dwarf, a person of normal height and an abnormally tall man - for another group. "Quality suffered as producers relied more on gimmicks, masala, glamour and double entendre," he says.

Bhattacharya says there are very few playwrights who can maintain both quality and quantity, who can race against time, and gauge the capabilities of the actors. "We go from historical and mythological to contemporary and social issues after interacting with the actors a producer ropes in. I have ended up writing 20-25 scripts in a season," he

The last of his plays were the historical Joymoti for Abahan Theatre, the mythological Sakuntala for Surjya Theatre, social dramas Madhubala for Abahan and Sonar Kharu Nalage Mok for Itihash Theatre.

Bhattacharya says nobody could have envisaged the pandemic. But the Bhramyomans became complacent about their popularity, never bothering to set up institutes to train people in a range of theatrical skills. "I have been insisting on a mobile theatre policy like we have a film policy, although the government did try to come up with one in 2013. We also need an archive to preserve everything about this cultural tradition for generations to come," he says.

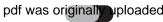
"Mobile theatres do not have the industrial tag and are hence not included in government support schemes. They want to avoid complications in taxation, but a formal structure could have made them eligible for insurance. Their economy is solely based on the number of people in the audience, which is why the COVID-19 restrictions have damaged them like never before," Goduka says.

Theatre producers are not sure how a new experiment by Guwahati-based Nexster Studios to stream their plays on digital platforms would pan out. "We are paying the artists for recreating plays to be released online via an app. Our fingers are crossed," the studio's Ashim Nath says.

But there cannot be any replacement of the real thing, says Nagen Deka, secretary of Nalbari's Hari Mandir Committee. One of the largest theatre organisers, this committee hosts as many groups on its nine fields, especially during the October-November Raas festival and Durga Puja.

"Mobile theatre is an inseparable part of our cultural heritage. Many livelihoods are associated with it and organising committees benefit from them. The public facilities we have, including schools, have come up from the money from mobile theatres. Yes, we lose some when the shows do not click. But the profits for the society at large far outweigh the losses to not want them back as soon as possible," he says.





FROM PAGE ONE

SC to hear plea against snooping next week

The Pegasus software, built by the Israeli cyberarms firm NSO Group Technologies Ltd., is "extremely advanced and capable of inmobile phone/device without any interaction with the owner [also known as a zero-click attack]".

"It can conduct extremely intrusive surveillance, including tracking and recording calls, reading text and WhatsApp messages, collecting passwords, reading emails, accessing photos and videos, activating camera and microphone and enabling them to record events, and harvesting information from apps. It can be installed as simply as by placing a call on the targeted device, even if the call is not picked up," the petition submitted.

The NSO Group claimed to sell its products, including Pegasus, only to vetted governments to fight "crime and terror".

A forensic analysis of several mobile phones belonging to people targeted for surveillance by the Security Lab of Amnesty International had confirmed Pegasusinduced security breaches, it stated.

Besides Mr. Ram and Mr. Kumar, Rajya Sabha member John Brittas and Supreme Court advocate M.L. Sharma have also filed separate petitions seeking an independent investigation into the Pegasus allegations.

Judge death case has wider ramifications: SC

"The Dhanbad case has wider ramifications. We are getting reports that judicial officers are under attack across the country. We want to examine this issue and may seek reports from the CJI Ramana observed.

The Supreme Court said it would be focussing on the larger aspects of the case, including the threats and appalling working conditions in which trial judges function. The Bench said its suo motu case would not interfere in any manner with the inquiry opened by the Jharkhand High Court on Thursday specifically into the judge's death.

The court, to start with, asked the Jharkhand government and the Director-General of Police to file their affidavits in a week.

"It has been brought to the notice of this court that similar incidents are happening across the country. Taking into consideration the duty and obligation of the State to create an environment and accord full protection to judicial officers as well as the legal fraternity so that they can perform their duties fearlessly, we deem it appropriate to take up this matter suo motu," the Supreme Court order said.

The court said the issue required "wider consideration", and said it would consider the desirability of issuing notice to other States and Union Territories on August 6, the next date of

Video footage A video footage of the inci-

dent showed Mr. Anand being knocked down from behind by a vehicle. The incident was initially considered a hit-and-run until the video surfaced, leading to a murder investigation.

The ripples of the judge's death were felt in the court when the Supreme Court Bar Association president, senior advocate Vikas Singh, mentioned the incident in open court before the CJI, who said he had taken up the issue with the Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Within hours of this inte-

raction in the Supreme Court, Jharkhand Chief Justice Ravi Ranjan suo motu initiated an investigation into the crime and decided to monitor the probe by a special investigation team. Two people, including a man who is suspected to be the driver of the vehicle, have been arrested.

Mr. Anand's death comes close on the heels of a July 22 judgment authored by Justice Chandrachud that highlighted how judges are targeted simply for standing up for what is right.

Independent judiciary

The Supreme Court had said the "independence of the judiciary is the independence of each and every judge". The judgment had also pointed to a larger malaise of application of political pressure on trial judges. "Iudicial independence

of the district judiciary is cardinal to the integrity of the entire system. The courts comprised in the district judiciary are the first point of interface with citizens. If the faith of the citizen in the administration of justice has to be preserved, it is to the district judiciary that attention must be focused as well as the 'higher' judiciary," Justice Chandrachud had observed.

Organised blockade on border ends

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The situation on the Assam-Mizoram border remained tense but under control as CRPF troops have started patrolling National Highway 306 between the two States.

Officials in Assam's Barak Valley said organised blockade on Assam's roads leading to Mizoram had been lifted and no group was now out on the streets trying to stop truckers or other vehicles. After a clash on Monday between Assam and Mizoram police forces on a disputed border forest tract, various groups in the Barak Valley had announced a blockade of Mizoram, drawing protests from the neighbouring State.

However, "palpable fear of entering an area, which was like a war zone is holding back trucks ... Most truckers have stopped their vehicles in Dholai village near the border with Mizoram," said officials. A line of trucks on the highway now marks the entry point to Dholai's bazaar.

India and China to hold 12th round of talks today

Focus on making a pact for second phase of disengagement

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

India and China are scheduled to hold the 12th round of Corps Commander talks on Saturday with the focus on working out an agreement for the second phase of disengagement from Gogra and Hot Springs in Eastern Ladakh.

The talks are scheduled to be held at Moldo on the Chinese side opposite Chushul at 10.30 a.m., a defence official said.

Based on an agreement reached in February, the two sides completed disengagement from both the banks of Pangong Tso (lake). However, there has been no progress on further disengagement and de-escalation since despite talks at various levels.

Progress is expected on disengagement from Gogra and Hot Springs during this round of talks, according to defence officials.

A round of Major General



Fragile peace: The two countries have disengaged from the banks of Pangong Tso. ■FILE PHOTO

be held once the 12th round of talks is over.

Friction areas

Further friction areas remain at Demchok and Depsang Plains, which will be taken up once disengagement is complete at Patrolling Points 15 and 17A in Gogra and Hot Springs

Once the disengagement from all friction areas is complete, the de-escalation of the massive troop buildup along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh would be discussed, after which both sides will work out new guidelines for patrolling in these areas.

As reported by The Hindu last week, since the stand-off began last May, the two sides, in addition to 11 rounds of Corps Commander talks, have also held 10 Major General level talks, 55 Brigadier level talks and around 1450 calls over the established hotlines. There are two hotlines for communication at Chushul and Daulat Beg Oldi (DBO).

Google removed over 1.5 lakh content pieces

Action in May, June on complaints

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Google India removed over 1,50,000 pieces of content from its social media platforms in May and June, following complaints received from individual users, according to the transparency report released by it on Friday.

Additionally, it took removal actions on 11,61,223 pieces of content as a result of automated detection produring the two months. The report follows the In-

formation Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 that came into force on May 26. The Rules require social media platforms with more than 50 lakh users in India to publish compliance report every month, mentioning the details of complaints received and action taken.

As per the report for May, Google removed 71,132 pieces of content from its platforms, following 34,883 complaints received from individual users located in

India via the designated mechanisms. In 98.9% of the instances, the removal action was taken due to copyright related issues. Other reasons for content removal include issues related to defamation, counterfeit, circumvention and graphic sexual content. "We evaluate content reported to us under our Community Guidelines, content policies and/or legal policies. Based on this review, removal action may be taken for one of the request reasons...," the report said.

Each unique URL in a specific complaint was considered an individual 'item' and a single complaint may specify multiple items that potentially related to the same or different pieces of content.

In June, Google received 36,265 complaints from individual users in India via the designated mechanisms, resulting in removal of 83,613 pieces of content. The content removed under 'Copyright' continued to account for majority 99.3% of

Study calls for sensitive reporting of rape cases

It flags lack of editorial guidelines

STAFF REPORTER

A study on "Sexual violence and the news media: issues, challenges and guidelines for journalists in India" has recommended that nationally, a charter for news reporting of rape and sexual violence can be established by news industry leaders, which would ensure accountability and commitment to sensitive reporting of the same. The UNESCO study, auth-

ored by Chindu Sreedharan, Associate Professor of Journalism, Bournemouth University, and Einar Thorsen, Executive Dean, Faculty of Media and Communication, Bournemouth University, was based on content analysis of 10 newspapers over six languages, and semi-structured interviews with 257 journalists across 14 languages. Through this, the study provided insights into routines journalists follow and the challenges they face on the field.

The study stated that there was a conspicuous lack of formal editorial guidelines in use across newsrooms in the country, and said that only 13% of the respondents had access to written guidelines while 14% had no guidelines at all. The recommendation to have a charter nationally suggested that it be based on a public pledge that newsrooms can adopt, which included a commitment to best practic-

As many as 20% of the respondents, more women than men, said that they had experienced distress, and 55% of women journalists said that they had directly experienced or witnessed workplace sexual harassment. The study also highlighted patterns in daily news about sexual violence, and said that news outlets often tended to disproportionately publish unusual cases which led to a misleading picture of how sexual violence manifests in the country.

While 78% of journalists said they felt responsible for effecting change in relation to sexual violence, below 7% of stories focused on solutions. Sources, and news gathering challenges too, while covering sexual violence, were examined.

The recommendations

offered based on the study, called for the establishment of peer support networks for journalists experiencing trauma, training in law enforcement procedures through a national initiative which covers both rural and urban journalists and more material on responsible reporting for media and journalism students in their curriculum.

Assam village erupts in joy at boxer's Olympic feat

Lovlina Borgohain's family overwhelmed by flow of visitors

PRABALIKA M. BORAH

The moment boxer Lovlina Borgohain on Friday ensured India will win a second medal at the Tokyo Olympics, the sleepy little village of Baromukhia at Borpothar, 350 km from Guwahati, in Golaghat district of Assam wore a festive look. The sound of firecrackers

broke the silence in this quaint village, with a population of nearly 1,000, in a forest reserve. Ms. Lovlina out-punched Chinese Taipei's Nien-Chin Chen in the women's welter (69 kg) boxing quarterfinal. With her win, she is now assured of at least a bronze medal. Ms. Lovlina, youngest of

three sisters, belongs to a family of farmers. Her father. Tiken Borgohain, is elated and confident she will bag an Olympic gold. Over the phone from Borpothar, Mr. Borgohain says, "She is the first sportsperson in our family. We are more than happy and have been busy answering calls and greeting well wishers. I still haven't got a chance to speak to Lovlina, but I am sure she spoke to Mamoni Borgohain (her mother)."

The family is overwhelmed by the flow of visitors. So the village headmen



India's boxing star Lovlina. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

made arrangements for came for selection, Lovlina them to greet and congratulate them at the local high school.

A fit childhood

Ms. Lovlina, 23, did not start boxing as a child. She had enrolled for Muay Thai boxing classes when a team from Guwahati came for a

After that, Ms. Lovlina has been practising at a local sports club.

"When she showed her interest in getting into Muay Thai boxing, we didn't stop her. We first thought it will be a good sport to stay fit and healthy. Once she enrolled in the club, she has been actively taking part in Muay Thai boxing matches locally. In 2012, when the Sports Authority of India

participated and got in immediately. Once with SAI, she shifted her focus to boxing and participated in many regional and State-level championships initially. After a few years, she was selected in the national and international category and won medals continuously."

Ms. Lovlina prefers simple home-cooked meals but for a celebration, she likes pork fry cooked on firewood.

Is the family planning a grand reception? "Whenever she is home, we feel happy. As a family, we will only shower her with love and thank her for winning a medal for the country. As regards to a grand welcome to her, it is up to the govern-

ment," her father says.



Share inputs for I-Day speech, PM tells citizens

Prime Minister Narendra Mod on Friday urged citizens to share their inputs for his Independence Day speech on August 15, adding that their thoughts would reverberate from the Red Fort. In a tweet, he asked people to provide their inputs on MyGov, a citizen engagement portal. PT

SGPC demands Sikhs' safety in Afghanistan CHANDIGARH

The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), the body responsible for the management of gurdwaras, has demanded that New Delhi and Kabul ensure the safety of Sikhs living in Afghanistan. SGPC chief secretary Harjinder Singh Dhami expressed concern over a reported fall in the number of Sikhs living in Afghanistan and urged the Union government to take the matter seriously.

Pakistan 'rejects' India's comments on PoK polls

Pakistan on Friday summoned

a top diplomat of the Indian

High Commission to convey its "rejection" of India's comments on the recently concluded elections in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), "The Indian Charge d' Affaires was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to convey Pakistan's complete rejection of India's protest and to reiterate Pakistan's clear and consistent position on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute," the Foreign Office said here in a statement. India had on Thursday rejected the July 25 elections in PoK. PTI Plea in SC against

posting for Asthana

Lawyer Manohar Lal Sharma has moved the Supreme Court seeking contempt action against the Prime Minister, the Home Minister and the Ministry of Home Affairs for the appointment of Rakesh Asthana as Delhi Police Commissioner, Mr Sharma accused them of "wilful denial" of a Supreme Court judgment of July 2018.

Unitech Group case: ED attaches London hotel NEW DELHI The Enforcement Directorate

(ED) has provisionally attached London-based hotel "Bed and Breakfast", having a present value of about ₹58.61 crore in connection with a money laundering charge against the Unitech Group and others. The ED probe is based on FIRs registered by the Delhi Police on the complaints of homebuyers against the Unitech Group and its promoters.

Punjab has a lower 'excess deaths' multiple "On the presumption of The CRS annual report for

Figure smaller than that of Haryana, T.N., Karnataka, M.P. and A.P.

SRINIVASAN RAMANI CHANDIGARH/CHENNAI

VIKAS VASUDEVA

The number of "excess deaths" registered by the Civil Registration System (CRS) in Punjab ever since the CO-VID-19 pandemic hit (from April 2020 to May 2021) was an estimated 47,571, which is 3.3 times the official reported figure of 14,450 COVID-19 deaths for the same period.

The excess deaths multiple remained close to 3 during 2020 and the early months of 2021, only increasing due to a surge in mortality during the second wave between April and June in 2021. There were 9,184 recorded COVID-19 deaths in this three-month period, which also registered an estimate of 40,910 excess deaths compared with the corresponding months in 2018 and 2019.

If a longer period was used for the comparison (2015-2019), the excess deaths went up slightly to 51,316, which is 3.6 times the official COVID-19 toll for the period April 2020 to May 2021. A third method, estimating the registered deaths for 2020 and 2021 based on linear increases in the previous years and calculating the difference from the actual number of deaths, yielded an excess deaths multiple of 2.8, close to the estimates from the other two methods. As with the other States,

not all excess deaths could be related to COVID-19, but a bulk of them could be during the pandemic. As a World Health Organization report suggests: "COVID-19 excess mortality accounts for both the total number of deaths directly attributed to the virus as well as the indirect impact, such as disruption to essential health services or travel disruptions."

The estimated excess deaths multiple of 3.3 for the State is lower than that of neighbouring Haryana (7.3), Tamil Nadu (6.4 adjusted to



4.4 if CRS COVID-19 tally is

considered), Karnataka (4.3) and much lower than that of Madhya Pradesh (23.8) and Andhra Pradesh (17.9) if the same baseline is considered (deaths registered in 2018 and 2019). The multiple was higher than that of Himachal Pradesh (1.9) and Kerala (<1 based on reconciled CO-VID-19 death figures) for the same period.

The total number of excess deaths for these States (using the same baseline) for the period April 2020 to May 2021 was 9,10,322 which is 7.7 times the official CO-VID-19 toll for the same period (1,18,941).

Punjab notes that death registration in the State has been near 100% from 2012 onwards. An estimated 98.9% of all deaths were also registered within 21 days of the occurrence, which is the highest compared with the other States, according to the CRS annual report for Raj Bahadur, a profession-

al adviser to the COVID-19 response and procurement committee in Punjab, told The Hindu that the data on the number of deaths in the State were absolutely truthful, and there was not an iota of doubt surrounding them.

Close tracking "From day one we had been

tracking each and every patient and his/her movement every day. Death of any patient, which came to the attention of our team, is on the record, but if anyone was at home and it was not even diagnosed that he/she died of COVID-19, in that case it's difficult to say anything about such people," Dr. Bahadur said.

excess deaths, I would like to say with utmost conviction that the death data, which we have collected from medical colleges, district hospitals or private hospitals, should be considered as the actual death data. It is not possible for me to tell that people who are lying in the home died because of COVID or not ... If they have not come to hospitals for any reason – be it fear or any other reason - I am not confident that such numbers should be added to CO-VID-19 deaths," Dr. Bahadur said.

"The data on deaths from Punjab are absolutely correct," he added. Dr. Bahadur said in Punjab

audits of all the deaths had

started when the pandemic "An expert group has been conducting an audit of all deaths, it's an ongoing pro-

He added that even during the lockdowns, the registration system was not affected in any way. (With graphics support from

cess," he stated.

Vignesh Radhakrishnan)

Differently abled to scale the Siachen to set record

Retired special forces to offer training DINAKAR PERI

On August 15, a team of retired special forces personnel, under CLAW Global, will lead a group of differently abled people to attempt a world record by trekking the Siachen Glacier, the world's highest battlefield. "The Government of In-

Team CLAW to lead a team of people with disabilities to scale Siachen Glacier and create a new world record for the largest team of people with disabilities to scale the world's highest battlefield," said Major Arun Prakash Ambathy (retd.) of CLAW Global.

Initially, a team of 20 peo-

dia has accorded sanction to

ple with disabilities would be selected to undergo training and three-stage acclimatisation, after which the final expedition team shall be selected, Maj. Ambathy stated. "Tentatively, a minimum of six people with



will be part of the

who will trek from the Siachen Base Camp to Kumar Post." Kumar post is located at an altitude of about 15,632 This was the land world record expedition part of

'Operation Blue Freedom

Triple World Records' being

disabilities shall be part of

the final expedition team

undertaken, a statement from CLAW Global said. The last date for signing up is August 1. The 20 selected will undergo all the three stages of acclimatisation and training at Leh (Stage 1), Siachen Base Camp (Stage 2)

and North Pullu (Stage 3).

'Motion against Minister is under review'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkajah Najdu told the House on Friday that the privilege motion moved by senior Congress leader K.C. Venugopal against Minister of State for Health Bharati Pravin Pawar for a "misleading" answer that there were no COVID-19 deaths due to oxygen shortage was under review.

Mr. Venugopal had moved the motion last Thursday against the Minister for "misleading" the Parliament on deaths due to the shortage of oxygen in the country during the second COVID-19 wave. "The honourable Minister answered saying that there was no death due to oxygen shortage. The Minister deliberately misled the House," Mr. Venugopal said in the Raiva Sabha.

Mr. Naidu said, "I have received the notice... I have to seek a response from the concerned Minister."

Govt. introduces Bill on insurance firms

LS members allege efforts to privatise insurance sector, Opposition protests stall proceedings again

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Amid continuing protests by Opposition members on various issues, Lok Sabha proceedings were disrupted again on Friday.

The Union government introduced the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Bill and the General Insurance Busi-(Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, amid the din. However, a scheduled discussion on the COVID-19

situation could not be held.

The proceedings had just begun at 11 a.m. when Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said the party had been demanding a discussion on the Pegasus snooping case since the first day of the monsoon session, and that there were also other issues linked to farmers, COVID-19 and price rise, "We want a discussion in the House... But the government should change its approach," he said.



the monsoon session in New Delhi on Friday. • PTI

The Speaker said Mr. Chowdhury could raise the matter after the Question Hour, during which several Opposition members kept shouting slogans.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi later intervened to make an appeal to the protesting members. Stating that IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnav had already given a detailed statement on the Pegasus matter in both the Houses, he said they were raising a non-issue, over which Parliament had not

been functioning properly for the past seven or eight days. He said the government did not want to pass without Bills discussion.

"The government is ready for a discussion, but most unfortunately, they [Opposition members] are not allowing Parliament to run. The Question Hour is the right of the members. More than 350 members want the Question Hour to run. In spite of that, it is unfortunate if they behave like this...," he said.

However, as the sloganeering continued, the House was adjourned till

Thereafter, Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman sought the leave of the House to introduce the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Bill and the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill.

Revolutionary Socialist Party MP N.K. Premachandran strongly opposed the insurance Bill, stating that it would lead to a total privatisation of the general insurance companies. He said the Bill was vague, indefinite, ambiguous and not in consonance with the original Act. He urged the government to withdraw the Bill and defer it as the House was not in order. Congress MPs Kodikunnil Suresh and Santokh Singh Chaudhary also the insurance Bill.

In her reply, Ms. Sitharaman said: "Yes, I also wish that the House discusses this Bill. I also wish that the members, understanding the importance of a Bill of this nature, also participate in the debate... However, I still like to say that the apprehensions mentioned by the members are not well founded at all."

She said through the Bill, the government was bringing in some provisions to enable the common citizens' participation in the general insurance companies. "Our markets can raise money from the retail participants who are Indian citizens. Through that, we can have greater supply of money, bring in greater inclusion of technology and also enable faster growth of such general insurance companies in India," she said.

Following an approval from the House, both the Bills were introduced by the Ministers.

Police intensify probe into Jharkhand judge's killing

'No update can be given for now'

STAFF REPORTER BHUBANESWAF

The Jharkhand police on Friday intensified its investigation into the alleged murder of Uttam Anand, Additional Sessions Judge, Dhanbad.

The judge was on his routine morning walk when an autorickshaw knocked him down at Dhanbad on Wednesday morning.

On Thursday, the Jharkhand High Court had taken suo motu cognisance of the matter. It asked the government to institute a high-level Special Investigation Team (SIT) and report the progress in the investigation.

Details discussed

Sanjay Anand Lathkar, Jharkhand's Additional Director-General (Operation) and the head of the SIT probing the case, discussed details of the investigation with the Dhanbad police. Sanieev Kumar, Senior Superintendent Police, Dhan-



bad, however, refused to share details of the meeting.

'Probe on'

"There is no update that can be shared with the media. Investigation is on. We are taking all aspects of the incident into account. It is not proper to share details at this stage," Mr. Kumar said.

Lakhan Verma, the autorickshaw driver, and Rahul Verma, who was in the vehicle, were arrested following the incident.

They were questioned by the team throughout the day.

Cong. leader hints at fresh faces in Rajasthan Cabinet

'Ministers are ready to work for party'

Ajay Maken

Wednesday and Thursday in

the State Assembly building,

said everyone had told him

that the decision of the par-

ty's central leadership on

would be acceptable to

them. "We will soon appoint

the district and block-level

chiefs in Rajasthan," he said.

meeting of the Pradesh Con-

gress Committee (PCC) of-

fice-bearers here before

leaving for New Delhi. PCC

president Govind Singh Do-

tasra presented a booklet

containing the achieve-

ments during his year-long

ter Ashok Gehlot informally

met the Congress MLAs and

Mr. Maken over dinner at his

official residence here on

Thursday night and exuded

confidence that the party

would come back to power

in the next Assembly elec-

Meanwhile, Chief Minis-

tenure at the meeting.

Mr. Maken addressed a

appointments

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Amid speculation of a Cabinet reshuffle in Rajasthan, All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary Ajay Maken on Friday hinted that some Ministers may be dropped to make way for fresh faces. Mr. Maken said some of the Cabinet members had conveyed their desire to work for the party organisation.

Mr. Maken was in Jaipur for the last two days to interact with Congress MLAs and Independents supporting the Congress to get their feedback on the State government's performance. Several legislators reportedly expressed dissatisfaction with some Ministers and accused them of being inaccessible.

'Willing to quit'

The AICC in charge of Rajasthan said several Ministers were willing to quit the government and work for the party organisation. "With these party members ready to leave everything and work together with the party workers, the Congress is set to form the government once again in 2023," Mr. Maken told presspersons.

The senior Congress leader, who held one-on-one meetings with 115 MLAs on

BRICS plan to counter terror finalised: govt.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The BRICS Counter Terrorism Action Plan that will strengthen counter-terror cooperation among the members of the grouping has been finalised. The discussion in this regard was held at the sixth meeting of the BRICS Counter Terrorism Working Group held on July 28-29. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has announced that the Action Plan will help bring "result-oriented cooperation" among the BRICS member states.

The meeting of the Working Group, held virtually, saw participation from Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa the member countries of the grouping. "During the Working Group meeting while condemning terrorism in all its forms and manifestations whenever, wherever and by whomsoever committed, the BRICS countries also exchanged views on terrorism threat assessment at national, regional and global level and resolved to further enhance counter terrorism cooperation in line with the Action Plan," said a release from the MEA. The plan is one of the key deliverables during India's Chairship of BRICS.

'No attempt by Centre to reach out to Opposition'

opposed the introduction of

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh was to meet senior leaders

SOBHANA K. NAIR

Opposition parties on Friday denied that the Union government had made any attempt to reach out to them. Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge said the Opposition had already laid down its demands and it was up to the government now to show willingness to run the

Government sources on Thursday said Defence Minister Rajnath Singh might hold talks with senior Opposition leaders on Friday, on his return from Tajikistan. But so far, the Opposition parties said, nothing had come of the proposal.

Asked if Mr. Singh had offered any deal, Mr. Kharge told The Hindu, "Nothing. Mr. Singh himself tele-



Mallikarjun Kharge

him as soon as you come, if you request all the floor leaders, we will come there." But there was no response to this, Mr. Kharge said.

He said he had had a meeting with Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha Piyush Goyal and Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi.

"They came to my chamber to say that the House should run. Then I said the discussion on Pegasus." Mr. Kharge added that at a meeting of Opposition leaders, it was agreed that a discussion on the Pegasus cyberattack took precedence over everything else. "Yes, we know that fuel price hikes is an issue, corruption in Rafale is an issue and there are many other issues, but all parties agree that since we have raised the Pe-

gasus matter, it needs to be

first debated," he said.

Samajwadi Party leader Ramgopal Yadav said there had been no efforts from the government to consult the Opposition. The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam's (DMK) floor leader in the Rajya Sabha, Tiruchi Siva, said the log jam would continue till there was a difference in what the Opposition is asking for and what the govern-

Judge's car hit by vehicle in U.P.; probe launched

Had received death threats, says judge

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT LUCKNOW

The car of a judge who was travelling from Prayagraj to Fatehpur in Uttar Pradesh was hit by a vehicle from the rear on Thursday. The police in Kaushambi district have launched a probe.

In his police complaint, Mohammad Ahmad Khan, additional district judge (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences), Fatehpur, stated that while he was serving in Bareilly as a judge in December 2020, he had received a death threat from a youth who was denied

The Kaushambi police on Friday said the judge was travelling from Prayagraj to

car hit his vehicle from the rear near the Kokhraj police station. The judge's car was damaged but Mr. Khan, the driver and his gunner did not sustain any injuries. Prem Prakash, Additional

Fatehpur on July 29 when a

Director-General of Police, Prayagraj, called the incident an "accident", which took place when the car was trying to overtake the judge's vehicle. So far, nothing linking the incident to an attempt to murder has come to light, he said. However, an First Infor-

mation Report (FIR) was lodged and further action was being taken, he added. +The driver of the vehicle has been detained.

'How long can govt. hide on

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Pegasus issue'

Congress leader P. Chidambaram has questioned the Union government's "ostrich-like" attitude in avoiding a debate on the Pegasus cyberattack.

France's cybersecurity agency has confirmed that the mobile phones of two journalists of Mediapart, a news portal, were also infected with the spyware.

How long could the government duck, hide and scoot, Mr. Chidambaram

'Quota given is electorally motivated'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati on Friday said the Union government's decision to provide 27% reservation for OBCs (Other Backward Class) and 10% for EWS (Economically Weaker Section) in medical courses was "electorally motivated".

MoES/CMLRE/2021 Government of India Ministry of Earth Sciences Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology Atal Bhavan, LNG Road, Puthuvype, Cochin-682508 http://cmlre.gov.in **VACANCY ADVERTISEMENT**

Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology (CMLRE), a premier R&D institute and an attached office of the Ministry of Earth Sciences is undertaking research activities in the areas of Marine Living Resources and Ecology including the Ecosystem Processes for the development of marine ecosystem management strategies towards sustainable utilization of marine living resources. To strengthen its activities, CMLRE is inviting applications for the following temporary positions on project mode from dynamic, hardworking and motivated researchers to contribute to its research activities:

S.No.	Position	No. of Positions
1	Project Manager	1
2	Project Scientist-III	2
3	Project Scientist-II	15
4	Project Scientist-I	18
5	Senior Project Associate	3
6	Project Associate-II/SRF	11

The last date for submission of applications is 17th August 2021, 5.00 pm. For details of sts, eligibility criteria and how to apply, please visit our websit

> Under Secretary **CMLRE**



(Two Cover System)
Tenders are invited through GoK e-procurement portal https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in for the work of Design Engineering, Supply, Erection, Commissioning, Testing and Charging of #U-5, 6 and 7 UPS and SCVS system. EMD: Exempted. Last date & time for receipt of tender 24.08.2021, 16:00Hrs. Opening of Technical bids 25.08.2021 at 16:30Hrs. Opening of Price bids **27.08.2021 at 16:30Hrs.** Further details can be had from the office of Executive Engineer (I-3), RTPS, KPCL Shakthinagar - 584 170, Raichur District, Karnataka.

ABSTRACT e-TENDER NOTIFICATION



CORRIGENDUM-JRF 2021 EXAM Refer to the advertisement for ICMR-JRF-2021 examination published in the leading ewspapers on 30.06.2021 & 04.07.2021. OBC category candidates may note that the educational qualification and qualifying marks for JRF examination has bee

reduced from 55% to 50% for OBC category. Further, the last date for submission on online entrance exam has also been extended till 08,08,2021. Candidates wish to apply visit the mentioned websites, icmr.nic.in & pgi

icma

1 Jushadhi The Pharmaceutical Corporatio (A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Kuttanellur, Thrissur-14, Kerala Ph: 0487- 2459841, 2459807. E-mail: purchase@oushadhi.org E-TENDER NOTICE

Online tenders are invited for the supply of Raw materials fo the period 1st October 2021 to 31st March 2022. Tenders can be ww.etenders.kerala.gov.ir For more details, please visit our website **www.oushadhi.org** or contact our Purchase Division at Managing Director



Hubli-580 025. Tel: 0836-2322966, 0836-2324307 F-mail ID · seetn

seetp.hescom@gmail.com Corporate Identity Number (CIN): U31401KA2002SGC030437 No: HESCOM/SEE(T&P)/E-7/AEE-3/2021-22/CYS-1561

Date: 30.07.2021 **SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION**

(E-Procurement Portal Only) The undersigned invites tenders in two parts (Part Techno-Commercial Bid and Part-II :Price Bid) through e procurement portal for manufacture & Supply of the following

materials. Particulars Tender Enquiry No. Weasel & Rabbit ACSR HESCOM/2021-22/IND762

Conductor further details visit www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in on OR after 30-07-2021

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, (Ele) Tendering & Procurement. DIPR/DWD/MCA/327/2021-22 HESCOM, Hubballi

Sundaram-Clayton Limited

Regd office: "Chaitanya", No.12, Khader Nawaz Khan Road, Chennai 600 006 Tel: 044-2833 2115 Fax: 044 - 2833 2113 Website: www.sundaram-clayton.com Email: corpsec@sundaramclayton.com CIN: L35999TN1962PLC004792

STATEMENT OF STANDALONE & CONSOLIDATED UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30[™] JUNE 2021

Standalone

(Rs. in Crores) Consolidated

S.	Particulars	Quarte	r ended	Year ended	Quarte	Year ended			
No	r ai iicujai s	30.06.2021	30.06.2020	31.03.2021	30.06.2021	30.06.2020	31.03.2021		
		(Unau	idited)	(Audited)	(Unau	(Audited)			
1	Total Income	380.52	112.92	1,288.08	4,978.80	2,031.49	20,361.68		
2	Net Profit / (loss) before tax (before Exceptional Items)	16.72	(52.96)	136.10	50.24	(293.52)	876.62		
3	Net Profit / (loss) before tax (after Exceptional Items)	1,502.21	(52.96)	123.10	4.22	(293.52)	854.26		
4	Net Profit / (loss) after tax (after Exceptional Items)	1,501.34	(52.73)	75.84	(8.00)	(235.60)	592.09		
5	Total Comprehensive Income / (loss) for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income / (loss) (after tax)]	1,504.71	(34.26)	174.04	17.92	(168.27)	806.02		
6	Equity share Capital (Face value of Rs.5/- each)	10.12	10.12	10.12	10.12	10.12	10.12		
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	-	-	705.76	-	-	2,894.47		
8	Earnings Per Share (Face value of Rs.5/- each) (not annualised) (In Rs.) (i) Basic (ii) Diluted	742.06 742.06	(26.06) (26.06)	37.49 37.49	0.80 0.80	(77.42) (77.42)	159.98 159.98		

Place: Chennai

Date : 30th July 2021

The above is an extract of the detailed format of financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the financial results are available on the Stock Exchanges websites (www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com) and on Company's website (www.sundaram-clayton.com).

> For Sundaram-Clayton Limited Sd/-Chairman





International flight ban extended to August 31

The Union government on Friday extended the ban on international flights till August 31. The ban will, however, not apply to cargo flights. International flights are operating only to and from 28 countries with which India has entered into an "air bubble" agreement. International scheduled operations have been suspended in the country

9.27 lakh malnourished children in India: govt.

A total of 9.27 lakh severely acute malnourished children between the age of six months and six years have been identified in the country till November 2020, the government told Parliament. Over 40% of such children were found in Uttar Pradesh alone, Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani told the Rajya Sabha in response to a question. More than 40% of funds released to the State governments since the launch of Poshan Abhiyaan in 2017 remained unutilised, government data

Govt. may rollout NExT for medicos in 2023

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviva held a review meeting with the National Medical Commission on Friday and announced that efforts are under way to ensure that the National Exit Test will be conducted in the first half of 2023 as per the roadmap. The Commission came into force in September 2020. "To test the procedure and remove anxiety among medical students, a mock run is also being planned and will be conducted in 2022. It was also discussed that the results of the Exit Test (step 1 and 2) will then be used for qualifying final MBBS exam, to get licence to practice modern medicine in India and for merit-based allocation of PG seats in broad

rural vaccination drive

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has entered into an agreement with Serum Institute of India (SII) to accelerate vaccination in partnership with industry, including healthcare providers. In a release issued by the CII on Friday, it said that the vaccination drive will target communities in India's small towns and rural areas to ensure wide coverage. "India's post-pandemic growth critically rests on how soon the eligible population is vaccinated and economic activities return to normal," said T.V. Narendran. president, CII.

Farming ideas sprout on social media, and it's a rich harvest

Agriculturists use apps to share knowledge on subjects as diverse as PVC pipes, crop management and weather monitoring

NEERAJA MURTHY

It's been a month since B.N. Fand Patil got on Clubhouse, the social audio app. He sits by a window at 7 p.m. for a live conversation on the Indian Farmer's Club voice chat room, catching up with fellow farmers Shivaji Awate, Samadhan Bagul, Vijay Jaibhave and Balasaheb Gavli Barshi on agricultural practices, weather, marketing and crop management.

Social media is not new to Mr. Patil, who also uses Facebook and Instagram to network. "Social media se bahut benefit hua hai (social media has been of great benefit)," he says, adding that his Facebook post on "beans farming" 10 years ago received many comments, opening a window of opportunities.

Pune-based agro analyst Deepak Chavan, who started the Indian Farmers' Club on Clubhouse in June, believes social media is a powerful means of expression for farmers. "These platforms are self-help support systems that help us help each other," he says.

In the 30 sessions held so far - in Marathi and occasionally Hindi – around 100 farmers, mostly from Maharashtra, discuss horticulture, vegetable harvesting, crop management, sowing time, marketing, and innovations. "Unlike a YouTube



Savvy farmer: B.N. Fand Patil giving updates to his friends online. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

channel with one speaker, Clubhouse discussions are vibrant with farmers choosing the topic of discussion and presenting view points,"

adds Mr. Chavan. These meet-ups are followed by sessions on weather monitoring in farm production by retired Indian meteorological officer Manikrao Trimbakrao Khule, and farmer and weather enthusiast Vijay Pandurang Jaybhave from Maharashtra.

Varied content Social networking and knowledge sharing on online platforms have opened up new avenues of opportunity for farmers while providing tech-based solutions. "From knowing about different PVC pipes to discovering innovative farming methods, it is all easy through social media," says Dasarath Rao of Paidipally village of Khammam district in Telangana.

The 56-year-old farmer's

video on Karshaka Mitra YouTube channel in September 2020, on direct sowing of paddy by broadcast method got 3 lakh views.

"Our videos on the mulching paper used in horticulture to control weeds, and how to make a soil bed. is like a DIY (do it yourself) video where farmers learn to do these things themselves instead of calling experts," say friends-turnedbusiness partners Akash Jadhav and Santosh Jadhav of the Indian Farmer YouTube channel.

Social media is also used to lend emotional support to farmers under stress. Ganesh Fartade's videos in Marathi on YouTube (Royal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Tuesday that at least 472 pe-

ople died while cleaning hu-

man waste during the pe-

riod. He demanded an

apology and a statement

from the Prime Minister ad-

Mr. Wilson was respond-

ing to Social Justice Minister

Ramdas Athawale's written

reply to a question in the Ra-

jya Sabha on Wednesday.

Congress MPs Mallikarjun

Kharge and L. Hanuman-

thaiah had asked for the

number of people engaged

in manual scavenging who

had died in the five years.

"No such deaths have been

reported due to manual sca-

venging," the Minister said.

very inhuman statement.

The practice is inhuman of

course, but the statement is

very inhuman and cruel.

They know that people

died, and they reported it in

tne last Parliament, and

now in this Parliament, they

are saying that nobody

accused the Centre of "ma-

nipulating the definition" of

the word, noting that the

question did not refer to

those who clean dry latrines

alone, but also included

those who are forced to

clean septic tanks and sew-

ers without protective

equipment. Employment of

both is prohibited under the

2013 law against manual

question in the Lok Sabha

Responding to a similar

The human rights activist

died," said Mr. Wilson.

"The statement itself is a

dressing the issue.

NEW DELHI

Shetkari) and Instagram (@ganesh fartade) motivates and celebrates farmers. He says, "Earlier youngsters were hesitant to reveal they belong to a farming family but now they feel proud to say it on social media."

Though not all farmers are educated or have access to devices, the digital divide is not colossal, says Mr. Jadhav. "The younger generation knows how to use technology and help their family members. We hope the challenges of the digital divide disappear in a decade. The divide is a minor challenge compared to the centuriesold challenges in agriculture that need attention now," he

Govt.'s denial of manual

scavenging deaths flayed

College cut-offs likely to soar this year

70,000 CBSE Class 12 students score over 95% in a year when the board exams were cancelled

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The number of Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) students scoring above 95% in Class 12 has almost quadrupled over the past two years, meaning that cut-offs for college admissions are likely to hit levels never seen before.

In a year when schools were closed and board examinations cancelled, 99.37% of the CBSE's 2021 cohort passed their final year, a huge leap from the 88.78% pass of the previous However, a sharper spike

in the number of high-scoring students means that the marks needed to get into top colleges will shoot up signifi-

Two years ago, before CO-VID-19 disrupted the education system, an elite 1.5% of the 2019 class - just 17,693

Making their _____STUDENTS SCORING >90% mark

The number of CBSE students securing more than 90% marks has more than doubled in the last two years



students - scored above 95%, giving most of them a reasonably good chance of admission into a college of their choice. This year, that group has grown to a whopping 70,000 students. They make up 5.4% of their class.

Overall, 2.2 lakh students, 17% of their class, scored above 90% this year. This is

% of total 94,299 2019 7.8 2020 1,57,934 13.2 2021 2,20,156 **STUDENTS SCORING >95%** 2019 17,693 1.5

> more than double the 94,299 students who crossed that mark in 2019. The overall results are not really comparable with past years

38,686

70,004

2021

3.2

5.4

given that the 2021board exams were completely cancelled due to the pandemic, which had also partially affected the 2020 exams. This year, final results were calculated by schools in accordance with a Supreme Court-approved formula using Class 10 board exam scores, Class 11 final exam marks and the marks obtained in Class 12 practical exams and internal assessments such as mid-terms, unit tests and pre-board

Past performance

Schools were also asked to moderate marks as needed to ensure that the overall performance of their students aligned with the average past performance over the last three years.

Given this unusual marking system, the Board decided not to publish any merit list of the top 0.1% of students this year. Nor will it issue merit certificates.

Results are still under prothat did not have any past performances to use as reference, as well as a few other schools that had not completed the moderation process. This means that the results have been delayed for 65,184 candidates whose marks will be declared by August 5.

For 60,443 private candidates, as well as regular students who are unhappy with their marks assigned per the tabulation formula, the CBSE will hold offline examinations between August 16 and September 15. The 6,149 students who were placed under compartment this year will also be allowed to write this exam.

Of the 13.04 lakh candidates for whom results were declared, 12.96 lakh passed Class 12. Girls performed marginally better, with a 99.67% pass percentage, in comparison to 99.13% for

472 lost lives in 5 years, says activist Condemning the Centre for its "inhuman and cruel" statement that no deaths due to manual scavenging have been reported in the past five years, Safai Karamchari Andolan convener Bezwada Wilson said on

last year, the government had acknowledged that deaths had been reported among those cleaning septic tanks and sewers.

'Misleading' remarks "It is completely misleading

the whole Parliament. They are not just talking of any numbers, they are talking of the life of the citizens. So you are unable to protect the life of the citizens," Mr. Wilson said. "They claimed in the last Parliament session, 340 deaths, but according to our records, it is 472 in last five years. In this year (2021), 26 people have died so far. And they have not even made one statement about it. This is a gross violation and the Prime Minister must answer for it. he added, demanding an immediate repeal and apology for the statement made in Parliament.

Mr. Wilson pointed out that if the problem was not acknowledged, it would not be dealt with. "How are you going to prevent the deaths? There is no action. Instead of preventive mechanisms to stop the deaths and the killings in the sewer lines and septic tanks, you are coming contra to that and stating nobody died. Which means you want to kill more and more people, you are welcoming that," he said.

CMC Vellore to hold mixed-vaccine trial

Immunogenicity and safety will be under study

ЈАСОВ КОЅНҮ NEW DELHI

The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has approved a clinical trial to evaluate if a mixed-vaccine combination can work as opposed to the current policy of both doses being the same vaccine. The Christian Medical College, Vellore, will conduct the trial.

India has administered 45.6 crore vaccine doses so far of which nearly 88% are of Covishield. With limited supplies of Covaxin, a mixed dose regime may help cover a supply shortfall.



Both Covishield and Covaxin have emergency use authorisation in India.

"After detailed deliberation, the committee recommended for grant of permission for conduct of the Phase 4 clinical trial," said the minutes of the meeting that were made public on Friday, though details of the trial

were not. A Phase 4 trial is intended to study the effects of treatment or medical product once it has been licensed for

public use. In this case, because both Covaxin and Covishield have been approved under emergency use authorisation, the trial is expected to investigate a range of questions, including whether combining vaccines elicits a different level of antibodies to the virus, whether a combination may be more effective against variants and if such a regime would be safe.

"Safety, immunogenicity and reactivity are among the main questions that we will be investigating," said Jacob John, of the Christian Medical College, Vellore and one of the investigators of the trial. He said that those participating in the trial would be a mix of health workers and people in the community

SCAN TO PLAY

and said that 500-600 volunteers would be potentially available.

Many other countries have experimented with having different vaccines in trial mode, most prominently the Com-Cov clinical trial in the United Kingdom, which mixed Pfizer with AstraZeneca, and the Spanish CombivacS trial which again tested the same vaccine combination. Provinces in Canada have allowed vaccines to be mixed and matched. While the effectiveness of these combinations is not proven, experts said safety was unlikely to be a major concern, though it would take a very large pool of volunteers to establish it

to vaccination for all: Centre

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

There is a need to keep the focus of COVID vaccination on the most vulnerable groups to ensure that vaccination is equitable and accessible to all, said Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan on Friday in his letter to the Chief Secretaries and administrators of all States and Union Territories.

He said the vaccination of destitute people and vagabonds who may not have access to self-registration and lack resources for vaccination needs to be facilitated. A targeted approach

Ensure access

can be adopted, he said.

FAITH

scavenging.

He enables worship Thirumoolar in his Thirumantiram likens Lord Siva to

clouds in the sky. He sees the relationship between himself and Lord Siva as that between a calf and its mother. He calls out to Lord Siva, who is known as Nandi, for who else can impart jnana to him? Lord Siva showers His blessings on those who inhabit the earth. He also lives among the celestials. He draws everyone like a magnet. He is fond of music, and Thirumoolar acknowledges that he sings Siva's praises only because of the grace of the Lord.

It is Lord Siva who makes it possible for anyone to worship Him, said R. Narayanan in a discourse. Manickavachagar expresses a similar sentiment in his Thiruvachagam, when he says that he came to worship at the feet of Lord Siva entirely due to the mercy of the Lord. The Lord is the enabler, but for whose love, none would be able to approach Him. In his Kolaru Padhigam, Gnanansambandar, speaking of Siva playing the veena, says that His fingers gently glide over the strings of the veena (veenai thadavi). He is the head of the celestials. None can fathom His greatness. Yet, we worship Him in whatever way possible. Since ancient times, people have understood God in different ways. But none has understood Him fully. Many have sung verses praising God, but they have not comprehended His greatness completely.

Sivakochariyar was a well-read sage. But even his bhakti was not equal to that of Kannappa Nayanar. The latter had no instruction in the Vedas or other scriptures. But in terms of devotion, Kannappa Nayanar was unparalleled, for he was willing to give both his eyes to Lord Siva, when he saw the linga's eyes bleeding. Nothing can surpass the fragrance of the kasturi. Likewise, nothing can equal the true path shown by Lord Siva, says Thirumoolar.

TH CROSSWORD+13314

India and China (9)

19 Regular dress tailored in some city in Iowa (3,6) 20 Cut over, and cut both sides to be precise (5)

22 Banned slide – shedding skin like a worm (7) 25 Malta wrongly shown within borders of Asia, but not this city

27 Get a nut, in other words, it's for stretching things a bit (9)

Display keystrokes of genius.

Type your answers into online grids...

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

28 Some have permit, rest is staff (5)

29 Retaliation as part of the shoe size (7,7)

2 Being always late, could be trained on board (9)

3 Additional court summary (5) 4 Landed abroad, no one came up with a flower (9)

5 Boom in a way is very good, but short (5)

6 Save millions missing from some income, perhaps (9)

7 Girl friend's good, starts off (5) 8 Deadline as the guy was fed, reportedly (3,4) 9 We get a taxi back in front of counter, say (6)

15 Stretch out in molten solution, it's soothing (9) 17 Told not to marry, but I became father — that should make things sparkle (9)

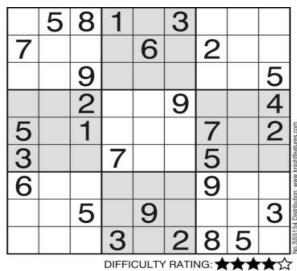
19 It's part of menu put up — rather extreme (7) 21 Last shot, one's within rights to get a bullet (6)

23 Country adjoining Argentina, Uruguay (5)

18 A small dog and flower, white in colour (9)

24 Half-hearted motorist getting more parched (5) **26** Complaint brought up by politician in total (5)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 13313 Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

R	Α	М	Ρ	Α	R	Т		Α	С	Ε	R	0	S	Ε	Q	5	7	2	1	a	6	1
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С	Α	С	Т	-		R	ш	в	ш	ш	ш	ī	0	Ν	9	6	1	7	5	2	3	8
Е		Α		ш		Σ		ш		-		Ν		Ε	1	0	0	0	0	4	E	7
S	Ε	D	Ε	Z	Т	Α	R	Υ		G	L	Ε	В	Α	4	2	3	Ø	0	L.U	0	1
S		Α				G				Ξ				D	3	4	2	a	1	5	7	6
	Е	М	1	Т		Α	В	Α	Т	Т	0	ı	R		0		-	9	-	9	-	U
		ı		_		z		┙		ш		L			7	9	5	6	3	8	4	2
	F	Α	С	Τ	0	Τ	J	Μ		Z	-	L	Е		0	4	0	1	0	7	0	E
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F	0	R	С	Е	М	Е	Α	Т		Д	R	Α	-	Ν	1	3	9	2	7	6	8	4
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since March 23, 2020.

NEW DELHI

specialities," a Health Ministry

CII, SII join hands for

ACROSS

1 Total neglect – did urge restart treatment (5,9) 10 Cap without releasing force (5)

11 Alloy of molten Iron – right away cannot flow on its own (3-6) 12 In chaste Tamil can you review the weather? (7)

13 Essentially hold within reach, treat disease (7) **14** European with daughter coming in to watch regularly (5)

16 Overlap of economic bloc — including India and China, excluding



Instapick

Creative Folkestone Triennial 2021: The fifth edition of the Triennial kickstarted in the UK this month and features close to 27 public sculptures and installations. Titled 'The Plot', the highlights include an oceanic science fiction VR, Flock of Seagulls Bag of Stolen Chips, a 'welcome pavilion' of sorts with open latticework and vibrant panels, filmed performances, and more. Until November 2, 2021.



Talking Point

Women at Olympics 2020: Weighlifter Mirabai Chanu set the tone for India after winning the first medal, a silver, on day one. This week saw badminton ace PV Sindhu defeat Denmark's Mia Blichfeldt in a stunning 41-minute match to enter the quarterfinals, and boxers Lovlina Borgohain and Pooja Rani inching closer to a medal. Mental health matters have also taken precedence with US gymnast Simone Biles' exit from the team event.

SPIT TAKE

Foreign objects

Of double agents and patriotic NRIs

KRISHNA SHASTRI DEVULAPALLI

When Ambujam mami walked in wearing her scarlet kanjeevaram mask with the zari trishul motifs, I knew it was bad.

'This is totally unacceptable,' she said, her face just a shade less fiery than her mask.

'Has Sri Vegan been ordering samosas from Buharis, mami?' I asked, thinking of her herbivorous Labrador that wasn't allowed to order anything other than masala dosai from Sangeetha's.

'Far worse. My phone has By been hacked. that Pega-something-thingie.'

'What?' I said. 'But why would they? More importantly... er... who would?'

'What do you mean who? Foreign powers, that's who!' said mami.

She paused, giving me the look she gave Sundaram *mama* when he came home with 20 Tic Tacs stuffed in his

'You are aware that my daughter in New Jersey is on the verge of unveiling her magnum opus 'Hidimbi Parinayam,' right?'

How could I not be? Mami had sent me the motion poster, the teaser to the trailer, and the third look of the forthcoming megabudget fusion dance ballet, with her daughter in the eponymous role, and mami billed 'Creative Producer'. And insisted I forward it to everyone on my phone.

'Yes,' I gulped. 'But what's that got to do with your being hacked by foreign powers?'

'You've heard of that vixen, Amrutavalli, right? She runs that sidey dance school in California. Former student of Pankajam's - actually part of the first batch – at her Nritya Canyon School of Bharatapudiyattam (NJ's Only School of Indian Fusion Dance).'

I shook my head.

'Well, the ingrate is putting up a dance ballet called 'Dakini Kalyanam'. One week before my daughter's performance. And it has the exact same concept as our ballet.'

'I still don't get it,' I said. 'You're hopeless,' mami said.

'Which is why you're still languishing in Besant Nagar when even our istriwallah Marimuthu has got his green card. Don't you see the hand of foreign powers?' I ignored her jibe.

'Arré, can't you see this is an attempt by that diabolical double agent Amrutavalli to malign my daughter's reputation. Just before my daughter is awarded the Natya Gandabherunda award instituted by the Semilegal Hispanic Gardeners Society of New Jersey?'

> 'I guess,' I said. 'Remember, the same thing happened two years ago, just

before she was awarded the Bhava Parakashta Natya Samayochitani by the East Coast Parents of NRIs Dedicated To Grandchild Welfare Association.'

'What happened?'

'The organiser was hospitalised. After eating the badam halwa made by my daughter at the pre-award dinner.'

'I don't get it.'

'It was poisoned, fool,' said Ambujam mami. 'By that Amrutavalli woman, who hacked into my daughter's phone, and slyly added an ingredient to the recipe my daughter was using that nearly killed the man. Award was cancelled. And my innocent child was saved only because the DA's nephew learns *mridangam* from son-in-law.'

'I still don't get it,' I said.

'Putin, you gnanashunyam, Putin!' Ambujam Mami spat out. 'With the possible involvement of Kim Jong Un and Meryl Streep. That's who that Amrutavalli is working for, my sources tell me.'

When I continued staring, mami continued. 'This is an attempt to bring disrepute to the patriotic NRIs of USA, I say!' she said. 'Sundar Pichai, Priyanka Chopra, my daughter these foreign powers are unable to handle the glory coming their way. And they're using a turncoat like Amrutavalli to achieve their ends. I am not going to let that happen.'

'What are you going to do, mami?' Mami gave me a look that would have made MN Nambiar go 'Mummy!'

'Margazhi is coming, no?' she said. 'She won't know what hit her.'

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

Pick of the week

Events, workshops, and launches you just can't miss



Pal's postpartum highs

Like most mothers, celeb trainer Sucheta Pal faced challenges linked to postpartum fitness last year and this prompted her to online self-paced programme is aimed at helping women regain strength after childbirth. ₹5.000 onwards on suchetapalofficial.com. Another recent launch is equestrian Olympian Imtiaz Anees' book, Riding Free: My Olympic

Journey. Published by HarperCollins, it highlights his milestones, struggles, and the people behind his success. ₹239 on amazon.in



Entertainment online

Charity initiative Jashn-E-Qawwali will see an Brothers of the Rampur Gharana of Qawwali, who have been affected by the pandemic. This is an extension of Delhi NGO Wishes and Blessings' COVID relief work. BookASmile will match the amount raised through the sale of tickets. On BookMyShow; July 31; 7 pm to 8 pm. Also check out Korean artist Myoung Nam Kim's latest exhibition at Prism InKo Centre's virtual gallery. Titled Writing in White, it features artworks in *hanji* and Korean ink. inkocentre.org



The virtual bake show

Learn how to craft everything from cake toppers to mixed media textures at the India Bake Show, which begins next week. The virtual event spanning four days features 30 live masterclasses by chefs and cake artists. August 5-8. ₹995. on homebakers.co.in Meanwhile, healthcare non-profit Sharan is kickstarting a 30-day WhatsApp series on grain-free dinner ideas. Whip up Buddha bowls, lasagna, gnocchi and more. August 1 onwards. ₹1,000+GST.

sharan-india.org



Kutch and wedding plans

Designer Anita Dongre's Crafts of India - An ode to Bhuj is a celebration of heirloom Indian crafts such as bandhani, ajrakh, and block printing. The recently-launched lehengas, shararas, saris, and kurtas feature rich embroidery and intricate fabric pattern dyeing. ₹70,000 onwards on anitadongre.com. Elsewhere, Gaurav Gupta is launching his pre-couture collection, Venus Rising. Designed to give October and November brides enough time to book in advance, this one-off line trains. Starting today. gauravguptastudio.com



ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R KUMAR

Unveiling Raffles Udaipur

This weekend, the City of Lakes is all set to welcome the country's first Raffles hotel -Raffles Udaipur. The 21-acre private island, with 101 rooms and suites, is set in the middle of the Udai Sagar lake. It features ornamental gardens and a 400-year-old temple. While the Indian restaurant. Sawai Kitchen, The Writers Bar, and Raffles Patisserie are open, come October, guests can opt for a farm-to-table dining experience at Harvest. ₹45,000+tax for the inaugural package valid between August 2 and September 30, 2021.

raffles.com



Kiln fantastic

The latest to join the handmade tableware brigade is Bengaluru's Vaibhavi Shah. She quit her position at luxury retail chain, The Collective, last year to start the Oh Yay Project Launched this June, with hand-painted giraffe planters in terracotta, ceramic bowls and platters in bold, floral prints. "I work on the designs which are translated on ceramic by a local artisan," says Shah, who is gearing up to launch a polka-themed tableware collection. ₹700 onwards for planters, ₹600 onwards for tableware. @ohyayproject on Instagram



Think luxe

After the Bioceramic Big Bold in bio-plastic, Swiss watch brand Swatch's latest collection is dedicated to space. Crafted in collaboration with NASA, the Space Collection comprises five ____ watches that draw from the space agency's colours and spacesuits. ₹7,250 onwards on myntra.com. French luxury fashion house Chanel is commemorating 100 years of its iconic N° 5 perfume with a collective. Chanel's Factory 5 features "17 limited-edition products inspired by everyday objects" such as shower gel ir paint cans, and body oil in oil tins. chanel.com



Voices from Maximum City

With his podcast, *Marine Lines*, journalist-writer Raghu Karnad aims to build a connect with urban dwellers and the environment

ADITYA MANI IHA

Raghu Karnad fondly recalls how, out of the blue, he and a friend chanced upon dolphins off the Bandra Bandstand rocks. "It struck me suddenly that we in Mumbai see the sea as scenery, as a backdrop, and not as a living world filled with creatures that are our neighbours," says the writer-journal-

This sense of wonder was one of the starting points of Marine Lines, a 10-part podcast that Karnad (winner of the 2019 Windham-Campbell Prize in the non-fiction category) is hosting. Produced by Ministry of Mumbai's Magic and Dea-

dAnt Studios, it explores 'Mumbai's hidden worlds, from the suburbs to the sea".

The magic of the ordinary

The conversations cover natural spaces (like the Sanjay Gandhi National Park), the creatures that inhabit them (everything from leopards to sea slugs), as well as broader topics like urban consumption patterns and sustainability. They seek to introduce listeners to ecosystems they may not have given a second thought to. "The podcast was pitched to me by the producers who wanted to explore Mumbai's natural spaces and ecosystems, and I leapt at the idea," says Karnad

they recorded most of the episodes during the second wave, in April. "One of the things that I felt deprived of during that time, psychologically, was access to public, shared spaces. So the opportunity to have these conversations, to imagine I'm there with experts who've

over the phone, adding that

The three episodes so far have featured marine wildlife photographer Shaunak Modi (also director of the Coastal Conservation Foundation), actor Dia Mirza (also UN Environment Goodwill Ambassador), and wildlife biologist Nikit

spent a lot of time documenting

these areas, appealed to me,"

(Clockwise from left) An aerial snapshot of Mumbai, a spiral melongena, and Raghu Karnad



Surve. Future guests include writer Amitav Ghosh, and film critic Anupama Chopra.

Karnad's guests not only document their own experiences with the natural world, but also point out the various ways in which the lives of entire communities intersect with environmental issues. For example, Surve's podcast mentions his brief encounter with a young Warli girl living in the Sanjay Gandhi National Park, who was nonplussed at seeing a leopard pass by. "I had so many emotions running through me, but she was so casual. She said that leopards often walk past their home, and the next morning we discovered that there's even a local deity, Waghoba (in Marathi, 'wagh' covers both tigers and leopards)," he said.

Making space for the wild

How does one convince the average urban-dweller to think a little bit more about the environment, especially? That's the problem *Marine Lines* wants to tackle. It is as much of an outreach issue as a scientific one, which is where the podcast can be a great resource: the conversations are accessible and broad-ranging, yet rooted in distinctive spaces. The host

comes across not as an expert, but as someone learning with the audience.

Karnad says, "Shaunak Modi had this great line in the first episode – 'you don't protect what you don't love and you can't love what you don't know exists'. It made such an impression on me and the producers, and we treated it like our motto for the remaining nine episodes."

Although this edition is Mumbai-centric, Karnad, who grew up in Bengaluru, hopes to host similar conversations for other cities. "I'd love to be able to do them for Delhi – it has The Ridge [in the Northern Aravalli leopard wildlife corridor], rivers, and more green spaces than Mumbai," concludes the host.

Marine Lines is available on Spotify, Gaana, Hubhopper and Audible.



Baradari returns

After raising close to ₹50 lakh for five weaver and embroidery communities in India last year, Baradari is back with its 2021 edition. The online fashion fundraiser conceptualised by actor Kareena Kapoor Khan and journalist Namrata Zakaria has already seen designers Sabyasachi, Tarun Tahiliani, Abu Jani-Sandeep Khosla, Manish Malhotra, Anamika Khanna, Rahul Mishra, and Masaba, among others donate their signature products for a e-commerc

sale next

"Baradari is a wonderful initiative as it speaks about economic equality in the world of fashion and textiles. This is the most important conversation fashion in India needs to be having," says Khan. The lineup also includes accessory labels Misho, Outhouse, and Rohira. Addressing the impact of Baradari 2020, Zakaria says the artisans and their communities have used their 'seed capital' wonderfully, "which is what Baradari intended the funds to be". "A Srinagar-based embroiderer has paid off his home loan, our weaver from Benares purchased the next-door plot to store looms, a cluster in Burdwan, West Bengal, has been able to repair its homes and units ravaged by cyclone Amphan that hit last year,"

August 6-13. ensembleindia.com



#LV200

French luxury fashion house Louis Vuitton is celebrating its founder's bicentennial birthday globally from Wednesday. There is an NFT-embedded video game, a collab with 200 artists and sculptors for their windows, a large-scale triptych of Vuitton painted by American artist Alex Katz, and a fictionalised novel on Vuitton' life and intentions by French author Caroline Bongrand (to be released in October). Plus, a documentary that retraces the story of the young pioneer. For the gaming aficionados, Louis: The Game will be available on iOS and Google Play from August 4. eu.louisvuitton.com

GEETIKA SASAN BHANDARI

"I knew I was different. I didn't fit into what boys used to like or what girls used to like, but I didn't know the words," says Rubani Singh, 19, a budding pastry chef from Mumbai, who identifies as non-binary and prefers to be addressed by the pronouns they/them instead of she/her.

Confused? If the usage of pronouns on social media bios, and the number of young people contacting therapists are any indication, an increasing number of children, teenagers and young adults are identifying themselves as nonbinary - an umbrella term for people who do not see themselves as fitting into the gender binaries of exclusively male or female. They may not identify with any particular gender (agender), may not have fixed which gender they identify with most or may not want to be restricted by any gender (genderfluid), may encompass a bit of both genders (bigender), or may identify completely with the binary that's across from them (someone born female could identify with the male gender and, therefore, chooses to be a trans man).

The incongruence sets in because the world doesn't see them the way they see themselves. Publicly listing the pronouns they are comfortable with on their social media handles is one step towards bridging this. "I don't see it as a phenomenon, something fashionable or cool. I think it's because young people have found the language to express what they are experiencing," says Shelja Sen, Child & Adolescent Psychologist, who counsels gender non-conforming youngsters at Delhi's Children First, along with her husband, psychiatrist Dr Amit Sen.

Access to the internet, online support groups that offer safe spaces to communicate, lived experiences, and representation via OTT shows, books and movies, have all helped non-binary people find a voice. Popular celebrities such as singer Miley Cyrus, actors Amandla Stenberg and Elliot Page, and songwriter-singer Sam Smith speaking up has also helped. Perhaps what Smith said in a BBC interview explains it best: "I've always had a little bit of a war going within my body and my mind... I'm not male or female, I think I flow somewhere in between. It's all on the spectrum."

Transitions are never easy "Lean see a clear cultural shift

"I can see a clear cultural shift and an acceptance [within a younger age group] of a spectrum of gender identities," says Dr Amit Sen. "However, what we are witnessing is only in small pockets and the stigma still runs deep."

Fighting on the frontlines to make this change happen is Delhi-based Air Cmde (Dr) Sanjay Sharma (Retd), CEO and MD of ATHI (Association for Transgender Health in India). His journey from commanding Air Force hospitals to taking premature retirement to set up ATHI has been paved with years of personal struggle as his first-born male child – now a 26-year-old trans woman – started exhibiting a non-binary narrative early on.



Growing Uj non-binary in today's India

Like most parents, they had initially dismissed it as a phase.

"It started with him wearing my wife's heels, trying on her make-up, and asking me to buy Barbie dolls for his sister which he would then play with. As puberty hit, there was bullying, and as the male features became pronounced, he started withdrawing, became impulsive," recalls Dr Sharma, who is also a board member of WPATH (World Professional Association for Transgender Health). "At age 14, he came out to his mother thinking he was homosexual. However, he did not fit into that peer group and the mental health issues began getting worse."

Meetings with several mental health professionals followed, but the self-harm continued. One day, Dr Sharma got a call from his very disturbed son, wanting to end his life. "I had to make a decision and I decided to stand by my child." Postsurgery, Tia now works with her father at ATHI, which aims to provide holistic care for trans people.

Finding acceptance at home

The realisation of gender or the questioning of 'who am I' starts fairly early.

Gender between pages

Books to help children and teens get answers to the questions they didn't know whom to ask:

1. Guthli Has Wings by Kanak Shashi: Guthli is a happy child who can't figure out why he's being called a boy and stopped from wearing his sister's skirt, when he feels like a girl

2. I Wish You All the Best by Mason Deaver: Ben is a senior in high school who comes out to their parents as non-binary and is asked to leave home

3. The Gender Quest Workbook —
A Guide for Teens and Young
Adults Exploring Gender Identity
by Deborah Coolhart and Rylan
Jay Testa: A workbook to help teens
navigate the challenges of gender
identity and expression at home

4. Beyond the Gender Binary by Alok Vaid-Menon: A gender-nonconforming artist draws from their own life to challenge the world to see beyond the black and



(Clockwise from top left)

'I Wish You All the Best', actor Demi Lovato, 'Guthli Has Wings', 'The Gender Quest Workbook', Disney's non-binary character Raine Whisperss • PECIAL ARRANGEMENT

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, by age two, children become conscious of the physical differences between boys and girls, and by the time they turn four, they have a pretty good idea of their gender identity.

"When people referred to me as a girl, it never resonated with me," says Vibha Hegde, 22, a BBA student from Bengaluru who identifies as non-binary. "Sometimes, when I look in the mirror, I can't recognise myself. My chest makes me very uncomfortable, and I feel like my head has been Photoshopped on to my body." They went through the usual labelling of 'tomboy' for their masculine gender expression via clothes and hairstyles, and initially thought they were a trans man. Once they knew, they told their mother. "She didn't understand at first, but is now very understanding. She told my dad too, but he's never brought it up. He's very conservative and I don't have the courage to talk to him," they admit.

Emotional distress, especially non-acceptance from parents, can lead to several problems. "Many years ago, we had an eight-year-old girl who had strong gender dysphoria and eventually developed severe psychological problems because of it. Anxiety, depression, suicidal tendencies, self-mutilation, massive guilt, confusion, could all be outcomes," says Dr Amit Sen. Usually dysphoria gets aggravated at puberty, he adds.

Parental acceptance is key to a child leading an emotionally and psychologically fulfilling life. But parents often find it hard to come to terms, often blaming themselves. Hemangi Vyawahare, a queer affirmative psychotherapist practising in Mumbai and Bengaluru, says several parents call her, worried about whether society would accept their child, would their child be bullied, sexually abused, and so on. "The realisation that the future they have envisaged for their child is not going to be the same now, is what engulfs them," she says.

It's difficult for young people, too. "The journey can be painful and long. There is confusion and doubt, it takes time to accept, to speak to your parents, to find your tribe. But for a child to hear from their parent 'I have your back, no matter what', makes a huge difference," says Shelja Sen.

Taking it to schools

"I didn't know I was non-binary," says Rubani. Growing up, they were equally excited by an older cousin's make-up and skirts, and a male cousin's toys. At 13, they used to like wearing shorts but with a palazzo underneath. It was only when their supportive brother showed them a poem that deeply resonated with them that they started searching for online support groups (Pause for Perspective helped), and spoke to their parents. "I feel very privileged that everyone has been so supportive," they say.

Rubani doesn't feel the need to change their name as it is gender-neutral, and though "there are a few parts I want to dispose of", they want to understand their body better. They shaved their head during the pandemic but the only permanent step they've taken is a fresh tattoo designed by them, featuring the non-binary gender sign. "It's a big achievement for me."

Not everyone is so fortunate. "Many children who come to me have been dismissed, invalidated, and are coming from a place of hurt. They first ask me if I'm queer-affirmative; what they are basically asking is 'is this a safe space?'" says Vyawahare.

Of course, schools are the big bastions where change is key. "Schools can have gender-neutral bathrooms [or let trans kids use the restroom of the gender they are expressing], make uniforms inclusive, and make language more accommodating. The management, teachers and support staff, all need to undergo sensitisation workshops. And instead of sex education, they should have relationship education and teach consent, borders, gender," says Vyawahare, who has worked with schools on gender and sexuality.

Vedica Saxena, a TEDx speaker and project director at Tagore International School, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi, says the school launched Breaking Barriers, a student-led campaign to raise awareness about the LGBTQIA+ community way back in 2013. "We use inclusive language [policeperson not policeman], ensure everyone feels safe to speak freely without any teacher hushing them, have a curriculum that is free of gender stereotypes, and have trained counsellors. We want to raise empathetic and informed students." While it all sounds easy, the fact is such systemic change needs to be introduced across the board with everyone being mindful of it all the time.

Calling all allies

India is very reflective of the world. While large-scale surveys haven't been carried out in most countries, a 2016 study by the Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law showed that at least 0.5% of Americans identify as transgender or gender-nonconforming. Estimates place the UK's non-binary population at 1%. And countries are beginning to officially recognise non-binary people; Argentina just became the first Latin American country to allow people to choose the gender X on documents; Canada, Australia, New Zealand and some US states also allow the same. So does India.

As the world moves towards inclusivity, we need to bring up children who have a voice, have safe spaces to speak up, and this needs to move beyond just their homes, their friends and family.

Ram Sinha, co-founder of Pride Circle, a Bengaluru-based Diversity & Inclusion organisation, says the way forward for non-binary recognition is the way the LGBTQIA+ community did it: through education and exposure. In a country where more than half the population is +below the age of 25, many youth are already allies and strong advocates. The onus now lies on us as parents to educate ourselves and find the vocabulary to raise and support gender non-conforming children. "Parents must question their own gender roles at home, reduce gender stereotyping, include diversity in their social circle by say, inviting a gay couple home, so children develop a di verse worldview and realise this is okay," concludes Vyawahare.

If you are in crisis, call the 24x7 helpline at Aasra (9820466726).

FOOD SPOT

AIIEW OUTING

Klap in Delhi's Khan Market is all that a restaurant should be in these time: warm and roomy, with food from across India and the world



RAHUL VERMA

A young niece wanted to take us out for a meal, and we were wondering where to go. I'd heard that a new restaurant had opened up in Khan Market. It was called Klap, signifying a cheerful clapping of hands. What interested me was the fact that one of the partners was an innovative chef called Gurmehar Sethi. I had eaten at his restaurant Ziu in Sangam Courtyard and had been struck by the nouvelle Thai that he served.

So, our party of four – vaccinated and masked – reached Klap one afternoon. The restaurant is in the middle lane. It's quite roomy, with tables at a distance; well-lit, with a happy



décor. The menu included dishes from across India and the world, from *shakarkandi chaat* and chicken red curry arancini to *galouti* puff, spicy salmon sushi and Bengali mustard paneer.

We ordered a medley: okra som tam (₹445) and baby chicken, celery, roasted chilli garlic dim sum (₹495) for starters. For our mains, we had a small plate of Belgian pork belly (₹695), smoked spicy prawns (₹695), hopper taco mushroom pepper fry (₹525) and Kerala meen pollichathu (₹595).

The som tam salad is an old favourite. I love the taste of the crispy fried papaya, tossed in a chilli lime and palm sugar dressing. Klap's salad includes bits of okra and cherry tomatoes. The dim sums were wonderfully soft and cased in an appetizing shade of pale pink rendered by beetroot, our helpful, cheerful server told us. The pork was tender, and I thoroughly enjoyed the sweet and hot taste of the gochujang sauce, topped with chillies and vinegar.



Klap's chicken red curry arancini and appam with mushroom pepper fry • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The prawns – large, juicy, crunchy and lightly flavoured with kaffir lime – were delicious.

What was disappointing was the Kerala fish. The sole came wrapped in a banana leaf, with tamarind-onion-tomato jam on the side. But the skin was too spicy and crusty, and our friend, who had ordered it, was looking forward to something soft and steamed. But the ghee rice that came with the fish was delightful, and we finished it all. I had a bite of the *appam* with mushroom pepper fry, and thought the delicate taste of mushroom had been smothered by the spices.

The dessert, however, lifted our spirits. Called the Klap egg tray, it is a signature dish of coconut and jaggery ice cream served in a chocolate shell with caramelised *mung* bean (₹395).

All in all, we had a great time. The food is good, the restaurant is welcoming, and the warmth of the staff added to the experience. I put my (sanitised) hands together and gave it a round of quiet applause.

The writer is a seasoned food critic





Mismatched pairs, single rows, or just bunched layers — designer Mita Banker's multitaskers can save any occasion



Basra basics

done there," she says.

Banker sources her pearls from Hyderabad. "They come from all over the world, to be sorted by size, type and lustre," she says, adding that the pearls from Basra in Iraq, and from Japan are the best quality. A word of advice: always buy certified Basra or you "could get conned into buying the khasi pearl", she says. Since an original Basra could cost ₹30 lakh, Banker offers the 'Basra finish' in her collections. "I get them dyed golden in Hong Kong because the best dyes are

Pearls on Zoom and suits

BHUMIKA K

Pearls are shedding their prim, oldfashioned tag and enjoying a contemporary comeback. The New York Fashion Week 2020 set the tone, with designers such as Marc Jacobs, Prabal Gurung, and Jason Wu pairing their outfits with gorgeous strands and large, asymmetrical pieces. Since then, we've spotted these classics on modern tastemakers, including Harry Styles and Rihanna. And don't forget, when Kamala Harris was sworn in as America's first female vice-president this January, she accessorised her purple Christopher John Rogers dress with a custom pearl necklace by Wilfredo Rosado.

The fact that the oldest-known gems are seeing a resurgence doesn't surprise Chennai-based entrepreneur and

designer, Mita Banker. "It's always appropriate to wear pearls; they are evergreen," she exclaims. The force behind 32-year-old fashion jewellery brand, Estele, Banker launched her second brand, Isadore, in 2018, to create collections that draw inspiration from her travels. Like her first collection, Ottoman Empire – the pomegranate design, worn for good luck and prosperity, was a hit among Delhiites when she exhibited there. "I pull out things from my travels. Then I research the ideas and launch my designs," she says.

Channelling royalty

Banker is full of stories about pearls. "La Peregrina is the world's most famous [the 58½ carat gem was gifted by actor Richard Burton to Elizabeth Taylor]," she reminds me, sharing how pearls have always been worn as a sign of wealth. "Queens Victoria and Elizabeth favoured them; our *nawabs* and maharajas flaunted them. Maharani Gayatri Devi of Jaipur was famous for her chiffons-and-pearl look."

Now, she is offering that touch of royalty with her collection that she cocreates with clients who are so inclined. On offer: seed, round and oval pearls, along with coloured ones – in grey, champagne, peach, and pink. "You could buy them in strands or bunches, and have a unique piece designed for yourself," she says.

signed for yourself," she says.

If coming up with your own design is tedious, pick up something from the Isadore line of bracelets, earrings, and necklaces. "I've created a half-black-half-white neck piece with onyx and pearls," she says, adding that customers must check out the double strand pearl neck piece with rubies and emeralds. "These gems fit well with the corporate environment – team it with a suit or wear a saath lada haar with a sari." So, when Zoom calls demand you look sharp at 9 am, don pearls for instant glam.

Prices from ₹10,000 to ₹40,000. Details: 9840752100

A ND-NDE

CM YK

Pak, U.S. NSAs discuss Afghan settlement

Talks on urgent need for reduction in violence, negotiated political solution to the conflict: Sullivan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pakistan's National Security Adviser Moeed Yusuf met with his American counterpart Jake Sullivan in Washington, during which the two leaders discussed the urgent need for reduction in violence and a "negotiated" polsettlement Afghanistan.

The talks also covered other issues of mutual interest, the Dawn News reported on Friday.

This was the second meeting between the two leaders who first met in Geneva in

"Had a positive follow-up meeting with NSA Jake Sullivan today in Washington," Mr. Yusuf tweeted in an early morning tweet.

"Took stock of progress made since our Geneva meeting and discussed bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest," he said, adding that the two



On vigil: Afghan security personnel and militia fighting against Taliban in Enjil district, Herat province, on Friday. • AFP

sides "agreed to sustain the momentum in Pak-U.S. bilateral cooperation".

Though Mr. Yusuf did not mention Afghanistan among the issues discussed in the meeting, Mr. Sullivan devoted half of his tweet to the Afghan issue.

"I met with Pakistan's NSA today to consult on regional connectivity and security, cooperation. We discussed the urgent need for a reduction in violence in Afghanistan and a negotiated political

settlement to the conflict,"

Mr. Sullivan said.

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

Mr. Blinken, who returned to Washington on Thursday evening after a visit to India and Kuwait, had said during the tour that Pakistan has "a vital role to play in using its influence with the Taliban to do whatever it can to make sure that the Taliban does not seek to take the country by force".

Diplomatic influence

Committed to withdrawing all U.S. and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) troops from Afghanistan by September 15, the Biden administration is now using its diplomatic influence to prevent a Taliban takeover and that's where it sees a role for Pakistan, according to the Dawn report.

While Pakistan also wants to prevent a military takeover in Kabul, Prime Minister Imran Khan in an interview week said that the U.S. decision to set a timetable for withdrawing troops had narrowed Islamabad's options.

Mr. Khan, on PBS NewsHour, indicated that the Taliban see the withdrawal as their victory and are less receptive to reconciliation efforts than they would have been had the timetable not been announced.

Mr. Khan also criticised the U.S. for trying to "look for a military solution in Afghanistan, when there never

The Pakistani delegation. which arrived in Washington three days ago, is also busy explaining its position in meetings with senior U.S. officials, lawmakers, experts and media representatives. It is not clear if Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Director General Lt. Gen Faiz Hameed, who is also in Washington for the talks, attended the meeting between the

Israel launches booster dose for those above 60

U.S., EU are yet to approve third shot

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Israel launched a campaign on Friday to give people aged over 60 coronavirus booster shots, at a time when the rest of the world is still struggling to complete the standard course.

Kicking off the campaign, President Isaac Herzog, 60, received a third dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at a hospital in Ramat Gan, near Tel Aviv. "We are beginning the

booster vaccination" so that life in Israel can return to "normal" as soon as possible, Mr. Herzog said after getting the injection. "With this new step of the

Israeli government... I believe that it's also a lesson to the entire humankind that we have to protect each other and take the necessary

An Israeli epidemiologist

iversity, Hagai Levine, acknowledged his country was going it alone with third shots, which have yet to be approved in the U.S. or EU.

'This decision is based on experts' opinion, on logic but not on solid scientific evidence, but that is okay," Dr. Levine said.

"In public health and in medicine, you sometime make a decision based on experience your reason.

Israel was quick to roll out its vaccination campaign and had dropped many restrictions on public gatherings in June, as new COVID-19 cases shrank from 10,000 a day to less than 100. About 55% of its nine million population has been double vaccinated, most with the Pfizer-BioNTech jab. About one million Israelis eligible for the shot, however, still refuse to be

China battles fresh outbreak after months

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Hundreds of thousands of people in China were placed under lockdown on Friday as the country battled its worst outbreak in months, while the U.S. intensified vaccination efforts in the face of a Delta variant-fuelled surge.

The World Health Organization has warned that the new strain could unleash the COVID-19 outbreaks from Morocco to Pakistan where vaccination rates are low.

In China, a cluster of infections in Nanjing city linked to airport workers, who cleaned a plane from Russia earlier this month, had reached Beijing and five provinces by Friday. Hundreds of thousands of people have been locked down in Jiangsu province.

At least 206 infections across China have been linked to the cluster.

ELSEWHERE



HK protester gets 9-year term in 1st security case

A pro-democracy protester was sentenced on Friday to nine years in prison in the first prosecution under Hong Kong's national security law as the Communist Party tightens control over the territory. Tong Ying-kit, 24, was convicted of inciting secession and terrorism for driving his motorcycle into a group of police officers at a July 1, 2020, rally. He carried a flag bearing the banned slogan, "Liberate Hong Kong, revolution of our times.' President Xi Jinping's government imposed the security law on the former British colony last year following protests that

200 Afghan interpreters arrive in U.S.

Fearing possible Taliban retaliation, U.S. begins operation to evacuate local allies

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

The first flight carrying Afghans who worked as interpreters for American troops and diplomats has arrived in the U.S., President Joe Biden said on Friday, the start of an operation to evacuate thousands from possible Taliban retaliation.

Around 20,000 Afghans worked for the U.S. following the 2001 invasion of Afghanistan in the wake of the 9/11 attacks and have applied for evacuation under the State Department's Special Immigrant Visas program.

Some estimates suggest the total number of prospective evacuees under what has been dubbed "Operation Allies Refuge" could be as high as 1,00,000 once relatives are included.



New home: U.S. soldiers speaking to an Afghan man with the help of a translator in Helmand province. • AP/FILE

Many of them fear retaliation from the Taliban, which has secured a vast swath of the country since foreign troops began the last stage of a withdrawal due to be complete by late August.

"Today is an important milestone as we continue to fulfill our promise to the thousands of Afghan nationals who served shoulder-toshoulder with American troops and diplomats over the last 20 years in Afghanistan," Mr. Biden said in a statement.

He added that the administration was working to quickly relocate visa-eligible

Afghans "out of harm's way." Mr. Biden said these first arrivals had already completed extensive background checks and security screenings and would undergo medical checks and other processing in Fort Lee, Virginia before being resettled across the country

This first flight of around 200 Afghans is part of a broader group of about 2,500 who are furthest along in the visa process and who are being prioritised for relocation to the U.S. in the coming weeks, according to Russ Travers, an official on the White House National Security Council. "They now join the over 70,000 Afghans who have received (Special Immigrant Visas) and started new lives in the US since 2008," Mr. Travers said.

Delta variant as contagious as chicken pox: CDC document

'Breakthrough infections in vaccinated people highly contagious'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE WASHINGTON

The Delta variant of the coronavirus is as contagious as chickenpox, probably causes more severe disease than past strains, and breakthrough cases in vaccinated individuals may be as transmissible as unvaccinated cases, according to a leaked U.S. government document.

The slide presentation produced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) stresses that "the war has changed" as a result of Delta. It was first reported by The Washington Post.

CDC director Rochelle Walenksy cited data from the presentation this week to justify a return to masks

1. Name of the work

individual packages

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re invited by the Gr. Head CMG. NRSC. Hyderabad for the following works

5. Other details :-

2. Total No. of Packages :- 02 Nos. individual packages.

3. Estimated Cost of :- Varies from Rs.160.66 lakh to Rs.225.24 lakh.



Rochelle Walenksy

for vaccinated people in high-risk areas. One of the biggest takea-

ways is the finding that breakthrough infections in vaccinated people are highly contagious, with the data coming from previous studies and a new analysis of an outbreak in Provincetown.

Experts rely on a number called the cycle threshold (Ct) value to indicate how much virus an infected per-

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numbers indicating higher viral load. In Provincetown, there was "no difference in mean Ct values in vaccinated and unvaccinated cases," the slides said. A review of findings from

son harbours, with lower

other countries shows that each person with Delta infects on average eight others, making it as transmissible as chickenpox but still less than measles.

Vaccine efficacy estimates vary across countries, but in its concluding slide, the CDC estimates the risk of severe disease or death is reduced 10-fold or greater in the vaccinated, while risk of infection is reduced three-fold or greater.

Tel. 06766-258301(0), mail ID: se_nerwkjr@rediffmail.com

Availability of Tender

04/08/2021 18/08/2021

Navy carrier on course in South China Sea: U.K.

It rebuffs Chinese media reports

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

erupted in mid-2019, AP

The U.K. government on Friday denied it was provoking Beijing with the deployment of its most powerful Navy task force in a generation, after Chinese state media is-

sued a blunt warning. The flotilla has entered the disputed South China Sea after exercises with Asian allies. It is led by the new aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth, and comprises other Royal Navy vessels plus U.S. and Dutch

warships. In an editorial, the nationalist state-run newspaper Global Times warned U.S. allies China might feel compelled to send a message to defend "its sovereignty and territorial integrity".

"Just as a popular Chinese phrase indicates: To execute one as a warning to

a hundred," it said. Addressing the U.K. and allied strike force specifically, it said: "We seriously warn this group: They are obliged to remain restrained and obey the rules.

"Please follow the current international shipping lanes and stay at least 12 nautical miles away from the Chinese islands and reefs."

"The carrier strike group is lawfully navigating the South China Sea, just as onethird of global shipping does on an annual basis," a Ministry of Defence spokesperson said. "It is taking the most direct route through international waters..."

China seizes consignment of world maps

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Customs officials in China have seized a large consignment of world maps, meant for export, for showing Arunachal Pradesh as a part of India, the official media reported on Friday.

China claims the northeastern Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh as part of South Tibet, which is firmly rejected by India. India says the State of Arunachal Pradesh is its integral and inalienable part.

The maps wrapped in about 300 export consignments marked as "bedclothes" were seized by the customs at Shanghai Pudong airport, Chinese digital newspaper thepaper.cn reported.

Date: 29-07-2021

e-TENDER NOTICE

Date: 29.07.2021

Online e-tender invited for "THE PURCHASE OF 1,49,000 Nos. of

Y' cone as per specification." Complete e-Tender document can be viewed, downloaded through https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome/tncsc and also available in www.tenders.tn.gov.in

The bidders have to participate in online bidding only with Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III. For Registration and further details contact MSTC LIMITED. Phone

(044)-25222842 / 25251910 / 25261005 mstcsro@mstcindia.co.in Last Date for Online Submission : 18.08.2021 at 11:00 AM

DIPR/2265/Tender/2021

MANAGING DIRECTOR



No.: ACE/Region I/Ju/Ar. Pali/2021-22/3129-37

Dated: 19/07/2021

Notice Inviting Bid (NIT NO.21-23/2021-22) Bids for work of 1. "Execution of 9 Nos. RWSS(26 villages) of Sub Division Marwal Junction, Division Pali, District Pali under JJM to provide FHTCs and associated works ncluding O&M for five years after one year defect liability Period (Est. Cost Rs. 1469.88 . "Execution of 3 Nos. RWSS (7 Villages) of Sub Division Sojat, Division Soja City, District Pali under JJM to provide FHTCs and associated works including O&M for five years after one year defect liability period (Estt. Cost Rs. 1230.69 Lacs)" 3. "Execution of 3 Nos. RWSS (10 Villages) of Sub Division Jaitaran, Division Sojat City, District Pali under JJM to provide FHTCs and associated works including O&M for five years after one year defect liability period (Estt. Cost Rs. 1147.06 Lacs)" are invited from nterested bidders up to 6.00 pm of 23.08.2021 (date). Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in

JBN (1) PHE 2122WLOB05244 (2) PHE 2122WLOB05245

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Government of India Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers welfare Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110001

nvitation for Expression of Interest for managing $9^{ ext{th}}$ Session of Governing Body of International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in Delhi from **9th to 15th May, 2022** with two days regional and inter-regional consultation prior to the period of the meeting.

Submission of the tender in two-bids system (i.e. technical and financial bids)	By 11:00 am on 27 th August, 2021 in the Central Public Procurement Portal, Government of India
Technical Bids Opening	28 th August 2021 at 11.00 am (Online)
Financial Bid Opening	After Technical Evaluation (Online)
Detailed information available at	Central Public Procurement Portal, Government of India OR https://agricoop.nic.in/en/tenders OR https://seednet.gov.in, OR https://www.iari.res.in
CPP Portal ID	2021_DARE_640753_1
Contact for any query	Assistant Commissioner (Seeds)

Phone No. 011-23389241



भारत सरकार, अंतरिक्ष विभाग ∕ Government of India, Department of Space राष्ट्रीय सुदूर संवेदन केंद्र / National Remote Sensing Centre हैदराबाद — 500 037, तेलंगाना, भारत / Balanagar, Hyderabad-500 037, Telangana, India टेलीफोन / Telephone:+040-23884173/74 फैक्स / Fax:+040-23884179

निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण समूह/CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP

ई निविदा नोटिस / e-Tender Notice ामूहप्रधान, सीएमजी, एनआरएससी, हैदराबाद द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए ऑन—लाइन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है | ∕ Online tender

निविदा दस्तावेज बोली अपलोड डाउनलोड करने प्राक्कलित करने की नआईटी सं कार्य का नाम लागत की अवधि अंतिम तिथि Approximat Period during which Last date for Estimated he tender documer Bid uploading Cost (Rs.) can be downloaded गलयमकोष्टै, तिरूनलवेली, तमिलनाडु के उपग्रह भू–केंद्र IRSC/CMG ₹ 54.74 From 30.07.2021 12.08.2021 NIT/ET/12/ दक्षिण (एसईएसएस) में अतिरिक्त विद्युतीय कार्य। लाख / से / to के 16:00 2482-EW/ Additional Electrical works at Satellite Earth Statio 08.08.2021 तक Lakhs 2021-22 South (SESS), Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli, Tamilnad बजे / hrs तक ालयमकोट्टै, तिरूनलवेली, तमिलनाडु के उपग्रह भू—केंद्र NRSC/CMG दक्षिण (एसईएसएस) में अधोसरचना निर्माण के लिए ₹ 34.90 From 30.07.2021 12.08.2021 NIT/ET/13/ अतिरिक्त विद्युतीय कार्य (सिविल, पीएच एवं विद्युत)। से / to लाख / के 16:00 2482-EW/ Additional works (consisting of Civil, PH & Electrical 08.08.2021 तक Lakhs 2021-22 बजे / hrs तक for Infrastructure Building at Satellite Earth Station South (SESS), Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli, Tamilnado लयमकोष्टै, तिरूनलवेली, तमिलनाडु के उपग्रह भू–केंद्र दक्षिण (एसईएसएस) में अधोसरचना प्रशिक्षण भवन (सिविव IRSC/CMG रू. 76.03 From 30.07.2021 एवं विद्युत कार्य सहित) का निर्माण। 12.08.2021 NIT/ET/14/ से / to लाख / Construction of Infrastructure Training Building के 16:00 2482-EW/ 08.08.2021 तक consisting of Civil & Electrical works) at Satellite 2021-22 बजे / hrs तक Earth Station South (SESS), Palayamkottai Tirunelveli, Tamilnadu गलयमकोट्टै, तिरूनलवेली, तमिलनाडु के उपग्रह भू—केंद्र IRSC/CMG दक्षिण (एसईएसएस) में केबल टेंच सहित सरक्षा अधोसरचन क्त. 94.14 From 30.07.2021 12.08.2021 NIT/ET/15/ के लिए अतिरिक्त सिविल कार्य। लाख / से / to के 16:00 2482-EW/ Additional Civil works for Security Infrastructure 08.08.2021 तक Lakhs बजे / hrs तक including Cable Trench at Satellite Earth Statior South (SESS), Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli, Tamilnadu

विस्तृत एनआईटी एवं पात्रता मानदंड ईएमडी बोली संबंधित प्रलेख आदि www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO पोर्टल से देखा / डाउनलोड किया ना सकता है। किसी प्रकार के संशोधन, समय विस्तार, स्पष्टीकरण आदि वेबसाइट पर अपलोड किया जाएगा और किसी समाचारपत्र भ प्रकाशित नहीं किया जाएगा | बोलीकर्ता अद्यतन जानकारी हेतु नियमित रुप से वेबसाइट देखें | / Detailed NIT and eligibility criteria, EMD oidding document, etc. can be viewed /download from www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO portal. All amendments, time extension, larifications, etc. will be uploaded on website and will not be published in newspapers. Bidders should regularly visit website to हस्ता / Sd/-समूह प्रधान, निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण समूह / Group Head, Construction & Maint. Group

No. KBOCWWB/CE/CR-01/2021-22

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA Department of Labour

Karnataka State Building and Other Construction Worker's Welfare Board

Chief Executive Officer & Secretary, Kalyana Suraksha Bhavana, ITI Compound, Dairy Circle, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru-560 029 (Karnataka) Phone: 080-29753350/54 Email: karbuildworkerswelfare@gmail.com

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Proposals are invited from recognized coaching Institutes from across the country for imparting

coaching for Approximate 800 candidates to Registered Construction Worker's Children through (classroom) offline/on-line as decided by the Board to candidates of Karnataka state for UPSC, KPSC CIVIL SERVICES (Prelims & Mains), RRB, IBPS, SSC & Group "C" posts

Examination 2021. 1) Last date of submission of proposal along with documents 11.08.2021, 5.00 pm 2) Date & Time of opening of technical proposals 12.08.2021, 5.01pm

3) Conducting of Meeting with the representatives of institutions for financial bids 18.08.2021,

4) Contact Person (Department) Joint Secretary, KBOCWWB 5) Place Office of the Joint Secretary, Karnataka State Building & Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board, Kalyana Suraksha Bhavan, ITI College Compound, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore-560029, Ph.No.080-29753350/54 karbuildworkerswelfare@gmail.com For further information visit Board's official website: karbwwb.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-Joint Secretary, KB&OCWWB DIPR/DDU/Zen/R.O:992/2021-22



MARKET WATCH

	30-07-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	52,587	-0.13
US Dollar	74.42	-0.17
Gold	47,442	0.95
Brent oil	76.31	1.01

NIFTY 50		
	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	674.50.	14.85
Asian Paints	2958.45	39.00
Axis Bank	708.90.	8.35
Bajaj Auto		
Bajaj Finserv	14222.20.	376.85
Bajaj Finance		
Bharti Airtel		
BPCL	445.50	3.60
Britannia Ind	3423.40	17.80
Cipla	920.05	36.95
Coal India	143.30	1.15
Divis Lab	4906.10	62.30
Dr Reddys Lab	4711.20.	38.55
Eicher Motors	2530.25	2.10
Grasim Ind	1551.35	6.75
HCL Tech	1024.95	17.35
HDFC	2441.15	26.35
HDFC Bank	1426.45	8.20
HDFC Life	664.05.	1.40
Hero MotoCorp		
Hindalco		
Hind Unilever		
ICICI Bank		
IndusInd Bank		
Infosys		
Indian OilCorp		
ITC		
JSW Steel		
Kotak Bank		
L&T		
M&M		
Maruti Suzuki		
Nestle India Ltd		
NTPC		
ONGC		
PowerGrid Corp		
Reliance Ind		
SBI Life		
State Bank		
Shree Cement		
Sun Pharma		70.95
Tata Consume		
Products Ltd.		
Tata Motors		
Tata Steel	1434.30	24.30

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on July 30

.1209.55.

7619.20

.. 81.75

..-81.25

Tech Mahindra

UltraTech Cement

US Dollar	74.22	74.54
Euro	88.29	88.67
British Pound	.103.65	104.10
Japanese Yen (100)	67.71	68.01
Chinese Yuan	11.49	11.54
Swiss Franc	81.96	82.36
Singapore Dollar	54.85	55.10
Canadian Dollar	59.66	59.92
Malaysian Ringitt	17.58	17.66

Dana picks up 1% stake in ALL's Switch for \$18 mn

Switch Mobility Ltd., the

electric vehicle firm of Ashok Leyland Ltd., said that U.S. based Dana Incorporated (Dana) had picked up 1%

Core sectors grew 8.9% in June

Output at the eight infrastructure industries still lags pre-pandemic, April's levels

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Output at India's eight core sectors grew by 8.9% in June but the pace remained below the production levels seen before the COVID-19 pandemic as well as its second wave this year, indicating the economy's recovery remains uneven.

Crude oil was the only component whose output shrank from a year earlier in the June Index of Eight Core Industries released by the Commerce and Industry Ministry on Friday, contracting 1.8%. Natural gas and steel both posted growth of more than 20%, while cement, coal, electricity, petroleum and fertilisers recorded moderate expansions in the range of 2% to 7.4%.

The core sectors had expanded by 60.3% in April

Wheels India

turns profit of

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Wheels India Ltd. reported

a net profit of ₹10.13 crore

for the quarter ended June,

driven by strong export de-

mand in almost all its busi-

The firm had incurred a

loss of ₹38.23 crore in the

year-earlier period. Total

revenue more than dou-

ing the second wave of the

pandemic resulted in sev-

ere demand and supply

restrictions in May fol-

lowed by recovery in June,"

price remains a concern

and we hope there is some

moderation in commodity

prices in the latter part of

"The steep rise in steel

said Srivats Ram, MD.

"The lockdown follow-

bled to to ₹675 crore.

ness segments.

₹10.13-crore

CHENNAI



Bolstering output: Natural gas and steel both posted year-on-year growth of more than 20%. • FILE PHOTO

MSMEs most in need of

policy attention: Kumar

'Sector's earnings impacted by 50%'

mist Madan Sabnavis said

June's core sector data had

"once again been influenced

by the negative base effect

syndrome" which would

continue to dominate most

locking after the second

wave, the sequential uptick

in the overall core index in

lenges of the sector re-

mained unmet till recently,"

earnings had been hit by

50%, and one out of three

such firms suffered revenue

and profit decline during

whatever is required to pro-

mote the MSME sector.

"We will continue to do

the pandemic.

Mr. Kumar said MSME

"Despite the gradual un-

economic data.

and by 16.3% in May, thanks to the base effect linked to the sharp contraction in output last year due to the national lockdown. The government also revised the March index, pegging growth in that month at 12.6% from an earlier estimate of 6.8%.

CARE Ratings chief econo-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The MSME sector needs pol-

icv attention the most, and

the government will conti-

nue to do whatever is re-

quired to promote the sec-

Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar

Speaking at a virtual

event organised by the Insti-

tute for Studies in Industrial

Development (ISID), Mr. Ku-

mar said the government

and the Reserve Bank of In-

dia (RBI) had announced

several measures to help the

micro, small and medium

enterprises (MSME) sector.

most policy attention of all

stakeholders. A lot has been

written about the MSME

sector but some of the chal-

"The MSME sector needs

NITI

said on Friday.

June was mild at just 1.1%, with double-digit increases in cement and fertilisers, dampened by a month-onmonth decline in petroleum refinery products and coal," ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar said in a note.

'Incomplete recovery' Stressing that core sectors'

output was 4.7% lower than the pre-COVID level of June 2019, and also lower than the April print, Ms. Nayar said this was consistent with "the picture of an incomplete recovery" suggested by other high-frequency indicators.

The index of industrial production (IIP), in which core sector output weighs in at 40%, could grow at 12%-17% in June, the ICRA economist reckoned, while Mr. Sabnavis projected a 15%-20% increase.

Chola Q1 profit

contracts 24%

to ₹327 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Cholamandalam Invest-

ment and Finance Co. Ltd

(CIFCL), a Murugappa

Group firm, said the stan-

dalone net profit for Q1

FY22 contracted 24% to

₹326.80 crore as localised

COVID-19-led lockdowns

marginally to ₹3,635 crore

while assets under man-

agement rose 7% to ₹75,763

crore. Total income grew

by 17% to ₹2,467 crore and

Net Income Margin by 39%

"Many borrowers and

staff were impacted by the

pandemic during the se-

cond wave. This resulted in

a setback in Q1 perfor-

mance in disbursements

to ₹1,363 crore, it said.

hampered growth.

Disbursements

CHENNAI

Deficit reached 18.2% of year's target in June

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The central government's fiscal deficit stood at ₹2.74 lakh crore or 18.2% of the full year's Budget Estimate (BE) at the end of June, according to data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) on Friday.

The deficit at the end of June 2020 was 83.2% of FY21 BE. In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit was at ₹2,74,245 crore at the end of June. For the current financial year, the government expects the fiscal deficit at 6.8% of GDP or ₹15,06,812 crore.

The Centre received ₹5.47 lakh crore (27.7% of corresponding BE FY22 of total receipts) up to June. The receipts had been 6.8% of BE at the end of June 2020.

Gold loans spur personal loans, bank credit slows

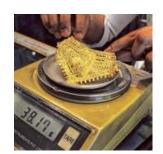
Credit to industry shrank in June: RBI

Growth in personal loans quickened to 11.9% in June, from 10.4% a year earlier, primarily due to accelerated growth in 'loans against gold jewellery' and 'vehicle loans', the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in its report on Sectoral Deployment of Bank Credit - June 2021.

The data on bank credit was collected from 33 scheduled commercial banks, accounting for about 90% of the total non-food credit deployed by banks for the month of June 2021.

On a year-on-year basis, non-food bank credit grew 5.9% last month, slowing from June 2020's 6.0%, the central bank said.

Credit to industry contracted by 0.3% in June 2021



2020. Size-wise, credit to medium industries registered robust growth of 54.6% in June after having posted a contraction of 9.0% a year earlier.

Credit to micro and small industries rebounded to growth of 6.4%, after shrinking 2.9% in June 2020, while credit to large industries contracted by 3.4% after growing 3.6% a year earlier, the central bank said.

'Tata Motors to invest ₹28,900 crore in FY22'

'In time, EVs to contribute 25% of sales'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tata Motors group will invest ₹28,900 crore across its domestic business and JLR in 2021-22, and in the development of hydrogen fuel cell vehicles, Chairman N. Chandrasekaran said.

The company will also look to raise capital separately for its electric vehicles (EV) business 'at an appropriate time'. It is looking to have 25% of its sales coming from EVs in the medium to long term, up from 2% at present, he said while addressing a virtual AGM.

Replying to a query on investment expenditure details, he said, "For FY21, it was ₹19,800 crore. For FY22 the plan is ₹28,900 crore, that is basically £2.5 billion



N. Chandrasekaran

for JLR on an annual basis and ₹3,000 crore to ₹3,500 crore for Tata Motors.

'We are investing in hydrogen. And, in fact, we got the first order from Indian Oil for 15 vehicles, and we have a lot of work going on in the hydrogen fuel cell area." Asked if Tata Motors would sell non-core assets, he replied in the affirmative but did not elaborate.

posts Q1 profit of ₹1,444.17 cr.

Sun Pharma

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. reported a consolidated net profit of ₹1,444.17 crore for the first quarter ended June 30.

The company had reported a net loss of ₹1,655.60 crore in the yearearlier period.

Consolidated sales from operations at ₹9,669.4 crore grew 29% over Q1 last year. India sales at ₹3,308.4 crore grew 39% compared with Q1 last year, while U.S. finished dosage sales grew 35% to \$380 million.

"We witnessed a strong Q1, driven by a combination of robust core business growth, low base and some sale of COVID-19 products," managing director Dilip Shanghvi said.

TV PICKS

TNPL 2021: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m. & 7.30

F1: Hungarian GP (Qualify ing), SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 6.30 p.m.

Tokyo 2020: Sony Ten 2, 3 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 4 a.m. onwards (Sunday)

IN BRIEF

Halep comes in as stars fall off Montreal list

World No. 1 Ashleigh Barty, Angelique Kerber and US star Venus Williams have withdrawn from next month's WTA Montreal tournament. However, organisers said two-time Grand Slam champion Simona Halep of Romania would enter the field, replacing Williams as a wild-card entry. AFP

Vedant Mohan wins title



SPORTS BUREAU

Vedant Mohan beat Eroshenko Sokolov 1-4, 4-1, [10-5] in the final of the National under-10 Masters tennis tournament in Valencia,

Vedant had won two of his matches without dropping a game, and the semifinal by dropping two games against Azhar Muro. He has qualified to compete in the World Masters under-10 event to be staged in Umag, Croatia, in September.

Chance to reflect that not all wickets will be flat, says Dravid

'We need to find ways to scrap and score 130, 140 on these surfaces'

INDIA IN LANKA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rahul Dravid believes that the new crop of Indian batsmen will learn with experience that "not all wickets will be flat" and they need to develop the art of scrapping it out on low-scoring tracks like the ones on offer during the last two T20Is against Sri India lost the three-match

T20I series against Sri Lanka 1-2 on Thursday, playing without nine of its first team players due to COVID-19 related isolation.

Found wanting

Rookies Devdutt Padikkal, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Nitish Rana, along with Sanju Samson, literally struggled against a quality spin bowling attack led by leg-spinner



Not the ideal end: Rahul Dravid and Shikhar Dhawan would have hoped the team to sign off with a better result. •PTI

Wanindu Hasaranga.

Asked if he was disappointed in the manner the younger players were found wanting against Hasaranga and company, the head coach replied in the negative.

"I am not disappointed as they are young. They are going to learn and get better only when they are exposed

to these kind of conditions and quality of bowling. Sri Lankan team's bowling attack is an international bowling attack," Dravid said while assessing the overall performance in the series.

But the former India captain did admit that there is lot to learn on how to play on challenging tracks, saying pitches in domestic

cricket have become easier to bat as compared to his

"They would have liked to score a few more runs. They now have an opportunity to reflect that not all wickets are going to be flat. We need to find ways to scrap and score 130, 140 on these wickets," Dravid observed after seeing the Ranas and the Padikkals struggle on a Premadasa track where ball wasn't coming on to the bat.

"It's really a good learning as they are all young players. This is a great opportunity to reflect on these performances and may be come up with some slightly better strategies.

"Let me be fair, we don't get these kind of conditions very often in T20 cricket but when you do, I think, you have responsibility to play slightly better," Dravid said.

arise in the future. "You know, to be honest with you, I am happy doing

what I am doing. For me, I haven't given any other thought than this tour and

with these guys added

In charge of the Indian squad

full-time coaching job'

'Haven't thought of

for the limited-overs series against Sri Lanka, batting great Rahul Dravid says he hasn't yet thought about taking up the national team coaching job on a full-time

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The former India captain though added that he has "enjoyed the experience" of coaching the team in Sri Lanka. "I have enjoyed this expe-

rience. You know, look, I have not really thought anything far ahead," Dravid said at the virtual post-match press conference after the third and final T20I on Thursday night.

He was asked to share his experiences and if he would want to take up the coaching job should an opportunity

I have enjoyed the experience and I have loved working

getting through this tour," he Dravid, who is the Nation-

al Cricket Academy (NCA) director, has successfully coached the India Under-19 side and the India-A side. But the Sri Lankan tour

was Dravid's first assignment as the head coach of the India senior team. "I have enjoyed the experience and I have loved working with these guys. It's been great. And no, I haven't given any other thought to anything else. There are (a) lot of challenges doing a full-time role, so I really don't know," quipped Dravid.

India head coach Ravi Shastri is currently with the Indian Test team, which lost the World Test Championship final against New Zealand, and will next take on England in a gruelling five-

REUTERS BUDAPEST Valtteri Bottas knocked

Hungarian GP

Bottas tops

practice in

Formula One championship leader Max Verstappen off the top of the timesheets to set the pace ahead of Mercedes teammate Lewis Hamilton on the opening day of practice at the Hungarian Grand

The Finn lapped the 4.3km long Hungaroring track in one minute, 17.012 seconds, edging Hamilton by just 0.027 seconds. Verstappen was 0.298 seconds off the pace in third.

The Dutchman, who leads Hamilton by eight points in the overall standings, had led the first of Friday's two sessions ahead of Bottas and Hamilton.

FIA rejects Red Bull's review plea

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE SILVERSTONE

Red Bull on Thursday failed in its bid to win a review into the "insufficient" penalty imposed on Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton for the crash which took out Max Verstappen at the British Grand Prix.

World champion Hamilton was given a 10-second penalty after the first lap incident which ended Verstappen's race. Hamilton went on to win at Silverstone and slash the Dutchman's championship lead to just eight points ahead of this weekend's race.

On Thursday, FIA said Red Bull had not provided any "new, significant and relevant elements" likely to justify a review of the decision taken during the race.

Chahal and Gowtham test positive

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Indian cricketers K. Gowtham and Yuzvendra Chahal have been forced to stay back in Sri Lanka after testing positive for COVID-19 in pre-departure tests, joining all-rounder Krunal Pandya who is already in isolation after being infected earlier. A BCCI official had earlier

in the day said that the squad has left from Colombo but it is still waiting at the airport after the fresh cases came to light and is expected to leave later in the day. Every member before

boarding a return flight was

supposed to undergo an RT-

PCR test and there Gowtham

and Chahal, deemed as close contacts of Krunal, have been found positive.

Yuzvendra Chahal. • AFP

Six others - Hardik Pandya, Manish Pandey, Ishan Kishan, Suryakumar Yadav, Prithvi Shaw and Deepak Chahar – are free to depart



the country.

Shaw and Surva are sup-

posed to be flown to the United Kingdom where they will join as replacement players after Avesh Khan and Washington Sundar got injured.

players banned for a year PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Three Lankan

Sri Lanka Cricket on Fri-

day banned senior players Kusal Mendis, Niroshan Dickwella and Danushka Gunathilaka from international cricket for one year, and six months from domestic cricket, and also imposed a fine of 10 million Sri Lankan rupees on them for breaching COVID-19 protocols on the tour of UK last month.

Ramkumar enters quarterfinals

INDIANS ABROAD SPORTS BUREAU

LEXINGTON (UNITED STATES)

Ramkumar Ramanathan beat Peter Polansky of Canada 6-4, 6-4 to make the quarterfinals of the \$52,080 Challenger tennis tournament here. In the quarterfinals, Ram-

kumar was scheduled to play sixth seed Alejandro Tabilo of Chile. The results: €66,640 Chal-

lenger, Segovia, Spain: Doubles: Semifinals: J.C. Aragone (US) & Nicolas Barrientos (Col) bt Goncalo Oliveira (Por) & Ar-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

\$52,080 Challenger, Lexington, US: Pre-quarterfinals:

jun Kadhe 6-3, 6-4.

Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Peter Polansky (Can) 6-4, 6-4; Genaro Alberto Olivieri (Arg) bt Sasikumar Mukund 6-3, \$60,000 ITF women, Vers-

mold, Germany: Doubles: Quarterfinals: Arianne Hartono (Ned) & Rutuja Bhosale bt Isabelle Haverlag (Ned) & Anna Klasen (Ger) 6-1, 6-1. \$15,000 ITF women, Cairo:

Doubles: Quarterfinals: Luisa Mever auf der Heide & Chantal Sauvant (Ger) bt Demi Tran (Ned) & Ashmitha Easwaramurthi 6-2, 6-2.

Lovlina punches her way into the medal zone

The 23-year-old gets it right for the first time against Taipei's Chen, books a semifinal date with Surmeneli



BOXING

SHYAM VASUDEVAN

Lovlina Borgohain walked into the ring with a smile on her face and left with an even bigger one – she had just assured India of its second medal at the Tokyo Olympics.

The Indian boxer let out a roar after the bout at the Korugikan Arena even as her camp jumped for joy. A medal was definitely coming home.

23-year-old out-The punched Chinese Taipei's Chen Nien-chin to storm into the semifinals of the 69kg category, where she will face Turkish world champion Busenaz Surmeneli.

She is the third Indian pugilist after Vijender Singh (bronze, 2008 Beijing Olympics) and M.C. Mary Kom (bronze, 2012 London



Quick off the blocks: Lovlina came out all guns blazing in the quarterfinal bout against Chen. •PTI

Games) to win a medal at the Olympics.

Lovlina – a good three-inches taller than her opponent – was in cruise control as she stamped her authority from the bell and pushed Chen onto the backfoot with an all-out attacking approach. The judges awarded the opening round to the Indian. She was dominant as all five judges awarded her the second round and she was comfortably ahead in the third too as she punched

her way into history.

Though she's assured of a medal, Lovlina was confident of leaving Tokyo with the coveted yellow metal. "It's a very big day for me, but I want to win gold. I needed a medal and I have

achieved that now. I can fight freely now and go for gold," said Lovlina.

All the more sweet The victory was all the more sweet as she got the better of Chen for the first time in five

attempts. "I had lost to her four times. I used to plan a lot before getting into a bout with her... I know her game, so I was attacking from the get-go. My game is to counter, but today I changed my tactics and was on the attack," she said.

"The plan was to play according to the merit of the opponent. I backed myself to handle any situation. I have been working hard for the last eight years and wanted to channel all that effort into the bout today."

Simranjit loses

Earlier, Simranjit Kaur, another medallist on the world stage, lost to two-time World championship medallist Sudaporn Seesondee of Thailand 0-5 in a women's 60kg pre-quarterfinal.

The experienced Thai boxer landed her punches on target even as Simranjit put up a good fight by using her combinations

Simranjit stepped up her attack in the second round but also provided room for Sudaporn to deliver some fine left shots. The Indian kept battling it out till the end but could not stop the Thai boxer from advancing.

'Watched a Muhammad Ali video before the bout'

Y.B. SARANGI

ovlina Borgohain said Lher superb performance against former World champion Chen Nien-chin of Chinese Taipei in the quarterfinals was a result of her "fearless approach."

Lovlina, who has ensured India's second medal at the Tokyo Olympics by reaching the women's 69kg semifinals on Friday, said she developed the attitude with the passage of time.

"When I began, I was not fearless. But when I gained confidence in my abilities, I did not care about what people were saying and started performing better," said Lovlina at a virtual press conference.

"I started thinking that no

matter the situation, I would give my best. I want to win even if I am fighting with a broken hand," said the 23year-old. Lovlina, a Muhammad Ali fan, said she tried to pick up some aspects of the legend's game.

"I regularly see his videos and saw one before this bout too. Though no two boxers can be the same, I follow his footwork and long (distance) punches.

"Mary Kom is an inspiration too. I have seen her train hard. I have learnt a lot from her. It's great to have her with us," said Lovlina.

Boxing Federation of India president Ajay Singh had a word of advice for the boxer for the semifinal bout. "Don't be weighed down by expectations," said Ajay.



Fearless: Lovlina has stung opponents like a bee. • AFP

An San stops Deepika, goes on to win gold



An San... triple delight. ■ GETTY IMAGES

SHYAM VASUDEVAN

Deepika Kumari's run at the Tokyo Olympics came to a crashing halt as she lost 6-0 to the top seed and eventual champion An San of South Korea in the quarterfinals of the women's individual recurve on Friday.

An, winner of the mixed and women's team events, won her third gold, beating ROC's Elena Osipova 6-5 via a shoot-off in the final. The Korean shot a 10, while the Russian managed only

Atanu Das will be in action on Saturday when he takes on Japan's Takaharu Furukawa in the quarterfinals of the men's recurve.

INDIAN ODYSSEY

Archery: Women's individual: Quarterfinals: Deepika Kumari lost to An San (Kor) 0-6; 1/8 eliminations: bt Ksenia Perova (ROC) 6-5. Athletics: Men: 3000m stee-

plechase (round 1, heat 2): 7. Avinash Sable, Did Not Qualify (DNQ) for final; 400m hurdles (round 1, heat 5): 7. M.P. Jabir, DNQ for semifinals. Women: 100m (round 1, heat

5): 7. Dutee Chand, DNQ for semifinals. 4x400m mixed relay (round

1, heat 2): 8. Muhammed Anas, V. Revathi, V. Subha, and Arokia Rajiv. DNQ for

Badminton: Women's singles (quarterfinals): P.V. Sindhu bt Akane Yamaguchi (Jpn) 21-13,

Boxing: Women: Welterweight (quarterfinals): Lovlina Borgohain bt Chen Nienchin (Tpe); Lightweight (round of 16): Simranjit Kaur lost to Sudaporn Seesondee (Tha).

Equestrian: Eventing Dressage Day 1: 7. Fouaad Mirza. Golf: Men (round 2: Anirban Lahiri - tied 20th (16 holes): Udayan Mane - tied 57th (18

Hockey: Men (Pool A): bt Japan 5-3; Women (Pool A): bt Ireland 1-0.

Sailing: Women: Laser Radial: Nethra Kumanan (35th overall after 10 races), DNQ for medal race; Men: Laser: Vishnu Saravanan (20th overall after 10 races), DNQ for medal race; 49er: K.C. Ganapathy and Varun Thakkar (17th overall after nine races). Shooting: Women's 25m Pistol: 15. Manu Bhaker, 32. Rahi Sarnobat. DNQ for final.

TOKYO TITBITS

Fouaad Mirza seventh Fouaad Mirza, astride

Seigneur Medicott, was seventh with 28 penalty points in dressage on day one of the equestrian competition on Friday. Louise Romeike of Sweden was tied with the Indian. Great Britain's Oliver Townend topped the table with 23.60 penalty points.



Fouaad Mirza on Seigneur Medicott. ■ REUTERS

Manu and Rahi disappoint

Perfection under pressure proved elusive for the Indian shooters as Manu Bhaker shot a 582 and missed the women's 25-metre sports pistol final by two points on Friday. Manu finished 15th. Rahi Sarnobat could not

recover from a below-par first half when she shot 287 and finished with 573. She was 32nd in a field of 44. Lahiri T-20 and Mane T-57

on rain-hit day Anirban Lahiri stayed at four-under after 16 holes of the rain-interrupted second round of the golf competition to be tied-20th on Friday.

Udayan Mane, who shot a first round 69, lifted himself from last spot to be tied-57th in the 60-player

Sindhu passes the Yamaguchi test, enters semifinals





Mixing it up: Sindhu's game was laced with delicate drops and telling smashes, including one measured at 308kmph. • AP

BADMINTON

SHYAM VASUDEVAN

P.V. Sindhu, with searing smashes and delicate drop shots, overcame a gritty Akane Yamaguchi of Japan 21-13, 22-20 in the quarterfinals here on Friday. The Indian will meet long-time rival and second seed Tai Tzu Ying in the semifinals.

The Japanese, backed by the volunteers at the stadium, led 6-5 in the opening game. After a phenomenal rally that lasted 26 strokes and 33 seconds, helped the Indian pull level at 6, it was one-way traffic from there as Sindhu raced to a 16-11 lead.

Sindhu kept Yamaguchi guessing most of the time, craftily mixing smashes with drops. The Japanese targeted Sindhu's backhand, her notso-strong side, the Indian was unperturbed and went on to clinch the first game in 23 minutes. She began the second with a 308kmph smash. To make a comparison, the fastest bullet train in Japan runs at an estimated speed of 320kmph! Chasing a second succes-

sive Olympic medal, after her silver in Rio 2016, the Indian surged ahead 14-8. However, Yamaguchi made a comeback, cutting down the lead to two points (13-15). Then came the moment of

the game. The shuttle went back and forth for 63 seconds before Yamaguchi finished the point with a downthe-line smash. Both players sank to their knees in exhaustion after the exhange.

Winning that point seemed to have boosted Yamaguchi's confidence as she led 20-18. But Sindhu dug deep to save game points and won the next two to wrap up the contest.

"This was my best match here," Sindhu said after the 56-minute quarterfinal. "The second game was very crucial. Even though she was leading, I never lost hope. I was ahead 14-8 and all of a sudden she was leading 20-18. My coach was constantly saying, 'it is okay, it is not over yet... be focused and you can do it' and I did it."

Sindhu she was up for the Yamaguchi challenge. "I was prepared for the rallies. I always knew she would come back, and I was prepared for it. I needed to maintain my attack because that's my strong point. I am happy I closed out the match in two games," she said.

Navneet helps India beat Ireland, stay alive

Gurjant's brace powers India men past Japan in their final group game

HOCKEY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Navneet Kaur scored a late winner as the Indian women kept their quarterfinal hopes alive with a 1-0 win over Ireland in a must-win match here on Friday.

After three goalless quarters, which India completely dominated but failed to breach the Irish defence led goalkeeper Ayeisha McFerran, Navneet finally found the back of the net in the 57th minute. A moment of brilliance

from skipper Rani Rampal, who created an opportunity for Navneet, rescued India from an early exit. Navneet was at the right place at the right time to tap the ball in.

India will have to win its final match against South Africa on Saturday and hope that Ireland loses to Great

match, 1.15 p.m.

(Chn), 3.35 p.m.



Stepping up: Navneet saved India from early elimination with a timely strike. ■ REUTERS

Britain. In the men's section, striker Gurjant Singh was on target twice as India out-

classed hosts Japan 5-3 to complete the group stage with four wins. Apart from

Gurjant (17th, 56th), Harmanpreet Singh Shamsher Singh (34th) and Nilakanta Sharma (51st) were the scorers for India.

Kenta Tanaka (19th), Kota Watanabe (33rd) and Kazuma Murata (59th) scoreds for Japan, which was already out of contention.

Finishes second

India finished second in Pool-A behind Australia with four victories in five matches. Harmanpreet made no

mistake off India's first penalty corner before Gurjant made it 2-0, tap-

ping home from close range. Though Japan made it 2-2 at the beginning of the second period, India scored three more goals to run away

The hosts reduced the margin with just a minute remaining, but it was too little

'Dictator' Ma's reign continues



Ma Long... paddler supreme. ■GETTY IMAGES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

China's Ma Long on Friday became the first player in Olympic table tennis history to retain the men's singles title when he defeated compatriot Fan Zhendong 4-2 in the final.

Nicknamed "The Dictator" because of the way he dominates his opponents, Ma has now won four Games golds overall, having also claimed team titles in London 2012 and Rio 2016, making him one of the best the game has seen.

GOLD MEDALLISTS ON FRIDAY

An San (Kor): Archery: Wo-Selemon Barega (Eth): Athletics: Men's 10,000m.

Wang Yi Lyu & Huang Dong

Ping (Chn): Badminton: Mixed doubles. Jiri Prskavec (Cze): Canoe Slalom: Men's kayak

Niek Kimmann (Ned): Cycling BMX Racing: Men. Bethany Shriever (GBr): Cycling BMX Racing: Women. Japan: Fencing: Men's epee. Akira Sone (Jpn): Judo: Wo-

men's +78kg. Lukas Krpalek (Cze): Judo: Men's +100kg. Stefanos Ntouskos (Gre): Row-

Emma Twigg (NZ): Rowing:

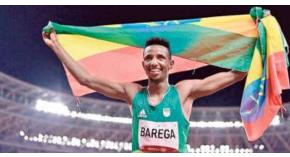
ing: Men's single sculls.

Women's single sculls. New Zealand: Rowing: Men's Canada: Rowing: Women's Eight

Vitalina Batsarashkina (ROC): Shooting: Women's 25m pistol. Emma McKeon (Aus): Swimming: Women's 100m freestyle. Tatjana Schoenmaker (RSA): Swimming: Women's 200m breaststroke

Evgeny Rylov (ROC): Swimming: Men's 200m backstroke. Wang Shun (Chn): Swimming: Men's 200m ind. medley Ma Long (Chn): Table Tennis: Men's singles.

Nikola Mektic & Mate Pavic (Cro): Tennis: Men's doubles. Zhu Xueying (Chn): Trampoline gymnastics: Women.



Special one: Barega won athletics' first gold in Tokyo. • AFP

Mixed

INDIANS IN ACTION

Archery: Men's individual: Atanu Das vs Takaharu Furukawa (Jpn), 1/8 eliminations, 7.15 a.m.; Quarterfinals, 11.15 a.m.; semifinals, 12.15 p.m.; bronze medal match, 1 p.m.; gold medal

A), 6 a.m.; Kamalpreet Kaur (Qualification, Group B), 7.25 a.m. Men: Long jump: M. Sreeshankar (Qualification, Group B), 3.40 Badminton: Women's singles (semifinals): P.V. Sindhu vs Tai

Athletics: Women: Discus: Seema Punia (Qualification, Group

Tzu-ying (Tpe), 3.20 p.m Boxing: Men's flyweight (round of 16): Amit Panghal vs Yuberjen Martínez (Col), 7.30 a.m.

Women's middleweight (quarterfinals): Pooja Rani vs Li Qian

Golf: Men's individual: Round 2 (4.15 a.m): Anirban Lahiri; Round 3 (6 a.m.): Lahiri, Udayan Mane. Hockey: Women (Pool A): vs South Africa, 8.45 a.m. Sailing: Men: 49er (from 8.35 a.m.): K.C. Ganapathy and Varun

Shooting: Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions: Tejaswini Sawant, Anjum Moudgil. Qualification, 8.30 a.m.; Final, 12.30 p.m. All times IST.

Sable betters his steeplechase National mark

Jabir, Dutee and 4x400 mixed relay team disappoint; Barega strikes gold round. India finished last in

ATHLETICS

STAN RAYAN

Avinash Sable bettered his Awn National record and finished seventh in his heat but that was not enough to carry him to the steeplechase final on Friday. Sable improved his perso-

nal best by more than two seconds, clocking 8:18.12s. That time, which also saw him make the entry standard for next year's Worlds in the USA, was 13th best overall but three athletes with slow-



Worlds despite not making the final in Tokyo. ■REUTERS er times made it to the final bir and Dutee Chand were far

away from their best and from the slowest heat. Meanwhile, 400m hurdler M.P. Jacrashed out in the first

the 4x400m mixed relay, in its heat and overall, with the quartet of Muhammed Anas, V. Revathi, V. Subha and Arokia Rajiv clocking 3:19.93s. In the biggest shock of the

day, World champion and World record holder USA was disqualified for a faulty baton exchange in the heats in the mixed relay.

In a thrilling men's 10,000m final, Ethiopian Selemon Barega worked his way from the back of the pack to win athletics' first gold in Tokyo.

MEDAL EVENTS

21 Gold medals are on offer at the Tokyo Games on Saturday Archery: Men's individual. Athletics: Men's discus, Women's 100m, 4x400m Relay

Fencing: Women's sabre team. Judo: Mixed Team. Rugby Sevens: Women Sailing: Men's & Women's Windsurfer RS:X. Shooting:

Badminton: Men's doubles.

Women 50m Rifle 3 positions, Trap Mixed Team. Swimming: Women's 800m freestyle, Women's 200m backstroke, Men's 100m butterfly,

Mixed 4x100m Medley relay.

Tennis: Women's singles. Trampoline gymnastics: Men. Triathlon: Mixed team relay. Weightlifting: Men's 81kg, Men's 96kg

A ND-NDE

Zverev shatters Djokovic's hopes

Mektic and Pavic take gold in all-Croatian men's doubles affair



Dream dasher: Zverev ended Djokovic's attempt to add the Olympic gold to his trophy cabinet. • GETTY IMAGES

come the first German to

win singles gold since Graf in Seoul after winning 10 of

the last 11 games against

multiple medals, with the bronze-medal match against

Pablo Carreno Busta to come on Saturday after his

mixed doubles semifinal

with Nina Stojanovic against

Elena Vesnina and Aslan Ka-

Khachanov, meanwhile, produced an impressive dis-

play to dispatch Carreno

Busta 6-3, 6-3. Khachanov is bidding to become the first

Russian champion in the men's singles since Yevgeny

Kafelnikov struck gold in

Ashleigh Barty's third and fi-

nal attempt to win a gold was ended after defeat

alongside John Peers in the

mixed doubles semifinals

against Russians Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova and An-

Women's World No. 1

Sydney 21 years ago.

drey Rublev.

ratsev later Friday.

Djokovic can still win

Djokovic.

TENNIS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Novak Djokovic's bid for a calendar Golden Grand Slam was dramatically ended by Alexander Zverev in the Olympics men's singles semifinals on Friday.

Later, top seeds Nikola Mektic and Mate Pavic beat fellow Croatians Marin Cilic and Ivan Dodig in a deciding tie-break to win the men's doubles title.

Mektic and Pavic took the honours with a 6-4, 3-6, [10-6] victory.

Collapse

The World No. 1 collapsed from a set and a break ahead as German fourth seed Zverev won 1-6, 6-3, 6-1 to set up a final against Russian Karen Khachanov on

The 34-year-old Djokovic has never won the Olympic singles title.

Zverev is looking to be-

Australian McKeon anointed sprint queen

SWIMMING

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

An electric Emma McKeon blazed to the women's Olympic 100m freestyle gold on Friday as flying South African Tatjana Schoenmaker smashed the long-standing

women's 200m breaststroke world record. Australia's McKeon claimed her fourth Tokyo medal when she hit the wall in a new Olympic record of 51.96 seconds, the second fastest ever.

Hong Kong's Siobhan Haughey (52.27s) earned another silver after the

200m freestyle, when she came second behind Australia's Ariarne Titmus.

Australian veteran Cate Campbell was third in 52.52s. Schoenmaker

touched in 2:18.95s to better the 2:19.11s world record set by Denmark's Rikke Moller Pedersen in 2013.

Lilly King was second to the South African, with her USA teammate and training

partner Annie Lazor third. China's Wang Shun upset the field to win the 200m medley in 1:55.00s ahead of Britain's Duncan Scott and Switzerland's Jeremy Desplanches.



The crown sits well? Emma McKeon celebrates winning the women's 100m freestyle gold. • AFP



Punjab Chief Minister Capt. Amarinder Singh

will pay glowing tributes to the legendary martyr

Shaheed Udham Singh Sunam

who laid down his life to avenge the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

on his

82nd Martyrdom Day

during a

STATE LEVEL FUNCTION

Oshae Jones eyes gold



Motivated: Oshae Jones, left, did not let her travails bog her down against Maria Moronta. • GETTY IMAGES

BOXING

REUTERS

After losing most of her home and thousands of dollars worth of boxing equipment in a fire in May, U.S. welterweight Oshae Jones said her eyes were on the gold prize now she was assured of a medal at the Tokyo Games.

"I had a vision of me standing on the podium and I practise my gold medal speech every day, so I plan on it," Jones said after beating Dominican Maria Moronta in the quarterfinals on Friday, securing at least a bronze.

Jones narrowly escaped a fire that destroyed more than half of the home that she and her boyfriend had bought.

"I feel like with the Olympic Games postponed a whole year and me losing 60, 80 percent of my things, I feel like it was just adding fuel to the fire, literally, to me keep pushing," the 23year-old said. "I keep push-

ing every day." Jones affectionately credited her "nosy neighbours" for alerting her and her partner to the late-night blaze. "If I was in any other neighbourhood where people mind their business, I would be dead," she said.

TOKYO TITBITS

Injured Aussie NBA star Baynes out of Olympics

Australia suffered a blow to its men's basketball gold medal hopes on Friday with Toronto Raptors star Aron Baynes ruled out of the rest of the Olympics with a neck injury exacerbated by a bathroom fall. Baynes is expected to recover, but not in time to return to the court in Tokyo.

Shriever dethrones Pajon to win BMX racing gold

Britain's Bethany Shriever ended Mariana Pajon's Olympic reign to win the women's BMX racing competition on Friday as Dutch rider Niek Kimmann



Bethany Shriever. • AP

Aron Baynes. • AP

took gold in the men's competition. Dutch rider Merel Smulders took bronze. Kimmann finishing ahead of Britain's Kye Whyte and Colombia's Carlos Ramirez.

Japan extends virus

emergency Japan Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga on Friday announced the expansion of the virus state of emergency to Chiba, Kanagawa and Saitama, which neighbour Tokyo, as well as Osaka in western Japan. Emergency measures in Tokyo and southern Okinawa that had been due to end August 22 will now run until the end of the month.

PROGRAMME

Date: July 31, 2021 (Saturday)

Time: 10.00 AM

Venue: Shaheed Udham Singh Memorial,

Sunam Udham Singh Wala

Let us pay homage to the great son of soil

