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Amid leadership tussle in Punjab, Sidhu calls on Priyanka Gandhi



Centre seeks report on fake vaccination camps in Kolkata page 10



International tourism

Kyrgios outlasts Humbert, Djokovic cruises past Anderson





losses could cost world \$4 trillion, says report

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Farmers, BJP workers clash at Ghazipur border

Farmers and BJP workers clashed at the Ghazipur border on Wednesday, Each side held the other responsible for the fracas in which at least six BJP workers sustained minor injuries and around two dozen cars were damaged. Farmer groups described it as yet another planned attempt by the ruling partry to disrupt their neaceful movement

NEWS ▶ PAGE 8

Cylinder blast kills four of family in Shahdara

NEW DELHI Four members of a family died when a cylinder exploded in Shahdara's Farsh Bazar on Tuesday night. The blast happened in the adjacent room where a cylinder business was being run by the houseowner's relative. Delhi Fire Services chief Atul Garg said a call was received at 12.12 a.m. and nine fire tenders were pressed into service. A case has been registered against the houseowner and his niece.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

Drones, flying toys banned in J&K district after attacks

Five unauthorised sorties suspected since Sunday

PEERZADA ASHIQ SRINAGAR

The Rajouri district adminis-Wednesday tration banned the sale or possession of drones or flying objects after at least five sorties of drones around security installations in Jammu since Sunday, including the IAF's technical airport, have the security agencies on the ten-



Security personnel on alert in J&K on Wednesday. ■PTI

terhooks. The move comes two days after two explosions, apparently caused by two drones, rocked the technical airport of the IAF. Offi-

cials suspect that one more drone was spotted in the Kunjwani area on Wednesday morning.

Rajouri is close to the Line of Control (LoC).

"In exercise of powers under Section 144 of the CrPC, a ban is imposed on storage, sale, possession, use and transport of any drone or small flying objects, toys in the district," Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Savan said in an order.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

SC pulls up govt. on ex gratia

It gives NDMA 6 weeks to fix rules for compensation to COVID-19 victims' kin

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

The Supreme Court on Wednesday pulled up the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), of which the Prime Minister is the ex officio chairperson, for failing in its duty to recommend ex gratia to the families of those who lost their loved ones due to COVID-19.

"The National Authority [NDMA] failed to perform its statutory duty... ex gratia assistance on account of loss of life is part of minimum standards of relief which has to



In mourning: Relatives break down during the last rites of a COVID-19 victim in Srinagar recently. •NISSAR AHMAD

be provided to persons affected by disaster - in the present case COVID-19 pan-

demic," the court observed. A Bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan, Vineet Saran and lines for fixing the ex gratia meant for these families. The guidelines, however, would not stop individual States from separately providing ex gratia to the families from their own funds. The court refused a plea of PIL petitioners, advocate Gaurav Kumar Bansal and

M.R. Shah gave the NDMA

six weeks to frame guide-

'IT'S UP TO THE NDMA' ▶ PAGE 8

Reepak Kansal, to order an

ex gratia of ₹4 lakh each to

the families of the COVID-19

deceased

Rawat rushes to Delhi amid legal bind

NISTULA HEBBAR DAMINI NATH

NEW DELHI

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat rushed to Delhi on Wednesday, cancelling pre-scheduled programmes as he finds himself in a legal bind over his election to the State Assembly before September.

According to sources in the BJP, Mr. Rawat and senior leaders have been mulling over his options ever since the second wave of the pan-



Tirath Singh Rawat

demic took such a dire turn. Mr. Rawat, a Lok Sabha MP, became Uttarakhand Chief Minister in early March replacing Trivendra Singh Rawat, but he is yet to become a member of the Assembly, a

requirement he is supposed to fulfil within six months of taking oath. That deadline will expire in September.

Senior BJP leaders, especially those who have some legal expertise, are mulling over his options now, while the ball is firmly in the Election Commission's court.

"Since the second wave of the pandemic, there has been no move to hold any bypoll, looking at what happened after the Assembly elections in four States and

one Union Territory and especially in Uttar Pradesh during the panchayat polls held at the same time. This has left Tirath Singh Rawat marooned in a legal limbo," said a source. While Mr. Rawat spent the first half of his day at Uttarakhand Sadan awaiting a call from BJP president J.P. Nadda for a meeting, he later dropped in on his official quarters as an MP at the Kaveri apartments. At the time of writing, he was yet to

meet Mr. Nadda

Chhattisgarh's excess deaths at least 4.8 times COVID-19 toll

Second wave figures are from April to May 2021 VIGNESH RADHAKRISHNAN SRINIVASAN RAMANI

The number of "excess deaths" registered by the Civil Registration System (CRS) in Chhattisgarh during the second wave (April to May 2021) was 43,062, which is 4.85 times the official reported figure of 8,878 COVID-19 deaths for the same period.

If the first three months of 2021 are included, the undercount factor decreases to 3.6 times (34,897 excess deaths and 9,677 official fatalities). Excess deaths were calculated based on the month-wise number of fatalities registered in the State's online CRS (provisional figures), which The Hindu accessed. The 43,062 "excess deaths" during the second wave were calculated as the difference between 71,142 deaths registered online in April and May 2021 and the average number of deaths in the same period in the prepandemic years between 2015 and 2019 (28,080).

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Elections no guarantee against tyranny, says CJI

'Pandemic might yet be a curtain raiser to larger crises'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana on Wednesday said the mere right of the public to change the "ruler" once every few years by itself need not be a guarantee agains

"In the 17 general elections held so far, the people have changed the ruling party or combination of parties eight times, which accounts for nearly 50% of number of general elections. In spite of large-scale inequalities, illiteracy, backwardness, poverty and alleged ignorance, the people of Independent India have proved themselves to be intelligent and up to the task. The masses have performed their duties reasonably well. Now, it is the turn of those who are manning the key organs of the State to ponder if they are living up to the Constitutional mandate," Chief

Justice Ramana said.



Chief Justice N.V. Ramana

to the colonial period when law was used as a "tool of political repression". "I think any law backed by a sovereign must be tempered by certain ideals or tenets of justice," the CJI said. He was speaking at the 17th Justice P.D. Desai Memorial Lecture.

Chief Justice Ramana said it was time to pause and ask to what extent the rule of law was used to protect ordinary lives during the pandemic.

"I do not intend to provide an evaluation of the same. The Chief Justice referred Both my office and my temperament prevent me from doing so. But I began to feel that this pandemic might yet be a mere curtain raiser to much larger crises in the decades to come. Surely, we must at least begin the process of analysing what we did right and where we went wrong," the CJI said.

'Total freedom needed' The CJI said the judiciary re-

quires "complete freedom" to apply checks on governmental power and action. "The judiciary cannot be controlled, directly or indirectly, by the legislature or the executive, or else the Rule of Law would become illusory," the CJI underscored.

The CJI said it was imperative to start a discourse on the impact of social media trends on institutions. The Chief Justice said the amplified noise produced in social media was not "necessarily reflective of what is right and what majority believes in".

On the beat



Street hawks: Delhi police personnel patrolling the Laxmi Nagar market, which was shut down by the East Delhi administration till July 5 for not adhering to COVID-19 protocol, on Wednesday. • SANDEEP SAXENA

Delhi sizzles at 43.5°C, relief expected today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The heat wave continued in the Capital with the maximum temperature settling at 43.5 degrees Celsius, which is seven degrees above normal for the season. It is the highest recorded temperature this year so tar, warmer than 43 de grees Celsius recorded the

day before.

The Met Department has forecast some relief in the form of thundershowers on July 1. "Partly cloudy sky with possibility of thundery development...Maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be around 41 and 29 degrees Celsius,"

read the forecast. For July 2, the forecast shows partly cloudy sky with light rain at a few places. IMD said conditions are not favourable for the advancement of the southwest monsoon over Delhi for the next six-seven days. The normal date for the arrival of the monsoon in the city is June 27.

Nurses' union objects to 2-week training plan Notice to Twitter over pornographic content

Giving an injection requires 'sophisticated and advanced knowledge', states letter

STAFF REPORTER

The Federation of Delhi Government Nurses has written to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal protesting against allegedly "allowing" people, after a training of two weeks, to administer injections and also calling them "community nursing assistants".

On June 16, Mr. Kejriwal had announced that 5,000 persons will be trained to work as assistants to doctors and nurses and will perform the tasks assigned to them.

to inject medicines," the Delhi government said in a statement on Monday. 500 such assistants has alrea-

dy begun with an aim to tackle a possible third wave. "An injection is not just a quires a sophisticated advanced knowledge of human anatomy to avoid fatal consequences. It is also suggested that only trained nursing personnel be appointed for injection and vaccination for patient safety," the letter dat-

Jagdish Kulhari, the presi-



No easy job: A health worker administering a vaccine to a beneficiary in north Delhi on Wednesday. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

the development will be "disastrous" for people. '3- to 4-year course' ed June 29 read.

weeks? We nurses have to undergo three or four-year courses and the government is now going to teach these people anatomy and how to give injections in two weeks?" he said. The letter said there are

"thousands" of nursing personnel available in Delhi and waiting for a job. "Recently, many Delhi government hospitals like Indira Gandhi Hospital, Dwarka; LBS Hospital, Khichripur; Guru Gobind Singh Hospital, Raghuveer Nagar; advertised for contractual jobs through walk-in interviews. Thousands of trained nursing personnel reached there and the hospital administrations were not able to manage the situa-

Mr. Kulhari said the association has around 1,500 nurses from eight Delhi government-run hospitals.

The microblogging site said it will continue to fight online child sexual abuse STAFF REPORTER

The Delhi Police has sent a notice to microblogging site Twitter seeking details about the steps taken by it against circulation of child pornographic content on its platform, a senior officer said on Wednesday. He said the notice was sent on Tuesday.

The police have sought to know the steps taken by the Twitter officials concerned against child sexual abuse content on their platform and details of the accounts circulating such material.

Case registered The Delhi Police had regis-

tered an FIR against Twitter following a complaint by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR). The case was registered under relevant provisions of the Indian Penal

Twitter has a zero tolerance policy for child sexual exploitation and we have a proactive approach to combating sexual exploitation of minors on our service TWITTER SPOKESPERSON

Code (IPC), the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and the IT Act, the police said.

This comes days after NCPCR asked Deputy Commissioner of Police (Cyber Cell) Anyesh Roy to explain why no action had been taken against Twitter as per its letter to the Delhi Police dated May 29.

In its letter, the NCPCR had asked Delhi Police to

abuse material was easily available on its platform. For its part, Twitter said it has a zero tolerance policy for child sexual exploitation, adding that it will continue to invest in technology and

tools that are essential to stay

book Twitter on the basis of

its recent inquiry in which it

had found that child sexual

ahead of this issue. Replying to a query on the FIR against it for allegedly allowing access to child pornography on its platform, a Twitter spokesperson said: "Twitter has a zero tolerance policy for child sexual exploitation and we have a proactive approach to combating sexual exploitation of minors

The spokesperson added that the company has been at the forefront of responding to the evolving challenge of preventing the exploitation

on our service."

of children on Internet and will continue to aggressively fight online child sexual abuse. "We will continue to invest in proactive detection and removal of content that violates Twitter rules and work with law enforcement and NGO partners in India to tackle the issue," the spokesperson said. It added that all viewing,

sharing, or linking to child sexual exploitation material, regardless of the intent, contributes to the re-victimisation of the depicted children and is prohibited on the plat-

It further pointed out that in 2019, the company had launched a feature, in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs and NGOs in India to blacklist specific child sexual exploitation search keywords in Hindi, English, Bengali and Kannada.

mechanical process but it re-"The trainees will be taught how to measure oxygen, blood pressure and how The two-week training of

dent of the organisation, said

"The government is saying

that in two weeks these community nursing assistants will be trained for giving injections. They will be given a certificate after their training. But how can you train them to give injections in two

tion," the letter said.

Seven get bail in riots case

STAFF REPORTER

A Delhi court on Wednesday granted bail to seven accused persons in a murder case related to the north-east Delhi riots, noting that they "cannot be incarcerated till the conclusion of trial, which will take a lot of time and particularly considering the [COVID-19] pandemic".

Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat while granting bail to the seven accused persons directed them not to leave the NCR without prior permission of the court. The

court directed them not to tamper with any evidence or contact any witnesses.

"They shall attend the court on every date of hearing or as directed by court," it said, adding, "Immediately after their release, they shall intimate the local SHO concerned of their mobile number which they shall be using after their release"

The case related primarily to the murder of one Vinod Kumar near ICICI Bank in Brahmpuri on February 24 last year. In all, 12 persons are accused in the case.

One more held in R-Day violence case

Police face resistance from accused's family and neighbours

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A 26-year-old man who was wanted in connection with the Red Fort violence case was arrested by Delhi Police Crime Branch on Wednesday after being on the run for five months.

The accused, Buta Singh, had a bounty of ₹50,000 on his head. He will be taken into police remand after he is produced before the magistrate at Tis Hazari Courts. the police said.

DCP (Crime) Monika Bhardwaj said, "Our team received specific information about Buta Singh. A team was sent to Punjab which managed to trace him. Subsequently, a raid was conducted at his village in Talwandi Sobha Singh."

"Our raiding team faced strong resistance from his family and neighbours who tried to get Singh out of police custody. They tried to block roads with tractors. but with the help of local

police, our team finally managed to come out from the village along with the accused," she said.

Singh along with his associates was seen in a video in which they claimed to have hoisted religious flags at Red Fort, the officer said.

On January 26, thousands of farmers protesting against the Centre's new farm laws had clashed with the police and entered Red Fort during a tractor parade, some hoisted flags at the ramparts.

Cylinder blast kills four of family in Shahdara

Case against houseowner, kin for running 'illegal' business

HEMANI BHANDARI NEW DELHI

Four members of a family died while one survived following a cylinder blast in Shahdara's Farsh Bazar on Tuesday night. The blast happened in the adjacent room where a cylinder business was being run by the houseowner's relative.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Shahdara) R. Sathiyasundaram said that a case has been registered under Section 285 (negligent conduct with respect to fire or combustible matter), 304A (causing death by negligence), and 34 (common intension) of the Indian Penal Code against the houseowner and his niece "who run a gas, kerosene stove and small cylinder stoves repairing shop in the front portion of the house".

Nine fire tenders

Delhi Fire Services chief Atul Garg said the call was received at 12.12 a.m. and nine fire tenders were pressed into service.

Recalling the incident, surviving member Lal Chand (27) said that his mother Munni Devi (45), younger brothers Om Prakash (22) and Naresh (20) and sister Suman (18) were in their one-room rented accommodation and while the three had slept around 11.45 a.m., Lal Chand and his brother Om were using their phones. "Our mother asked us to sleep and I said okay. We kept the phone aside and a few minutes later, we heard the blast in the next room and within seconds.

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PH: 9820350726

THE HINDU

India's National Newspaper



Police outside the house where the cylinder blast took place on Wednesday. • SANDEEP SAXENA

there was fire all over. The wall of the front portion also

collapsed," he said. Lal Chand said he cried out for help a few times but the rest of his family members had lost consciousness. "I was near the window and was breathing into the glass which was finally broken by a friend who saved my life,"

The 27-year-old alleged that locals told him that the houseowner, who lives right opposite, had asked the family not to come out to avoid another possible cylinder blast," he said.

Neighbour to the rescue

Lal Chand's friend and neighbour Raj (30) said that he heard the blast and ran towards the house.

"I saw Lal Chand at the window and we immediately cut the window after which we pulled him out. His skin had come off and he had been burnt badly," said Raj, adding that the other three members had already died and one was breathing with

difficulty.

The police said that all were moved to Dr Hedgewar Hospital where they were declared dead due to suffocation followed by smoke inhalation. None of the deceased had burn injuries, they said.

Dividing wall

Lal Chand said that the house owner's nephew was running a cylinder business in the front part of their residence while they lived in the rear, only a wall dividing the two. Locals alleged that the business was running illegally.

An injured Lal Chand cried as he was the only surviving member in his family now. He had lost his father 11 months ago in a car accident in Kanpur when the latter was going to attend the last rites of his mother. "Now, I am all alone," he wept.

Lal Chand sells food on a cart opposite a mall in East Delhi. His brother Om Prakash worked at a shop nearby and Naresh worked as an insurance agent.

Labourers' death: kin blame contractor for not giving safety gear

Police yet to make arrests after filing case

HEMANI BHANDARI

tell to death at a Deihi Development Authority underconstruction site in Dwarka, family members of one said that he left behind a monthold son.

On Tuesday afternoon, four labourers who were on a lift at the site fell after it allegedly broke from the top. The police said that Panna Lal (50), Basant (29), and Mangla Prasad Singh (26) died and Surender Rai (48)

is undergoing treatment. At Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital's mortuary, Mangla's family waited for his body and said that they were told by fellow workers that no safety gear was provided.

Refuse to learn lessons "It's the contractor's fault. There was no head gear or any other safety gear. So many labourers have died like this but no lessons are ever learnt. We'll keep lying like

this," said Mangla's cousin

Manoj Singh. Mangla's elder brother, Pushpendra Singh said that the deceased got married a

year ago and the couple was blessed with a baby boy a A day after three labourers month ago. "Mangla had gone home to celebrate his child's birth. He came back to Delhi about 15 days ago and started working at this site, where he was also living," the brother said, adding that his wife and parents are not coping well after hearing the news.

Lift broke

"We have been told by other workers that the lift broke from the top. The entire negligence of this incident lies with the company who has the contract. They should take care of all the families who have lost their loved ones," said Manoj.

Pushpendra said that that he along with Mangla and their father worked as Prantiva Rakshak Dal officials in Uttar Pradesh but Mangla quit the job in 2018 to come to Delhi and earn more money. While Pushpendra also quit in 2020 because of low pay, their father Sita Ram Singh continues to be an official.

The police have registered a case but no arrests have been made so far.

Two arrested in Dwarka honour killing incident

Couple was shot at multiple times

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Six days after a couple were shot at multiple times in an alleged case of honour killing, the woman's cousin along with his friend has been arrested, the police

said on Wednesday. The police said that the accused have been identi-

fied as Vicky and Ritik. On the night of June 24, Vinay Dahiya and Kiran Dahiya were shot at multiple

The accused had conducted a reccee of the couple's house, a day before. The couple had eloped last year against the wishes

of their families and got

married in a court in Chan-

modation in Ambarhai vil-

lage. While Vinay died, Ki-

undergoing

is

treatment.

digarh. Both the families were against their relationship

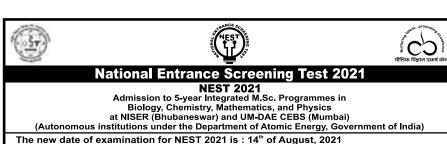
because the two are from times at their rented accomthe same clan. M ND-NDE

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PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT 'NOTICE INVITING TENDERS'

HIMACHAL PRADESH

Sealed item rate tenders on form 6&8 are hereby invited by the Executive Engineer, Palampur Division HP.PWD., Palampur on behalf of the Governor of H.P for the following work from the approved and eligible contractors enlisted in HP.PWD, (B&R) whose registration stood renewed as per revised rules and also registered under the H.P General Sales Tax Act 1968 so as to reach in his office on or before 10.08.2021 up to 11.00 AM. and the same shall be opened on the same day at 11.30 A.M. in the presence of intending contractors or their authorized representatives. The tender documents can be had from his office against cash payment (Non-refundable) on 09.08.2021 up to 4.00 P.M and the application for issue of tender form shall be received on 07,08,2021 up to

The earnest money in the shape of NSC/FDR/saving account of the Post office/Bank in H.P duly pledged in favour of the XEN must accompany with each tender. Conditional/incomplete tenders & tender without earnest money will be summarily rejected. The XEN reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders or drop the proposal of tenders without assigning any

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time Limit	Cost of form	
1.	C/O SCVB Govt. Degree College at Palampur (SW:-Providing and fixing Ornamental Gumti)	2,65,500/-	Rs. 5,350/-	Three Month	350/-	
2.	C/O SCVB Govt. Degree College at Palampur (SW:-Providing and fixing 35 NOs. of Parking benches etc.)	4,83,000/-	9,700/-	Three Month	350/-	
3.	C/O SCVB Govt. Degree College at Palampur (SW:-Providing and fixing Steel metal expended fencing in the parking etc.	1,52,578/-	3,100/-	Three Month	350/-	
4.	Special repair SCVB Govt. Degree College at Palampur (SW:-Providing and fixing Partion of half portion of class room No. 210 to creat three cabins (Aluminium) and other half of the portion will remain as class room)	1,31,219/-	2,650/-	Three Month	350/-	
5.	Special repair SCVB Govt. Degree College at Palampur (SW:-Providing and fixing Partion of half portion of class room No. 303 to create three cabins (Aluminium) and other half of the portion will remain as class room).		2,650/-	Three Month	350/-	

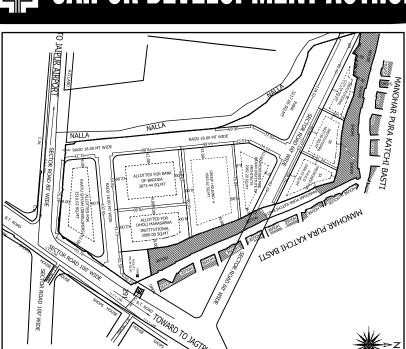
Terms & Conditions:-

Following documents should accompany the application for tenders.

- Valid copy of Registration
- Machinery will be of the contractor where required.
- Certificate regarding possession of machinery. Telegraphic/Fax tenders are not acceptable.
- The tender documents can be received by registered/ Insured post which should be received in this office on or before the date of opening of tende by 11.00 A.M positively.
- Contractor should have successfully executed two works of similar nature of 1/3 amount of estimated cost or similar single work of amount equal to estimated cost during the last preceding three years
- The Contractor will have to submit affidavit along with application for issue of tender that he has not more than two works in hand. Next tender will be issued only after completion of previous works in hand.

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Plot No. 5-C	1277.54	Inst.	2.00	Unified Building Bye	Within Set Backs	894,280.00	35,000.00	50.00	09/07/2021, 00:00 Hrs.	11/08/2021, 11:00 AM	12/08/2021, 12:30 PM
Plot No. 5-B	1627.59	Inst.	2.00	Laws	Within Set Backs	1,139,320.00	35,000.00	50.00	09/07/2021, 00:00 Hrs.	28/07/2021, 11:00 AM	29/07/2021, 12:30 PM

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The Communist Party of China (CPC) was born for the people, prospers due to the people, and be rooted in the people. The leadership of the CPC is the choice of history and the people.

The CPC was founded in July 100 years ago, It rallied and led the Chinese people to achieve national independence and liberation through 28 years of hard fight and sacrifice. From founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, launching reform and opening-up in 1978, to ushering in the new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics since the 18th National Congress in 2012. the CPC has led the Chinese people from standing up, getting rich to becoming strong, and created the brilliant prospects of rejuvenation.

The 100 years of the CPC witness a history of unremitting efforts and hard work, a history of theories exploration and a history of party building. Generations of CPC members forged ahead during the 100-year journey with hardships and triumph, blazed a path of rejuvenation towards a great modern country, and created remarkable miracles of development. Meanwhile, we are soberly aware that China remains the world's largest developing country. China's per capita GDP is still at the middle-income level. Unbalanced and inadequate development has become the main constraining factor in meeting the people's increasing needs for a better life.

The CPC is a political party that seeks happiness for the Chinese people and strives for the cause of human progress. The CPC and Chinese people go through trials and tribulations, and deeply appreciate the value of peace. China is committed to an independent foreign policy of peace. China grows not by expansion or colonial plunder, but through the hard work of its people. China's development offers a new option for other countries and nations who want to speed up their development while preserving their independence, and it offers Chinese wisdom and a Chinese approach to solving the problems facing mankind

The world is undergoing once-in-a-century changes and the COVID-19 pandemic. Facing the raging pandemic, China puts people and life first. We were the first country to bring the pandemic under control, carry out cooperation on pandemic response, resume work and production, and realise economic recovery and growth. Sticking to the spirit of solidarity and mutual help, China offers support and assistance to peoples around the world including India to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. To date, China has provided over 450 million doses of vaccines to nearly 100 countries. After the outbreak of the second

wave of the China was one to offer support lot of Chinese institutions materials to Cross Society 100 oxygen 40 ventilators Cross Society. incomplete exported more oxygen thousand thousand



of the first countries and take actions. A companies and donated medical India. The Red of China provided concentrators and to the Indian Red According to

pandemic in India.

statistics, China

than 1.3 lakh

concentrators, 10

ventilators, 110

thermometers and

H.E. Sun Weidong

masks to India from over 14.5 crore April to first half of May. China's government agencies actively provided facilitation and convenience for customs clearance and transport of the needy medical supplies from China. When India fought the second wave of pandemic, China was not absent or sat back apathetically. Our purpose is to save every precious life, and contribute to overcoming the pandemic by mankind at an early

President Xi Jinping points out that the overall goal of China's diplomacy is to foster a new type of international relations and build a community with a shared future for mankind. China is committed to peaceful co-existence with all countries, true multilateralism and to non-hegemony, non-expansion, nonalignment and non-coercion. World affairs should be handled through extensive consultation, and the future of the world should be decided by all countries working together. China never copies foreign models, nor export ideologies or ask other countries to copy China's practices. Instead, we advocate that all countries follow development paths that suit their own national conditions. All countries should respect each other and learn from each other without interfering in others' internal affairs. Looking into the future, no matter how the international situation evolves, under the leadership of the CPC, China will continue to stand on the right side of history. China will always be a builder of world peace, a contributor to global development and a guardian of the international order.

China and India are both ancient oriental civilizations shine brightly through exchanges and mutual learning. The essence of our bilateral relations is how the world's two largest developing countries get along with each other and pursue development and rejuvenation together. Both sides should take a long-term view and follow the right path towards mutual trust and cooperation between big neighbouring countries. We should respect each other, engage in equal-footed consultation, seek common ground while narrowing differences and enhance mutual trust, to promote healthy and stable development of China-India relations and benefit the two peoples. This is in fundamental interests of the two countries and also meets the common expectation of the

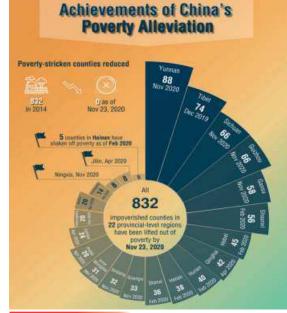
region and the international community. The centenary only ushers in its prime of life. The CPC is committed to composing a more splendid chapter in the new era. The CPC is leading the Chinese people to embark on a new journey of building a modernised socialist country. Based on the new development stage, China will follow the new development philosophy and foster the new development paradigm. We will work with all countries through consultation and cooperation for shared benefits, to jointly build a community with a shared future for mankind, and create a more prosperous and better world together.

China's Development and Contribution in the New Era

Since the 18th CPC National Congress, socialism with Chinese characteristics has been in a new era. Holding high the banner of socialism with Chinese characteristics and guided by Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, China has promoted its economic strength, scientific and technological strength, and composite national strength to a new level, and people's living standards and cultural caliber have improved significantly. The millennial expectation of a moderately prosperous society in all respects has become a reality. Socialist China has entered a new stage of development and embarked on a new journey to fully build a modern socialist China.

China is working to form a new development paradigm of "dual circulation" allows the domestic and overseas markets to reinforce each other, with the domestic market as the mainstay. China's GDP broke through the 100trillion-yuan (\$15.5 trillion) mark, achieving an increase of 2.3 percent in 2020 and became the only major economy that recorded a positive growth despite the impact of COVID-19. The annual GDP per capita surpassed \$10,000 for two consecutive years.

Reform & Opening up China has been continued to deepen reform and expand opening-up, and provide a better business environment for investment and the development of Chinese and foreign enterprises. In recent years, the number of restrictive measures has been reduced by nearly two thirds. Items on the 2020 negative list for market access shortened to 123 from 131 in 2019 and 151 in 2018. Up to now, China has set up 22 free trade zones. According to the World Bank's Doing Business 2020 report, China moved up by 15 places from the 2019 ranking to the 31st position among the 190 economies. China has signed 19 free trade agreements with 26 economies. China has 133 Chinese companies, the largest number on the world's top 500 companies list published by Fortune Magazine.



Poverty Alleviation On 25 February 2021, President Xi Jinping announced that a complete success had been achieved in China's fight against poverty. All of the 98.99 million impoverished residents in rural areas have emerged from poverty, and 832 counties and 128,000 villages have been removed from the poverty list under current standards. This means that China has made historic achievements in solving the problem of absolute poverty that has troubled the Chinese nation for thousands of years.

China has made steady progress in promoting new urbanization, with its population living in urban areas on the mainland totaling 901.99 million, which accounts for 63.89 percent of the total population. The proportion of the population living in urban areas was 14.21 percentage points higher than the figure for 2010. Between 2012 and 2020, the number of college graduates grew from more than 6.2 million to more than 8.7 million. Average life expectancy reached 77.3 years in China in 2019, which was up 0.96 years from 2015. After the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, China put people's safety and health first, led the people in building a solid defense line for containing the pandemic and achieved significant strategic results. China's railway operating mileage

CPC representative Dong Biwu

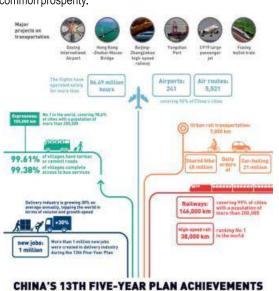
signing the UN Charter in 1945.



has reached 146,300 kilometers, ranking second in the world. Among them, the high-speed railway mileage is 38,000 kilometers, ranking first in the world.

Science & Technology China's spending on basic research nearly doubled during the 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016-2020). China took the first spot in 2020 among international patent applications for the second consecutive year, ranked 14th in the "Global Innovation Index" in 2020 as only middle-income economy in the top 30. China has made significant breakthroughs: Chang'e-5 marks a successful conclusion of three-step lunar exploration program of orbiting and landing, and bringing back samples; Shenzhou-12 manned spaceship successfully sent 3 astronauts to China's own space station core module Tianhe; The successful landing of Tianwen-1 on the Mars makes China the second country to land and operate a rover on Mars; The complete deployment of deployment of BeiDou Navigation Satellite System makes China the third country to have its own satellite navigation system.

Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy provides fundamental guidance for China's foreign policy in the new era, and clarifies to the world the general direction in which we hope to work with other countries. Under the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy, China is committed to peaceful co-existence with all countries, true multilateralism and to non-hegemony, nonexpansion, non-alignment and non-coercion. We will be committed to the mankind's common values of peace, development, equity, justice, democracy and freedom. We will work together unswervingly with the people of all countries to build a community with a shared future for mankind, and we will endeavor to build an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security, and common prosperity.



ON TRANSPORTATION

111111

China takes concrete actions to fulfill its responsibility in maintaining world peace, and is always committed to political settlement of hot-spot issues. Having participated in more than 30 UN peacekeeping operations, China has become the largest contributor of peacekeepers among the permanent members of the Security Council.

China has been the largest trading partner of more than 120 countries and regions, its total value of trade and exports both continues to rank No.1 in the global trade in goods. For over 10 years, China has contributed to more than 30 percent of global growth, playing as a major engine of global growth.

On Poverty Relief China has met the poverty eradication target set out in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 10 years ahead of schedule. Over the past 40plus years of reform and opening up, more than 700 million people in China have been lifted out of poverty, contributing more than 70 percent of the global poverty reduction. China has made a historic contribution to the cause of human poverty reduction by winning the battle against poverty, and has provided Chinese wisdom and a Chinese approach for global poverty reduction governance.



On Fighting COVID-19 China has actively carried out international cooperation to combat the pandemic and advocated building a human health community. As of May 21 this year, China has sent medical supplies to more than 150 countries and 13 international organizations, and provided more than 280 billion masks, 3.4 billion protective suits and 4 billion testing kits to the world. China has honored its commitment by providing free vaccines to more than 80 developing countries in urgent need and exporting vaccines to 43 countries. China has provided 2 billion U.S. dollars in assistance for the COVID-19 response and economic and social recovery in developing countries hit by the pandemic.

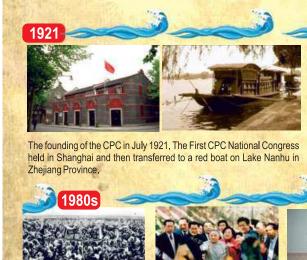


On Climate Change China has contributed to the conclusion of the Paris Agreement on climate change, and announced its targets for peaking carbon emissions before 2030 and carbon neutrality before 2060. The time span between these two targets of ours is much shorter than that in developed countries. China will increase its forest stock volume by 6 billion cubic meters from the 2005 level, and bring its total installed capacity of wind and solar power to over 1.2 billion kilowatts.





The 100 years of the CPC are a period during which it has stayed true to its original aspiration and founding mission, worked hard to advance its cause, and been groundbreaking for the future based on its achievements. Under CPC leadership, the Chinese people have achieved great victories in revolution, construction and reform, the Chinese nation has achieved remarkable transformation from standing up, growing rich to becoming strong, and realized the First Centenary Goal of completing a moderately prosperous society in all respects.





Deng Xiaoping visited On 1 July 1997 and 19 December 1999, the Chinese government Wuchang, Shenzhen, Zhuhai and Shanghai in 1992, pushing reform, opening up and modernization forward,

Mao Zedong and Zhu De led the

creation of the Jinggang Mountains

Revolutionary Base.



has been established today.

Jiang Zemin with Wu Wenjun (left), a top mathematician, and Yuan Longping (right), the father of hybrid rice, who are honored with the State Supreme Science and Technology Award in 2000





中国加入世界贸易组织基字技术

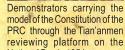
On 11 December 2001, China officially

became a member of the WTO and

embraced the world market,

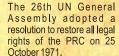






August 8 to 24, 2008.







in Beijing in 1972, marking the normalization of China-US relations.



On 29 November 2012, Xi Jinping first proposed and Hu Jintao announcing the elaborated on the Chinese opening of the 29th Summer Dream of National Olympic Games in Beijing from Rejuvenation.



On 28 September 2015 Jinping elaborated the concept of a human shared future,

CM YK

A procession of university

students in Tian'anmen Square

in Beijing with a banner

Hello, Xiaoping." in

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I SARASVATHY alias Kalyani W/O of No:13937556X Ex Nk, R Raju, cor-rected my name to R S Kalyani DOB:31/07/1958 vide affidavit dat-ed 28/06/2021 swom before notary S Ramesh, Chennai:600019.



about 6 to 8 year, wheatish brown complexion, height 3.8 feet, has been found at Punjab information regarding her family

Please contact Ms Glory, +91 70425 07487, for the same

THE PERSON INCHARGE. FLAG Children Home, Karol Bagh, Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to bring to the notice of general public that the following Three Original Documents belonging to (1) M/s. Ramprastha Realtors Pvt. Ltd Vasika No-1722, Regn. Dated 24/04/2006 pertaining to 2 Bigha 15 Biswa of Silvara (17/2 Acres) Village Gadoli Kalon Gurugram, (Sale Deed) (2) M/s. S.A Infratech Pvt. Ltd. (now know as Ramprastha Promoters and Developers Private Limited) Dated 24/07/2007 pertaining to 135 Bigha 5 Biswa 5 Biswansi Garagian (Agreement) and (3) M/s. Ramprastha Promoters and Developers Pvt. Ltd. (dated 05/07/2011 (Special Powers Pvt. Ltd. (dated 05/07/2011 (Special Power of Attorney in favour of Bluebell prophercy private limited) have been lost/misplaced that no person / entity should deal with, use or transact in any manner, on the basis of these original documents, and any person / entity in custody of the above said original documents or having any knowledge thereof is hereby called upon to contact the undersigned within 7 days of publication of this notice. Sdr- Janak Singh (Auth.), R/o Plot No.114, Sector-44, Gurugram, HR. M.: 9812510692

Amit Kumar Advocate PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Mr. Neeraj Paliwal & Ms. Manika are availing housing loan from LIC Housing Finance Ltd. Kaushambi Ghaziabad to Purchase the Entire First Floor without roof rights of Southern Side built up Property No. 7 area 100 sq. yd. in Block - C Khasra No. 262/258/217/4/3 situated at Village Bharola Colony knows as Adarsh Nagar on Gidwani Road Delhi from Ms. Sarita Garg who is the owner of said property by virtue to Sale Deed regd. on 11.06.2007 as per document no. 6410 in her favour. Ms. Sarita Garg has lost and misplaced the original Sale Deed registered on the original Sale Deed registered or 24.11.2005/05.12.2005 as per Document No. 921 and regarding which police complaint has als been lodged on 06.07.2012.

been lodged on 06.07.2012. If anybody finds the misplaced Original document the same may be returned to the LIC Housing Finance Ltd Kaushambi Ghaziabd, if anybody nisuses the same shall be at his/their own risk. anybody has any claim, right, interest in the sai property shall also inform within 15 days to th undersigned on Telephone No:- 0120-4164364 9891119161 & 9891119162 as applicant an

S.C. Varshney (LICHFL Panel Advocate) R-14/178, Raj Nagar, Ghaziabad-201002

Office of Executive Engineer **HPPWD Division Kotla Behar** Distt.Kangra01970-253516



HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

CORRIGENDUM

Some amendments in the online tenders invited vide this office letter No 1299-1310 dated 10.6.2021 are hereby made as under due to administrative

- 1. The online publication date and time will be 28.6.2021 at 1000 hrs instead of
- The document download start date and end date and time will 28.6.2021 at 1000 hrs upto 06.07..2021 at1700 hrs in stead 19.06.2021 to 26.6..2021 at
- The bid submission start date and end date and time will be 28.6.2021 at 1000 hrs upto 06.07.2021 at1700 hrs in stead of 19.06.2021to 26.6.2021 at
- 4. Date of Technical Bid opening07.07.2021 at 1130 hrs instead of 28.6.2021 at 1130 Hars

All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

Executive Engineer HPPWD Division Kotlabehar Distt Kangra H.P.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER TRANS. LINE MAINTT. **DIVISION 2ND PAMPORE**

J & K POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD.

NOTICE INVITING e-Bids

e-NIT No. TLMD II/ 16 of 2021 dt: 28.06.2021

On behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir UT online e-bids are hereby invited from experienced, reputed, competent and financially sound Indian manufacturers / Companies Firms / Joint Ventures / authorized dealers / contractors fulfilling eligibility and qualification requirements specified in the Bidding Document for "UP GRADATION OF 132 KV MIRBAZAR-WANPOH D/C TRANSMISSION LINE BY WAY OF REPLACING OLD 0.2 ACSR PANTHER BY AAAC 37/3.45 FOR PROVIDING SUPPLY TO NAVAYUGA QAZIGUND EXPRESSWAY PVT. LTD. FOR PERMANENT VENTILLATION AND

Name of the Work:-

HP/1909/21-22

DEDICATED POWER ELECTRIFICATION SYSTEM IN J&K UT ". Up Gradation Of 132 Kv Mirbazar-wanpoh D/c Transmission Line By Way Of Replacing Old 0.2 ACSR Panther By AAAC 37/3.45 Fo Providing Supply To Navayuga Qazigund Expressway Pvt. Ltd. Fo Permanent Ventillation And Dedicated Power Electrification System.

Estimated Cost:-

123.06 lacs Earnest Money:-

As per Govt. circular No. A/Misc(2018)-III-895/J Dated 22.12.2020 bidders are exempted from EMD. However Bidders will have to make a declaration on Stamp Paper of Rs. 100 that in case of any default on account of wrong declaration, submission of fake documents, hiding or concealing any information etc, the bidder will be blacklisted from participating in any of the future bids and the licensee of such bidder will be revoked for a minimum period o

three years Cost of bid document:- Rs. 2500/= (Non-refundable In the form of DD

Period of completion: 90 days Procedure for tendering:

- . The bidding documents can be downloaded from website www.jktenders.gov.in from 29.06.2021 10:00 hrs.
- The e-bids can be uploaded on website www.jktenders.gov.in from 29.06.2021 16:00 Hrs
- to 20.07.2021 upto 14:00 Hrs. The complete bidding process will be on line
- . The technical & commercial bids shall be opened on-line in the Office of Executive TLMD-I Pampore on 21,07,2021 at 14:00 Hrs or any other subsequent day convenient to tende
- Any other information regarding this tender (e-tendering process) can be had from the office of the Executive Engineer TLMD-II Pampore Kashmir.

DIPK-NB-1463/21

Executive Engineer TLMD-II Pampore

Timings DELHI

OBITUARY &

REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

Supervisor, Printing Dent.

The Hindu, Maraimalai Nagar

Passed away on 30.06.2021.

Address: 18A,Vijayalakshmi Nagar,

Mobile: 7299205042

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RISE 00:24 SET 12:46 SATURDAY, JUL. 03 RISE 05:28 SET 19:24 ► RISE 00:53 SET 13:40

max min Delhi City 44 28

44

43

Delhi Palam Today 42°C Heat wave condition likely with warm moderate winds and few clouds

Safdarjang

Palam

Delhi Palam Tomorrow <mark>40°C</mark> A hot day with partly cloudy sky. Duststorm and thunderstorm with light rain may occur at some places.

THEMAHINDU

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STAFF REPORTER

on Thursday.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) at-

tacked the BJP over allegedly rais-

ing different taxes and licence fee to

"harass" traders and said that the

party will launch a campaign to col-

lect signatures of traders against it

increased, trade licence fee has

been increased along with everyth-

ing else. Attempts are being made

to make the situation difficult for

"The commercial tax has been

Migrant workers trickle into the city with renewed hope

Dearth of jobs in the wake of pandemic has not dissuaded them from returning

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

After a second exodus in April when the Delhi government announced a lockdown due to the second wave of the pandemic, migrant workers have been trickling into the Capital as it unlocks with a renewed hope of finding employment. As the city roars back to life, transport hubs are teeming with people arriving by trains and buses every day. But for some, boarding buses back home is a bittersweet journey as their dreams of making it big in the city have been dashed due to lack of employment opportunities.

At the ISBT-Kashmere Gate Metro station, a long line of passengers meanders through the few spots of shade that provide relief from the summer sun. One of them is Roshan Singh

traders and merchants. The Aam

Aadmi Party stands in support of

the traders. In the COVID-19 situa-

tion, it is incorrect to treat the trad-

ers in this manner," AAP chief spo-

kesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj said.

wherein lakhs of traders will give

their signatures to raise their voice

against BJP's municipal corporation

and the increasing torture. After

this, in all the 272 wards, AAP work-

ers and councillors will take this

P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi. Ph. No. 011- 23968730; 23967889

campaign forward," he added.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

identify the deceased person, but no clue has come to light

Sex: Male, Age: 35 Years, Height: 5'3", Complexion:

If anyone has any information about his relatives, kindly

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

24.06.2021 has been lodged at Police Station,

Sarai Rohilla Railway Station. Identification of

Name: Unknown, Age: 30-35 Years, Height: 5'7",

If anyone has any information or clue about this male

Police Station, Sarai Rohilla Railway Station

Complexion: Shallow, Injury: Head Injury.

deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.

General public is hereby informed that

an unidentified male namely

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

Unknown was found on 24.06.2021

at 07:59 PM on K.M. Pole No. 15/29-

31 UP Line near Sultanpuri Flyover,

Delhi. In this regard DD No. 23A dated

The general public is hereby informed that

an unidentified person about 35 years of

age whose name, residence, and family is

unknown had been found dead at Ring

Road Opposite Hanuman Mandir Jamna

Bazar Kashmere Gate, Delhi. In this

regard, a vide has been registered with FIR

No: 353/21, dated: 25.06.2021 at PS

Kashmere Gate, Delhi. Sincere efforts

have been made by the local police to

Shallow, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Wearing: V

The description of the UIDB is as under:

inform the SHO/Kashmere Gate, Delhi.

unidentified dead body is as under:

striped shirt and black colour pant.

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in

Fax: 011-24368639

DP/1300/N/2021

Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641

"A campaign will also commence

AAP to launch campaign

against tax, licence fee hike



Migrant workers outside the Kashmiri Gate ISBT.

■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

from Zirakpur, who used to work at a shop in Sadar Bazaar. His employer terminated his services when the lockdown was announced. Back in the Capital hoping to find a job, Roshan says employment is hard to find but needs it to sustain his family.

First timers

While some are making a renewed attempt at seeking employment, there are first timers to the city as well.

Waiting to board a bus to Sonepat, Karthik Chaudhary from Uttar Pradesh says he is on his way to report for his first job as a security guard. "A friend of mine got me the job. I have completed my graduation but there are no iobs that I could find due to COVID-19. I am taking up this offer till I can find something better, he says." He says he has not been vaccinated, but hopes his employer will ensure that.

As passengers deboard with hope, there are others boarding buses with their belongings packed in jute bags disillusioned with what the big city had to offer them. "I was here right through the lockdown trying to find a new job. I did not leave as I had moved here from Bihar with my family. I am heading back now as I have not been able to find any employment. The contractor who had promised me a job says he cannot promise me anything. I will go home to my village and find something there until this uncertainty is over," says Ajit Kumar who works at construction sites.

Lucky ones

Ashutosh Mishra, a migrant worker from Bihar is at the ISBT terminal in Kashmere Gate to receive his family. He says he was lucky as he worked as a security guard at a factory that prints labels for medicines, and hence operational.

"But there are several others from my village who had to head home after losing iobs. Times are difficult. If there is another lockdown, we will head home but even if we can find a job and work for a month or two, we will be able to sustain our families," he says.

I-T notice to Atishi: AAP accuses BJP of stooping to another low

MLA dares BJP Ministers to make accounts public

STAFF REPORTER

The Aam Aadmi Party on Wednesday alleged that the BJP has stooped to another low in "vendetta politics" after an Income Tax notice was sent to AAP MLA Atishi for ₹59 lakh she has in fixed deposits and mutual funds.

The party said that baseless questions are being raised about Ms. Atishi's movable assets, fixed deposits and mutual funds.

"Whenever the I-T department calls me, however old information they may ask for, I'll bring all those documents with me because I have nothing to hide. It is my challenge to the BJP, just the way we are ready to make all our accounts and properties public, are BJP's Ministers also ready to do the same?" she asked.

AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj said that the I-T notice has been sent because in the election affidavit that Ms. Atishi submitted in 2020, she has declared that she has movable assets worth ₹69.79 lakh in the form of fixed deposits and mutual funds in her bank account.

"All the money in her FDs and mutual funds have been deposited before 2012. It is for your knowledge that Aam Aadmi Party was formed in October 2012. AAP's first government was formed in December 2013. In 2015, Atishi got a chance to work with the Delhi government wherein she used to work at the salary of ₹1 only," Mr. Bharadwaj said.

Ms. Atishi claimed since the AAP has been formed, the Centre has been using all its agencies to pester AAP MLAs, Ministers and leaders.

Victim card

Delhi BJP Spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said that AAP leaders have mastered the art of playing "victim card". "If any investigative agency issues a notice to any of the AAP leader, they all come together to raise hue and cry as if their colleague is being illegally harassed or victimised," he said.

He alleged that AAP leaders talk of high ideals, but the moment any government agency issues them any notice they all shout in frustration.

City sees 94 cases, 6 deaths; 'no Delta plus variant so far'

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The city reported 94 new COVID-19 cases over the last 24 hours, taking the total to 14,34,188 on Wednesday. Also, six fatalities were reported in a single day, pushing the total number of deaths to 24,977.

A total of 79,935 tests were done in a day and the test positivity rate (TPR) was 0.12%. Of the total cases, 14,07,832 people have recovered and there are now 1,379 active cases.

Genome sequencing labs Earlier this month, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had announced setting up of two labs for genome sequencing. On Wednesday, Health Minister Satyendar Jain said the two labs are being set up, one in Lok Nayak Hospital and the other in ILBS Hospital and they will be functional in a week. He further said that Delhi has not reported any case of Delta plus variant of COVID-19 so far, adding that there is no communication from the Centre to make any special arrangement to deal with it.

Vaccination buzz

A total of 2,03,035 doses were administered in the city on Tuesday, as per the vaccine bulletin. "Speed of the second dose of vaccination is increasing and more than 37,000 people got their second jab on Tuesday. Also, Delhi received four lakh Covishield doses on Tuesday, currently 7,64,000 doses are available... it will last three days at the current vaccination speed of 2 lakh people per day," AAP MLA Atishi said. Meanwhile,

Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said the Delhi government has set up four special COVID-19 vaccination centres to inoculate food and e-commerce delivery agents. "It is very important to protect delivery agents of services such as Zomato, Swiggy and Amazon against COVID-19. These people deliver our food or other articles to us daily," he said in a tweet.

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY INTERLOCKING OF LC GATES

E-TENDER NOTICE . Dt. 29.06.2021 Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, South East Central Railway, Nagpur, acting for and or behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for execution of work mentioned below. Sr. No. 1. Name of the Work: (1) Interlocking of LC Gates having TVU more than 20,000 at LC No. BK-2 (BTC-WRI section), GJ-2, GJ-3 (G-BRA section) in "E" route of Nagpur Division of SECR. (2) Interlocking of LC Gates having TVU more than 20,000 at LC No. GCF-2 (G-HDM section) in "E" route of Nagpur Division of SECR. Tender Notice No.: ST-6LC-INT-21. Approx Earnest Money: NIL (Obtain Bid Security Declaration in lieu of Bid Security). Completion Period: 8 (Eight) Months. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto 15.00 Hours on 19.07.2021 only. Manua offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offers received shall be rejected. **Note**: Al enderers have to get themselves registered in IREPS & procure DSC Digital Signing Certificate) for participating in e-tendering. Details are available on our website

www.ireps.gov.in. IP/22/45

& Managing Director, APCPDCL, Vijayawada with presentation of the above GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU

HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT Trichy (H) NABARD and Rural Roads, Circle TENDER NOTICE Tender Notice No. 01/2021-22/SDO/Dated:24.06.2021 For and on behalf of Governor of Tamilnadu Percentage Tender (Two cover System) will be received by the Superintending Engineer (H) NABARD & Rural Roads Circle

Providing of Prepaid Smart Meters to Government Offices

In line with the Scheme of Smart Meter National Program (SMNP), the APCPDCL proposes to Provide Prepaid Smart Meters to all the Government Offices in the Jurisdiction of APCPDCL One Lak

numbers (i.e., Krishna, Guntur & Prakasam Districts of A.P) to be completed by December 2022. Al

the interested manufacturers of Prepaid Smart meters and AMI/AMR Service Providers are invited to attend the interactive Session to be held on 12.07.2021 @ 11:00 A.M in the Chamber of The Chairmar

7 in respect of Trichy & Madurai (H) NABARD & Rural Roads Division upto 14.00 hours on 02.08.2021 through online only. Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from 08.07.2021 onwards in the Government web site http://tntenders.gov.in If any changes / Corrections etc in the tender, it will be published on the

Trichy for Upgradation of Panchayat / Panchayat Union Roads works Package No.1 to

above website only Superintending Engineer, (H) NABARD and Rural Roads Circle, Trichy. DIPR/1874/Tender/2021

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SEWERAGE & DRAINAGE DIVISION No:Ist SULIMAN COMPLEX DALGATE SRINAGAR **Notice Inviting e-Tendering**

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K State e-tenders are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. and other State / Central Government for the following

GIST of e-NIT No: 04 of 2021-22

S. No	Name of Work	Est. cost (Rs. In lacs) Including Departmental Supply	Cost of T/doc. (In rupees)	Time of completion In days	Class of Contract
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Laying of RCC Pipe 200mm dia Sewer incl. Manholes at Various spots of Rather Mohallla Nowshera & Adjacent Areas of Pilot Sewerage Scheme of Khushalsar		1300/=	2 Months	"A&B"
2	Laying of RCC Pipe 200mm dia sewer including Manholes at Tengpora Rather Mohalla, Pazwalpora Zoonimar and Adjacent areas of Pilot Sewerage Scheme of Khushalsar	33.96	1300/=	2 Months	"A&B"
3	Laying of RCC Pipe 200mm dia Sewer incl. Manholes at Various Spots near Gole Masjid Chanpora Zoonimar of Pilot Sewerage Scheme of Khushalsar		1300/=	2 Months	"A&B"
4	Construction of 200mm dia RCC Pipe Sewer line at Firdous Colony near IPS Dr. Ali Jan Road of Pilot Sewerage Scheme of Khushalsar		1200/=	1 ^{1/2} Months	"A&B"
5	Laying of 200mm dia Pipe Sewer at Tower Lane Tengpora Zoonimar Noor Nagar of Pilot Sewerage Scheme of Khushalsar		600/=	20 Days	"C&B"
6	Repair / Reconstruction of damaged cement concrete lateral drain at New Colony Aram Masjid near the House of		400/=	10 Days	"C&D"

ı	Gilulaii Mustala.								
IMI	PORTANT DATES:								
Α	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	24/06/20)21						
В	Period of downloading of bidding documents	24/06/2021 to 14/07/2021 up-to 5:00 PM							
С	Bid submission Start Date	24/06/20	21 from 5:00	PM					
D	Bid submission End Date	14/07/20)21 up-to 4:00	PM					
E	Date & time of opening of bids (online)	15/07/20	021 at 11:00 AM	√l or any o	ther conven	ient date.			

Tender Receiving Authority Executive Engineer S&D Division Ist Sulaiman Comple

Executive Engineer S&D Division Ist Srinagar

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RE-E- TENDER NOTICE

The Directorate of Sericulture, Assam, Khanapara, Guwahati-22 re-invites e-tendering in 2-bid systems from the intending manufactures / authorised dealers / Govt. registered firms for supply and installation of machineries of Multi-End Reeling unit and Twisting unit under North Eastern Region Textiles Promotion Schemes (NERTPS), funded by Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India. The machineries are to be supplied and installed in Darrang District of Assam. The tenders shall have to be submitted online in two bid system through the Govt. e-tendering portal www.

- 1. The Bids (both Technical and Financial) are to be submitted online in the website http://assamtenders.gov.in. Manual Bids will not be accepted.
- Scanned copies of original hard copies of financial instruments towards cost of Bid Document and Earnest Money Deposit must be submitted online.

Ph.: 011-28711697, 8750871308

The original copies of the Cost of Bid Document, EMD along with one hard copy of Technical Bids with all supporting documents for the purpose of physical verification must be submitted manually as specified in the bid documents as per bid schedule.

Detailed tender documents are available at www.assamtenders.gov.in

Important dates:

DP/170/RLY/2021

No..SDT.27/2018/103/3625

	Date of availability of Bidding documents on e-procurement portal	^{2nd} July, 2021 from 11.00 AM
2	Last Date & time for online bid submission	30 th July. 2021 upto 2.00 PM
3	Last Date & time for Hard copy submission	30 th July. 2021 upto 2.00 PM
4	Time & date of opening of bids	30 th July. 2021 upto 2.30 PM

Director Janasanyog /C/1546/21 Sericulture, Assam, Guwahati-22



Small doses

The first relief package for the second COVID-19 wave falls short of expectations

fter asserting that people should wait for the Union Budget's announcements to trickle down be-If fore seeking a fresh stimulus to cope with the second wave of the pandemic, the government finally unveiled a relief package of sorts this Monday. The financial implications of the measures, such as the promise of easy small-ticket loans for 25 lakh micro-entrepreneurs and 11,000 tourist agents and free tourist visas, have been projected at about ₹6.29 lakh crore by the Finance Ministry. Nearly ₹2.68 lakh crore of this is in the form of credit guarantees. A further ₹1.5 lakh crore of guarantees has been promised to add to the ₹3 lakh crore emergency credit scheme, but the scheme's tenure hasn't been extended beyond September 30. Similar backing has been announced for loans worth ₹60,000 crore to COVID-affected sectors, but only tourism has been publicly identified. Enhancing loan guarantees will perhaps give risk-averse lenders more confidence in extending loans when the credit:deposit ratio has hit a multi-year low. But there is little to make such loans viable by stirring demand for goods and services. Free visas are a good idea but are unlikely to gain traction till India has a firmer grip on the pandemic by providing vaccines for all, including for those under 18. Loans of ₹1 lakh to ₹10 lakh for travel agents may help meet some liabilities or expenses but won't make people take holidays. Just like last vear's ₹20 lakh crore package, the actual outgo from the exchequer this time is minimal and the direct stimulus to demand abysmal.

Additional spending of ₹15,000 crore to ramp up paediatric healthcare, with guarantees for ₹50,000 crore low-interest loans for health projects in the hinterland, are critical to cope with future pandemic waves. It makes sense to direct resources towards health and faster vaccination. But the inclusion of measures already announced (such as fertilizer subsidies and food grains for the poor), along with spends planned over the next two or five years, and even a ₹77.5 crore bailout plan for an ailing farm marketing firm, gives the package just extra padding. Investing time and resources to figure out some form of income support for the vulnerable sections in rural and urban areas would have been more helpful. Weak demand is a bigger concern for industry this year as high inflation, a propensity to save for future medical bills, and an uncertain job market have led to belt-tightening from consumers. If the government is hesitant about creating new doles for the fear of them becoming permanent features, it could have at least offered some immediate relief for all by addressing the elephant in the room high fuel prices. This would dampen inflation, empower RBI to lend greater support to growth and leave a little more money in people's hands to spend. While the effort to maintain fiscal restraint may impress global rating agencies, they would be among the first to acknowledge that there's a tipping point where policy inaction risks hurting the economy's long-term prospects.

Desert home

India seems to have warmed up to the UAE as a cricketing venue after earlier misgivings

The ICC Twenty20 World Cup's shift from India to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) was inevitable following recurrent waves of COVID-19 infections and the logistical difficulties of hosting an event featuring multiple squads. Over the last few weeks, the news first started as a source-based whisper before the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)'s top brass - President Sourav Ganguly and Secretary Jay Shah - spoke individually, clearly stating that India would host the championship in the UAE. Finally, the International Cricket Council issued a statement declaring that the tournament will be held from October 17 to November 14 with Oman stepping in as a co-host for the qualifiers. Once the BCCI scheduled the remainder of the Indian Premier League (IPL) in West Asia ahead of the T20 World Cup, it was no surprise that the premier championship too would follow suit. With its three grounds at Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah being in close proximity, the UAE cuts out the need for air travel, and teams can adhere to bio-bubbles in their respective hotels, an essential requirement in these fraught times of a constantly mutating virus. India hosted England earlier this year and the IPL too commenced this summer, but the pandemic's surge meant that the league had to be suspended while a second wind was sought in the desert sands prior to the T20 World Cup.

That for a year India paused its domestic cricket makes it all the more difficult for it to suddenly lend its weight to international fixtures at home. Now that the ambivalence has been shed, it is interesting to note the emergence of the UAE as a popular neutral venue. Fans of a certain vintage would recall past jousts at Sharjah lit up by the legendary exploits of stars ranging from Javed Miandad to Sachin Tendulkar. And then India stayed away for a while as talk about bookies and offfield corrupt influences surfaced. Meanwhile, terrorism-scarred Pakistan kept the UAE as its home venue as nervous rivals refused to land either at Karachi or Lahore. Since then, India has warmed up to the UAE as a cricketing outpost while Pakistan has found a few visitors willing to play on its turf. As a second host for the IPL, the UAE has always stepped forward and India had an instant solution for its T20 World Cup hosting crisis. After winning the inaugural ICC World T20 in South Africa back in 2007, India has suffered a title drought and there is a case for course correction. But before that, its dual units have to tackle six limited-overs contests in Sri Lanka and five Tests in England.

How the Chinese Communist Party endures

In large measure it is due to the party's ability to sum up the lessons of history and change course quite drastically, if required



itizens in China encapsulate the transformation of the country under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC) thus: under Mao Zedong, China 'zhan qilai (stood up)'; under Deng Xiaoping, China 'fu qilai (became rich)' and under Xi Jinping, China is well on course to 'qiang qilai (becoming powerful)'. Inevitably, the organisation that has steered this 'rise' and its ability to ride out a succession of domestic and external crises and yet emerge stronger and more resilient has been the cynosure of intense debates.

The CPC's longevity is due in large measure to its ability to sum up the lessons of history and change course quite drastically, if required. While the Mao, Deng and Xi periods are conventional markers to distinguish the shifts and departures over the past 70 years, it would be an error to assess China as if it was born in 1949. The *longue duree* is something the Chinese communists take very seriously. This analysis seeks to identify five major lessons that have guided the CPC over the course of the past century.

The birth of a new China

The first major lesson was drawn from the colonial era, when China was "carved up like a melon", and the humiliation heaped by the western colonial powers. The collapse of the Qing Empire in 1911 brought about the desired political revolution and China entered the comity of nations. The location of the CPC in the sensibilities and imagination of the Chinese people today cannot be understood without reference to what was actually

accomplished by the victory of the CPC first over the Japanese and then the Kuomintang in 1949. The Communist Party was on the right side of history. It fused the people with a collective purpose – the rejuvenation of China - and gave them a 'national' identity. With its ideology and superb organisational skills and the assistance of a lean but highly disciplined People's Liberation Army to power its sinews, the CPC combined the thousands of sparks that were simmering throughout the country into one big explosive social revolution, demolishing an entire social class. This was 'liberation' – not mere independence – and the birth of a new China, encapsulated in the popular post-1949 slogan, "mei you gongchangdang; mei you xin zhongguo (If there had been no Communist Party, there would not have been a new China)". Such a comprehensive political, economic and social destruction, as it were, is unparalleled in the history of modern revolutions.

This historical experience underpinned Mao's nationalist message on October 1, 1949: China had "stood up" and it would never let itself be humiliated again. It was not until well into the Deng period that the theme of humiliation was encountered less frequently, but the importance of standing up to external forces that seek to impose their ways has endured. Strong responses to any perceived attack on sovereignty (Tibet and Taiwan, for instance), the categorical rejection of anything that could be interpreted as a dilution of national interest or the determined pushback of attempts to impose or lecture about 'western' values are cases in point. The 'Wolf Warrior' diplomacy in recent times can be seen against that backdrop – the authority and power of the ruling elite in China can under no circumstances be undermined in the eves of its people.

The second signal lesson came out of the success of the Bolshevik



revolution in 1917. But Marxism had to be 'Sinicised' before it could be applied to the Chinese conditions. Mao took the revolution from the cities to the countryside and in the process, imparted to the Chinese revolution a populist character that the Bolshevik revolution did not have. The concept of 'Sinicisation' is essentially a tool for grounding any 'foreign' concept or idea in the Chinese conditions. It was seen in the post-1949 strategies of economic development and industrialisation when China rejected both the Soviet and the capitalist model. Over the years, the process of 'Sinicisation' has morphed into "socialism with Chinese characteristics". It is in this vein that Mr. Xi speaks about the need to adapt Marxism to China's modern requirements.

Lessons from Tiananmen

Political centralisation had inevitably come on the heels of the revolution, though the CPC under both Mao and Deng attempted to balance it with decentralisation. And then came the third historical lesson – out of the Tiananmen crisis of 1989. The simmering dissatisfaction stemming from the uneven impact of Deng's reforms and the problem of corruption in the CPC since the mid-1980s burst out in massive demonstrations and more critically, from the CPC's point of view, fostered a sense of solidarity among the students and workers. The demonstrations were crushed by a massive use of force. For Deng

achieve its economic objectives, it "could not afford chaos". Stability was accorded top priority and the nation's energies channelised into "getting rich", which has continued to be the chief plank of the CPC's governance after Deng down to Mr. Xi. Inevitably, that translated into clamping down on political freedoms, and centralising tendencies gained the upper hand. As ideology declines, the dependence on the organisation in holding the country together increases and makes imperative the need for a strong leader who can ensure that stability. This has reached unprecedented levels with Mr. Xi ensuring that every unit of political, economic, social and cultural organisation in China is not only juxtaposed with the CPC but also functions within the parameters set by the party.

The fourth lesson stemmed from the defining structural transformation of the post-World War II international order - the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the collapse of the Socialist bloc in 1991. The rejection of the Stalinist period by the Soviet Union under Mikhail Gorbachev was highly problematic; as Deng told his comrades, you cannot and must not deny your history. Recall the official assessment: "Mao was 70% right and 30% wrong". But more importantly, it underscored the necessity of a strong party-state and its firm control over the market forces. Over the years, this has only been affirmed with greater

Finally, we have a slew of lessons spilling out since China decided to dispense with its 'low profile' in foreign affairs. The People's Republic of China (PRC) has donned the mantle of a great power with aplomb - it thinks like a great power and to that extent, it will follow the logic of power in its dealings with the world. The aftermath of the pandemic provided Mr. Xi with the opportunity to demon-

the lesson was that if China was to strate that the PRC is a responsible major power. The world's response and acceptance are mixed. The CPC would do well to reflect on the lessons that need to be drawn about the reactions to its assertiveness

Costs of success

Bringing nearly 800 million people out of poverty is an amazing achievement, whichever way you see it, but it has come with huge domestic costs. China is one of the most unequal societies in the world today. Its unprecedented growth has created unparalleled environmental challenges spilling beyond its borders. Rapidly shrinking state welfare packages have made the increasing population of the elderly more vulnerable. And it is struggling with a disturbing gender imbalance. There are certainly many lessons here as Manoranjan Mohanty's book, China's Transformation: The Success Story and the Success Trap, points out, about how not to grow.

It is more important than ever to understand the nature and power of this organisation; its strengths and weaknesses; its ability to capture the imagination of the people – and interestingly, the youth. It has refuted prognostications of its demise with its capacity for reinventing, regenerating and renewing its compact with the people, strengthened, among other things, by its ability to continue learning from history. The world is dealing not merely with a nation state but with an authoritarian party-state that foregrounds its civilisational culture - and at its helm is an organisation that is steering the country towards its own tryst with destiny. It remains to be seen whether the CPC is still on the right side of history, but the party is by no means over.

Alka Acharya is Professor of Chinese Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University and Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. Views are personal

An attempt to silence the film fraternity

The proposed amendments to the cinematograph law will prevent film-makers from making certain kinds of films



an we remain silent when there is a proposal to muzzle our society's voice of creativity and reflection? I have always believed in the power of cinema to transform society and I still do. The belief stems from my personal experiences as a film-maker and I have also seen first-hand what it is to defend one's constitutional rights. The recent action of the Central government is one such. I am referring to the draft Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2021 for which the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has asked for opinions before presenting it to Parliament.

The draft Bill

My icon, M.K. Gandhi, failed to realise the full potential of cinema and so did E.V. Ramasamy. Imagine if righteous people like them had taken cognisance of this platform? The power of this medium

has made me what I am today. Cinema is an auteur's medium. But it is also the voice of the people and hence the voice of the institution of democracy. Now the Central government is keen to seize that voice of democracy by a single act of Parliament.

Cinematograph draft (Amendment) Bill proposes to add a proviso to sub-section (1) of Section 6 of the Cinematograph Act to grant revisionary powers to the Central government to direct reexamination of films that have already been certified for public exhibition. This is done predominantly with a view to empower the government to interfere and influence the independence of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) in certifying films and, more dangerously, to reopen records of already certified films.

It is pertinent that we understand the present scenario to clearly perceive the excess of the proposed amendment. While the current censorship rules are archaic and redundant and we have been crying ourselves hoarse to abolish the same, inviting artistes to be their own censors, the amendment to provide for revisionary powers to any government



after certification is a step further back. This amendment comes close on the heels of the government's decision, in April 2021, to abolish the Film Certification Appellate Tribunal. Consequently, the only resort available now to any film-maker who is aggrieved by a decision of the CBFC is to approach the relevant High Court which would be too expensive and time-consuming film-makers.

Through this amendment, the Central government has sought to usurp powers that are held to be "unconstitutional" by the Supreme Court of India. Portions of Section 6(1) of the principal Act were held to be unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in *Union of* India v. K. M. Shankarappa (2000). The Court held that "Section 6(1) is

is one of the basic structures of the Constitution".

Revisionary powers

The impression that the Central government is trying to create now is that it is powerless to act against complaints received. I had the experience of a State government acting on a complaint and an imaginary scenario. I did showcase my film before its release to my brethren who expressed their apprehensions even after the Censor Board certified it. The imbroglio created over the film's supposedly inflammatory nature led to the closing of doors of theatres in my own State, all due to political machinations. It is that avenue which this amendment opens out to any government to use its revisionary powers, which it anyway

The government is well empowered to act against complaints received, by submitting itself to judicial review against decisions of the CBFC granting certification, instead of trying to impose executive excess, which was the core principle laid down by the Supreme Court through its order. The Central government seems to have ma-

a travesty of the rule of law which nipulated and manoeuvred this situation since the Tribunal has recently been struck down.

The draft Bill will only restrict freedom of speech and put a gag on the film fraternity, preventing film-makers from making films on bad governance, social evils, and so on. Further, any executive authority may be emboldened to ban films based on frivolous petitions of groups with vested interests or fringe groups.

In this age of the Internet, every person is more than a mere soapbox orator. The government is aiming to silence its people. All those who trust and are invested in liberty, equality and fraternity should voice their protest. If temporary myopia is the problem of certain sections of the media and other political parties, then the Makkal Needhi Maiam and I will become the torchbearer.

The time to rally is now, since the government has invited comments from the public till July 2 before the Bill is taken to Parliament. Acts once passed will affect generations to come.

Kamal Haasan is a film-maker and artiste and President of the Makkal Needhi

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.

Feeding the migrants

The Supreme Court has rightly put the onus of feeding the migrants on the government ("Ensure that no migrant worker goes hungry, SC instructs govt.", June 30). The pathetic condition of the migrants following the lockdown last year is well known. Only a small band of selfless volunteers and organisations offered them help. This is never going to be enough. And it is, after all, the government's responsibility to ensure the welfare of the migrants. ANTHONY HENRIQUES,

That the Court slammed the Labour Ministry for its "unpardonable apathy" in not completing the work of the National Database for Unorganised Workers is

quite a strong judicial indictment. It is hoped that the government which failed to monitor the implementation of the court's directives of 2018 will do so at least now. Those responsible for this "unpardonable" failure to set up the migrant database should also be pulled up for dereliction of duty. While migrant labourers contribute immensely to developmental activities in India, at sites far away from their homes, they are voiceless in the absence of any recognised collective association that can bargain with their employers for the betterment of their working conditions. The Labour Ministry must encourage the formation of such labour unions. S.K. CHOUDHURY,

A dangerous trend I wish to highlight the trend

of extending the tenures of heads of various government bodies and bureaucratic arms ("Kant's tenure extended," June 30). While it is obviously convenient to let the officer continue, especially if he or she continues to be in the good books of the ruling party, it is not desirable from the perspective of encouraging merit and building the morale of officers. The silence of the establishment is deafening no senior bureaucrat has condemned this dangerous trend. It is obviously unfair to those in waiting as they end up losing their chance of occupying higher posts. The convention of an age limit is also ignored. This implies that some people

are irreplaceable, which is

hardly a defensible point in such a large country. Extensions should only be given as exceptions and that too for not more than a single term. Else, this trend only encourages conformism and a culture of meritocracy and the morale of senior officers will continue to be in peril. SUNIL KUMAR K.,

University rankings Demanding transparency in the process of the university ranking system is different from discrediting the same ("The trouble with rankings", June 30). There cannot be any dispute that the world needs an objective, quantifiable and verifiable system or systems to compare the work of

various universities to

enable students and teachers to make an informed choice and for other important purposes. Though the present systems of ranking are not without their shortcomings, they are serving the purpose at least to some extent. There is always room for making improvements in the criteria based on which the rankings are arrived at. Criteria such as 'citations', 'peer review' and 'research publications' are important yardsticks, but they can be

made more rigorous by introducing the factor of 'quality of research'. With regard to judging the universities from the social perspective, this may be suitably integrated into the ranking system. It can be made one of the criteria with appropriate weightage. KOSARAJU CHANDRAMOULI, Hyderabad

MORE LETTERS ONLINE:

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS: It is Sputnik V vaccine: A front-page graphic titled "One more joins the battle" (June 30, 2021) had erroneously called it Sputnik B while listing the other vaccines available.

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INTERVIEW | MONTEK SINGH AHLUWALIA

India's 1991 liberalisation leap and lessons for today

The reforms were hugely successful but a lot remains to be done, says one of the architects of the transition

VIKAS DHOOT

Three decades after India embarked upon the path of economic liberalisation, Montek Singh Ahluwalia, one of the key figures of the reform process, former Deputy Chairman of the erstwhile Planning Commission and currently Distinguished Fellow at the Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP), discusses in an interview with The Hindu the transition of the Indian economy, what remains to be done, and the road ahead after recovery from the slowdown induced by the CO-VID-19 pandemic. Edited excerpts:

How would you describe the evolution of the economy since 1991?

■ The reforms were aimed at unleashing the energies of the private sector to accelerate economic growth and to do so in a manner that ensured an adequate flow of benefits to the poor. They certainly succeeded in this objective.

The full benefits took time to materialise because a gradualist approach was adopted - entirely understandable in a democracy - but the results are dramatic if we look at a longer time frame. The GDP growth averaged 7% in the 25 years from 1992 to 2017, compared with an average of 5% in the preceding ten years and 4% in the preceding 20! And as growth accelerated, poverty declined. Between 2004-05 and 2011-12, the last year for which official data on poverty are available, about 140 million people were pulled above the poverty line. This is not to say that there were no shortcomings. Some of the reforms begun in 1991, especially in the financial sector, have yet to be completed. We have not done as much as we should have in the health and education sectors; environmental concerns have not been adequately built into our development strategy.

In his book, *Confessions of a Swadeshi Reformer*, former Union Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha has said that a lot of the blueprint for the liberalisation was already on the table when the Narasimha Rao government took charge. Could you give us a glimpse of that period and what were the key changes being worked out before the change of the regime?

■ I have written on this subject in my book *Backstage*, but let me attempt a brief encapsulation. To get a glimpse of the period, one should consider the main features of the control system before the reforms and see how it restricted entrepreneurship.

The private sector was not allowed to invest in a number of sectors thought to

be critical for development. The socalled "commanding heights" were reserved for the public sector despite its lacklustre performance. Where the private sector was allowed, it could invest only after getting an industrial licence, and that was especially hard to get for "large" industrial houses. Over 860 items were reserved exclusively for small-scale producers, including many that had very high export potential. Imports were more strictly controlled than in almost any other developing country because it was felt necessary to conserve scarce foreign exchange. Consumer goods simply could not be imported so domestic producers faced no import competition. Producers could import capital goods and intermediates needed for production, but this generally required an import licence. This was given only if the government was satisfied that the import was essential and domestic substitutes were not available. Finally, the import of technology was controlled and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) was discouraged.

It was clearly not a system geared to encourage enterprise or innovation. I am reminded of George Santayana's much-quoted words: "Those who forget history are doomed to repeat it." Since most of the population today has no recollection of the control system we had earlier, I hope it will serve to ensure that we never slip back to these absurdities.

Efforts were made in the 1980s to liberalise the system but these were incremental changes. The system itself remained in place. By 1990, it was clear that drastic change was needed. I had the opportunity to prepare a paper outlining a core set of industrial and trade policy reforms, combined with exchange rate reform and reforms in the public sector. This paper, dubbed by the media as the 'M Document', generated a great deal of controversy, but several people supported the need for these reforms. Around that time, the Ministry of Industry under Ajit Singh (newly returned from the United States) proposed bold liberalisation of industrial li-



The government's decision to stay out of the RCEP went against the Prime Minister's earlier positive signal of moving from "Look East" to "Act East"

cencing, but he was opposed by the Finance Ministry under Madhu Dandavate, and only a watered-down version

was announced. As Commerce Secretary in the Chandra Shekhar government, I started working on trade policy reforms along the lines suggested in the 'M Document', including bringing in Eximscrips, as a first step in moving to a flexible exchange rate. In April 1991, Dr. Manmohan Singh, who was then Adviser to Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar. delivered the convocation address at the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore, where he outlined what he thought were the key reforms needed. It included many of the suggestions in the 'M Document' and went beyond them.

In other words, the ideas that finally went into the reforms were on the table before 1991. But they had not been approved politically. It was the P.V. Narasimha Rao-Manmohan Singh duo that implemented them in 1991. The fact that the economy was in a crisis helped, but their success is also due to the fact that there was a well-thought-out policy package to implement.

Even so, it was not easy. Both the Right and the Left opposed the reforms. The Congress party itself had many who were not convinced. Indian businesses were also conflicted. They liked domestic liberalisation, but were unhappy at the entry of foreign competition, both through imports and FDI.

Some pending factor market reforms, in areas such as labour and land, remain hanging. Are they not holding up investment?

■ Yes, these are key pending items. The need for labour market reforms was recognised, but it was thought that we should first get the industrial, trade and

financial sector reforms to show positive results and take up labour market reforms later ... In a meeting with businessmen in 2006, PM Manmohan Singh was asked about labour market reforms. He said ... if we could get the economy to grow at 10%, it would be easier to persuade labour. We did grow at over 9% for a few years but persuading labour proved to be difficult.

On the land market, I must admit that it was not on our agenda. One reason is that land is a State subject and the Centre had enough on its plate. In the UPA [United Progressive Alliance] years, it did get involved in land acquisition because this was an area with a lot of agitation and allegations of heavy-handedness. Unfortunately, the resulting legislation introduced too many conditions, which could greatly delay the process.

India progressively lowered import tariffs from an estimated 57.5% in 1992 to 8.9% in 2008, but this trend has been reversed over the past few years. While this appears to be in line with rising protectionism globally, can India afford to do this if it wants to play a greater role in world trade?

■ I feel the reversal of a trend that was followed by several governments, including the NDA [National Democratic Alliance] government under former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, is unfortunate. It will hamper our stated ambition to become part of global supply chains. Indian industry has legitimate complaints about poor infrastructure, poor logistics and time-consuming trade procedures, which reduce its competitiveness. But the solution lies in addressing these problems directly, not in raising import duties, which will only raise costs in the economy.

I also fear that once the government signals a willingness to raise duties to help individual products, it will encourage a flood of demands that will be difficult to resist. The government should engage with Indian industry and other experts to come to an agreement on what the average level of duties should be and how it should be reduced over time. The NITI Aayog under its first Vice-Chairman, Arvind Panagariya, had recommended that we should move to an average duty rate of about 7%, gradually narrowing the range of variation across products and eliminating duty reversals. This is the right approach.

Should we revisit our stance on the RCEP [Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership] even as we try to re-engage with markets such as the United States, the United Kingdom, the European Union and Australia for free-trade pacts?

■ I was surprised by the Centre's decision to stay out of the RCEP. It went against the Prime Minister's earlier positive signal of moving from "Look East" to "Act East". I assume that there was lobbying from those who fear that the Indian industry would not be able to compete against China, a member of the RCEP.

As I have already mentioned, the Indian industry has legitimate complaints about things that make India uncompetitive, and these must be addressed directly. The reduction in tariffs required under RCEP was to be accomplished over several years, giving ample time to take the steps needed to improve our competitiveness. As far as unfair competition from China is concerned, the solution lies in a faster method of imposing anti-dumping duties on China, not raising import duties across the board. We should note that geopolitics is forcing major countries to reduce dependence on China. India cannot expect to replace China, but it can reasonably expect to become a major player in non-China-dominated supply chains. RCEP membership would help as it will reassure partners that trade policy will not be arbitrarily changed.

As for Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with the U.S., Europe and the U.K., we have traditionally preferred trade liberalisation in a multilateral forum, but major developed countries seem to be moving away from multilateral negotiations. Working on agreements with important groups bilaterally seems to be the only hope for assuring market access. However, such FTAs will involve more give and take, including on contentious issues such as intellectual property rights and bilateral investment protection, and we must be willing to accept that.

The spectre of jobless growth was a matter of great debate in the UPA years. Did the situation worsen post-UPA even before the pandemic, which of course has led to severe income and job losses?

■ Employment was a matter of concern during the UPA period, but it had some positive features. The period was the first time we saw a fall in employment in agriculture ... but it was accompanied by sufficient growth in total employment in non-agriculture sectors, so that the labour displaced from agriculture

was absorbed in non-agriculture. Total employment actually increased...

The post-UPA period before the pandemic has been analysed in a recent study by Santosh Mehrotra and Jajati K. Parida. They find that the substantial slowdown in GDP growth after 2016-17 led to employment actually falling from 474 million in 2011-12 to 469 million in 2018-19. Employment in agriculture continued to decline, reflecting a normal structural change, but unlike the UPA years, non-agricultural employment grew much more slowly. So, open unemployment increased. The problem was most severe among the youth, who experienced unemployment of 18%.

The COVID-19 pandemic has of course triggered a collapse in employment. According to provisional National Income estimates, GDP contracted by 7.3% in 2020-21. Many analysts say this underestimates the contraction as the adverse impact on the informal sector is not captured. In any case, a sharp fall in the GDP is bound to lead to a contraction in total employment, and we are seeing that in the data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy.

What do you think should be the priorities looking ahead?

■ The economy is clearly recovering from the contraction induced by the pandemic, but how quickly it will recover is uncertain. Much depends upon whether we are hit by a third wave, and more importantly on how severe it is. The priority now must be to get the vaccination coverage expanded as soon as possible. This will create conditions conducive to a return to normalcy.

However, recovery will only take us back to the 2019-20 level ... If we only go back to the pre-pandemic growth rate of around 4% to 5%, we will get little respite on the employment front or on reducing poverty. Past experience shows that we need to get back to 7% to 8% growth if we want to make progress on poverty reduction and provide enough jobs for our growing labour force.

Once the pandemic is brought under control and we are back to the 2019-20 level of production, the government would be well-advised to take a hard look at what caused the slowdown before the pandemic, and then come out with a clear statement of a set of mutually supportive policies that will counter these forces and lead to higher growth and higher employment. It should also come out with a target for post-pandemic growth.

(Read the full interview at https://bit.ly/MontekSingh)

Reimagining examinations

Disruptions caused by the pandemic call for innovative and holistic methods of assessment

N. ARUNACHALAM

For students, empowerment and acquisition of knowledge begin when they are properly evaluated in an appropriate examination system through a process that provides immediate results and success.

The online pattern of examination should not only judge intellectual development, as is prevalent in the present-day examination system, but it must also test the holistic development of students. It is the responsibility of every academician and authority to find the ways and means to conduct online examinations with reliable standards amid the COVID-19 pandemic. To successfully complete examinations during this period, constructive strategies, particularly in the online mode, should be employed, rather than calling for the cancellation of exams.

The Supreme Court had stated last year that students in higher education cannot be promoted without writing the final-year or terminal semester examinations, and a directive to the University Grants Commission (UGC) had said the States cannot promote students based on internal assessment or past performance. The court made it clear that the States could, under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, postpone finalyear or final-semester exams, but they did not have the power to direct universities to promote students based on prior performance, as students' assessment was the prerogative of the UGC. The UGC rules clearly stated that a degree cannot be granted without examinations.

Inclusive ways

It is now mandatory that final-year semester examinations should be conducted either online, offline, or a combination of both methods. Therefore, a new examination pattern should be crafted. It must include the assessment of educational objectives of understanding, critical and independent thinking, problem-solving ability, reflective thinking, skill development, and application of knowledge. In other words, a revised system should assess analytical and

application skills, rather than mere knowledge in a given time slot. This would enhance the quality and competence of students.

To restrict copying, answer scripts may be assessed using plagiarism software. With technological tools, monitoring and supervision of students during online examinations is not a difficult task. Many of the world's leading universities, some premier Indian institutes, and a few State universities conduct examinations online efficiently and fairly through suitable tools.

Looking for alternatives

An alternative approach may be open-book examinations – it allows students to refer to textbooks or other source material while answering questions. Students are provided with questions before sitting for the exam, and they can even complete the test at home. This will help counter rote learning, which pervades the current examination system, while also sensitising students to real learning and analytical and application skills. Open-book examination is a well-accepted concept in many countries around the world.

Last week, the Supreme Court directed States that have cancelled Class 12 examinations of their respective Boards to spell out their assessment plans. It has also cleared the evaluation criteria proposed by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) for their Class 12 examinations

Testing the knowledge gained and the presentation of that is the essence of education. As Jiddu Krishnamurti said, "It is not that you read a book, pass an examination, and finish with education." Criticism should be accepted constructively in order to frame an innovative examination system. It is the foremost responsibility of policymakers and educationists to tackle the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. N. Arunachalam is Professor of Lifelong Learning, Journalism and Mass Communication at Alagappa University



DATA POINT

South stands apart People in the South of India tend to be more religiously integrated and less opposed to interreligious marriages, data from a nationwide survey conducted by the Pew Research Centre show. Though people from the southern States are equally, if not more, religious than citizens in other parts, relatively fewer of them consider theirs to be the "one true religion". For instance, 62% of people from the South go to places of worship at least once a week, which is more than the share in Central, Eastern, Western and Northeastern parts. About 57% wore religious pendants, higher than all regions except Central India (58%). However, only 37% of them, the least among regions, thought it was important to stop women in their community from marrying into another religion. By **The Hindu Data Team**

STARK CONTRAST | The southerners were more liberal when it came to dietary restrictions. Relatively fewer of them considered a person to be not Hindu if they eat beef, or a person to be not Muslim if they consume pork. People from the South also had more "close friends" from outside their religion and caste circles compared to persons from other parts of India. About 75% of Hindus residing in southern India said they would accept a Muslim as a neighbour -- a stark contrast to all other parts of India. Importantly, education played a role in people's religious beliefs. Religious opinions of the college-educated varied sharply from those who did not attend college

% of Indian adults who said	North	Central	East	West	South	North east	Less than college	College graduate
Religion is very important to them now personally	86	92	88	87	69	86	85	80
My religion is one true religion	40	55	41	44	26	47	42	33
Their close friends are the same religion as them	40	58	51	45	29	52	46	34
They would be willing to accept muslim as a neighbour (answer sought from Hindus)	56	46	51	62	75	34	56	63
It is very important to stop women in their community from marrying into another religion	74	86	72	70	37	56	69	54
All of their close friends are members of the same caste	22	24	31	24	17	45	25	17
It is very important to stop women from marrying into another caste	72	83	64	67	37	51	65	50
Hindus who said a person cannot be Hindu if they eat beef	83	83	79	68	50	74	72	72
Muslims who said a person cannot be Muslim if they eat pork	72	92	76	71	63	74	77	83
It is very important to be a Hindu in order to be truly Indian	57	78	57	55	39	33	58	48
It is very important to speak Hindi to be truly Indian	62	85	53	52	27	40	56	48
They go to places of worship (at least weekly)	70	45	37	59	62	54	52	55
Have an altar, shrine or religious symbol in their home	81	86	77	88	76	67	81	83
They generally wear a religious pendant	53	58	53	40	57	34	53	48

Methodology | Pew interviewed 29,999 individuals across 29 States and UTs. Persons from all major religions, speaking at least 17 different languages across all age groups (excluding children), were included in the sample. The survey was conducted between November 17, 2019, and March 23, 2020.

The Man Phindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 1, 1971

Soyuz cosmonauts return dead

[Moscow, June 30] The three Soyuz cosmonauts died to-day under mysterious circumstances while returning to earth, turning their record-setting 24-day space odyssey into the worst tragedy in more than a decade of spacefaring by man ... The cosmonauts whose tragic end plunged the world in sorrow were Lt. Col. Georgi Debrovolsky, Flight Engineer Vladislav Volkov and Test Engineer Viktor Patsayev.

... The trio, who had been in space for more than three weeks, separated from the Salyut orbital station last night for the return to earth. The return flight was going according to plan when radio contact was lost after the ship's braking system for re-entry to the atmosphere was switched off. Soyuz-11 was slowed down by the atmosphere and the parachute system put into operation before landing. The soft engines were fired according to plan and the craft landed smoothly in the preset area...

A helicopter-borne recovery crew, who landed simultaneously with the Soyuz-11, opened the hatch and found the three cosmonauts in their seats, with no sign of life.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 2, 1921 (ARCHIVES FOR JULY 1, 1921, WERE NOT

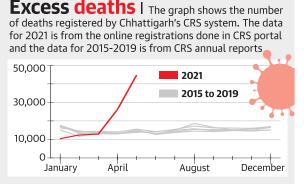
Women's suffrage

Mrs. D. Jinarajadasa writes :-

The fact of the enfranchisement of the women of the Madras Presidency has now become known to the world and messages of congratulation are coming in, many of them being received by the Women's Indian Association, which, being an organisation linked to the International Societies, forms a link between the women of India and the women of the rest of the world. The message that we very much value and appreciate is that from Lady Constance Lytton, the daughter of the late Viceroy of India, who for many years did the most splendid work in England for the enfranchisement of the women of that country and devoted herself absolutely to the cause of freedom and progress of women. She writes: "Please offer the women of South India my most heartfelt congratulations on their winning the Vote – that is if there is an assembly to receive such congratulations ... I am thrilled by your splendid letter about it and it seems like a dream the way the experience in our own Island has borne wonderful fruit."

FROM PAGE ONE

Chhattisgarh's excess deaths 4.8 times toll



The month-wise figures between 2015 and 2019 were sourced from the CRS' an-

If instead of averages, a year-by-year growth rate of deaths is considered, the State's 71,142 registered deaths in April-May 2021 were 2.2 times higher than the estimated 31,842 deaths. In this approach, the underdown from 4.85 to 4.4. However, estimating the undercount using the averages method would suit Chhattisgarh as the growth in deaths over years is not consistent.

It is important to note that the excess deaths calculated are a conservative estimate given the low death registration levels of the State.

First, only 81.5% of deaths were registered in 2019, lower than 26 of the 36 States/Union Territories. This contrasts with death registration numbers in States such as Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala which were 100%, according to CRS 2019. Chhattisgarh's registration numbers are however higher than that of Bihar (51.6%) and Uttar Pradesh (63.3%)

Secondly, the registered deaths in April-May 2021 were based on only 24-32% of the registration units which reported fatalities online during the two months. Whereas the figures from 2015-2019 were based on the CRS annual reports which had collated information from all the registration units. Thus, the actual deaths that occurred in April-May 2021 may be three times higher than reported and so the undercount factor may also increase substantially from 4.8 to about 10.

The registered deaths in the last two months could also be higher because in Chhattisgarh only 76.4% of deaths are registered within 21 days of death, a number that is lower than States like Punjab (98.9%), Himachal Pradesh (92.1%), West Bengal (91.7%), Andhra Pradesh (91.4%), Tamil Nadu (90.9%) among others. This could also increase the number of excess deaths and its multiple over the actual COVID-19

death toll. By way of comparison, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh's excess deaths were 43 and 31.4 times the official COVID-19 tally for April and May 2021, but online registration of deaths in the two States were 97.65% and 100% according to CRS

Questioned about the excess deaths and the undercount factor, Chhattisgarh Health Minister T.S. Singh Deo said they are "completely open to any data presented by anyone".

"We are absolutely open to add anyone who died due to corona but are not in the list. There is no question of suppression," the Minister said. "Even if the data says that it is [actual deaths] 4 times more than the reported deaths. Even if it is 10 times more, we are open to that." However, he said that low levels of deaths registration in the CRS was not possible. He added they had been consistently updating the figures whenever the media pointed out.

Minister of Planning, Economics and Statistics, Amarjeet Bhagat, said the deaths could be high because of the second wave but could not confirm the exact fatalities.

Yogesh Jain, who is a public health physician in rural Chhattisgarh and associated with Sangwari, a rural health NGO, expressed surprise at the undercount. The government here has no reason to modify the numbers, he said. Dr. Jain said that during a lockdown the number of deaths in general declined due to restriction of movement.

The undercount factor during the first wave could not be analysed as the annual CRS report for 2020 has not yet been released and the number of units which reported deaths in the online portal were very low during the period. Also, the undercount factor for 2021 was a smaller multiple (3.6) for a similar reason. The excess death figure and the undercount factor will be revised when data from all registration units get recorded.

(With inputs from Shubhomoy Sikdar)

Drones, flying toys banned in J&K district after attacks

The order directed all those in the district who possessed such gadgets to deposit them with the local police station. Government agencies using drones for surveys and surveillance should inform the local police station incharge and the

executive magistrate. It

warned of action against those who violate the order. On Monday, the Army

said two separate drone activities were spotted over Ratnuchak-Kaluchak

In Kashmir, police sources said at least two drones were seized since Monday.

No leadership change in Karnataka: Vijayendra

He reiterates BJP high command's view

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BJP State vice-president B.Y. Vijayendra on Wednesday sought to make it clear that the party's central leadership had ruled out any change of leadership in Karnataka till the end of the term of the current

He told presspersons in Mysuru that BJP national secretary Arun Singh, who is in charge of Karnataka, had praised Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa's administration

while making it clear that he would continue at the helm for the remaining two years of the term of the Assembly. He replied in the affirmative when asked if the campaign for change of leadership was a "closed chapter."

Mr. Vijayendra, who is Mr. Yediyurappa's son, said there was no need to attach any political significance to visits by BJP MLAs or Ministers to New Delhi. "There is no bar on anybody visiting the national capital...there is no need to lend a political colour to the visits."

Farmers and BJP workers clash at Ghazipur border, six injured

Each side holds the other responsible for the 'planned' fracas on the expressway

ANUJ KUMAR

Farmers and the Bharatiya Janata Party workers clashed at the Ghazipur border on Wednesday. Each side held the other responsible for the fracas in which at least six BIP workers sustained minor injuries and around two dozen cars that were part of the party cavalcade damaged.

BJP district president Sanjeev Sharma said he and 300 party workers were waiting on the Delhi-Meerut Expressway to welcome Amit Valmiki, the newly appointed general secretary of the party's Uttar Pradesh unit, who was travelling from Delhi to Bulandshahr.

'Black flags'

"Suddenly, around 30-40 members of the Bharatiya Kisan Union jumped the dividers and started showing black flags. We didn't mind black flags but when they started damaging our vehicles, we asked the police to intervene," said Mr. Sharma.



BJP workers show a sword on a damaged vehicle after a clash with farmers at Ghazipur border on Wednesday. •PTI

He added he saw BKU workers donning their green caps and some Sikhs among those who attacked their vehicles. "It was a planned protest as they had come prepared with black flags on sticks and swords," claimed.

"As there were many members of the SC-ST Morcha at the spot to welcome their leader [Amit Valmiki], they lodged a complaint with the police," he added.

Farmer groups described it as yet another planned attempt of the ruling party to disrupt their peaceful movement against the agriculture reform laws.

'Slogans against farmers' 'The workers of the ruling party were beating drums and raising slogans against the ongoing farmers' movement since morning. They had been trying to provoke workers tried to climb on our stage, farmers pushed them back," said BKU national spokesperson Rakesh Tikait, adding they would lodge a complaint with the police. "If they want to come on our platform, they should leave the BJP first," he added.

Farmer leader Jagtar Singh Bajwa also described it as an attempt to discredit their movement. "Those who were part of the welcoming party themselves damaged their vehicles and put the blame on farmers," he alleged. Anshu Jain, Circle Officer,

Ghaziabad, said the police had to intervene. "The injuries were not of serious nature and some vehicles were damaged when the cavalcade moved ahead from where police were present. The claim of the farmer groups that BJP workers were trying to climb on their stage seems far-fetched as two lanes of Expressway

'Centre's digital agri proposals raise concern'

91 groups send feedback to govt.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Centre's digital agriculture proposals raise concerns of exploitation of farmers, data protection and consent, mismanaged land records, exclusion of landless cultivators and the corporatisation of agriculture, according to 91 organisations which sent in their feedback to the government on Wednesday. They also demanded that the Centre stop implementation of the pilot projects being rolled out in partnership with tech and retail giants including Microsoft, Amazon and Patanjali.

The Centre published a consultation paper on an India Digital Ecosystem of Agriculture (IDEA) on June 1, and sought public feedback by the end of the month. The 91 organisations, which include some of the farm unions groups protesting against three farm reform laws at Delhi's borders as well as digital rights advocates, urged the government to extend the deadline to translate the

document into other languages in order to hold meaningful consultations with farmers. They noted that there is no farmer representation in the task force which brought out the proposals or in the governance framework of IDEA. The organisations said it

was important to bring the benefits of digital technology to farmers, but emphasised that such digital infrastructure should be owned by the government, not private corporates. They alleged that the current model is more focussed on using the government's existing databases and geared towards corporate revenue models, rather than ensuring that farmers' needs and interests are considered. "The proposition of a "farmers' database" based on digitised land records will lead to problems and exclusions, given the seriously flawed condition of the digitised land recordsand their failure to capture the information of actual cultivators and those operating the landholding," said their letter.

Google removed 59,350 posts in April

In first transparency report under new IT rules, firm says it got over 27,700 complaints from users

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Google removed 59,350 pieces of content from its social media platforms in April last, following over 27,700 complaints received from individual users in India, according to the company's maiden monthly transparency report.

The report follows the Information 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.

Govt. must

correct its

mistake: Rahul

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Former Congress president

Rahul Gandhi on Wednes-

day said the Supreme

Court had given the Union

government an opportuni-

ty to rectify its mistake by

directing it to pay compen-

sation to the kin of all those

tunity to the Modi govern-

ment to rectify its mistake.

At least now the govern-

ment should provide relief

to the victims by fixing the

right amount of compensa-

tion. This is an important

step in the right direction,"

Earlier, in the day, a

Bench led by Justice Ashok

Bhushan held that the Na-

tional Disaster Manage-

ment Authority (NDMA) -

headed by the Prime Minis-

ter as its ex officio chairper-

son – had failed to perform

its duty and gave six weeks

to fix the guidelines for fix-

ing the ex gratia compensa-

the Congress party's stance

and the demand raised by

Rahul Gandhi for the crea-

tion of a COVID Compensa-

tion Fund and grant of Rs.

10 Lakh to every COVID-19

victim by the Central Go-

vernment by transferring

10% of the annual 'Fuel

Loot' of Rs. 4 Lakh Crore

being collected by the Go-

vernment of India," Con-

gress chief spokesperson

Randeep Surjewala said in

ed the government on high

taxes imposed on petrol

and diesel by tweeting with

the hash tag #TaxExtor-

Mr. Gandhi again target-

a statement.

"This is a vindication of

he tweeted.

tion amount.

"SC has given an oppor-

who died of COVID-19.

Safe search

Google published its first monthly transparency report in accordance with the new IT rules in India. Highlights from the report



■ About 96% of the complaints received were related to issues

■ 59,350 pieces of content were removed from its social media platforms in April

■ The new rules require social media platforms with more than 50 lakh users in India to publish a compliance report every month, plaints received and action taken

The platforms also need to mention the number of specific communication links or parts of information they have removed or disabled access to, following proactive monitoring conducted by using automated

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Wed-

nesday left it to the "wis-

dom" of the National Disas-

ter Management Authority

(NDMA) to fix the amount of

ex gratia to the families of

those who lost their loved

liefs and priorities, including

COVID-19 preparedness, mi-

tigation, prevention and re-

Earlier, a Bench of Justices

Ashok Bhushan, Vineet Sa-

ran and M.R. Shah pulled up

the NDMA for failing in its

duty to recommend ex

Justice M.R. Shah, who

authored the verdict, said

covery.

In an emailed statement, a Google spokesperson said the company has a long history of providing transparency into the different types of requests it receives from around the world, and how it responds.

All of these requests are

tracked and included in the company's existing Transparency Report since 2010.

"This is the first time we will publish a monthly transparency report in accordance with the new IT Rules, and will continue to publish more details as we refine our reporting processes for India," the spokesperson stated.

As per the report, the company received a total of 27,762 complaints from individual users located in India via designated mechanisms and relates to third-party content that is believed to violate local laws or personal rights on Google's significant social media intermediary (SSMI) platforms, including YouTube. This data also includes individual user complaints accompanied by a court order.

About 96% of the complaints received were related to issues of copyright, followed by trademark (1.3%), defamation (1%), legal (1%), counterfeit (0.4%) and circumvention (0.1%).

"...When we receive complaints from individual users regarding allegedly unlawful or harmful content, we review the complaint to determine if the content violates our community guidelines or content policies, or meets local legal requirements for removal. The figure...shows the total number of removal actions taken during the one month reporting period," it

arecanut smuggling case

date." said an order by a

five-judge Bench.

searches at 19 locations in a case against unknown Central Excise and Customs officials and others for allowing the smuggling of substandard betel/arecanuts of Indonesian origin, leading to Customs Duty evasion of about ₹15,000 crore annually. The searches were carried out in Nagpur, Mumbai and Ahmedabad, on the premises of private persons, including proprietors or partners of importing firms and customs house agents.

TRAI's new tariff order

The Bombay High Court on

Wednesday upheld the constitutional validity of the New Tariff Order (NTO) by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), except for two pricing conditions. A Division Bench said the a la carte rates of each pay channel forming part of bouquet shall not exceed three times the average rate of the pay channel bouquet of which the channel is a part. The second condition is that the sum of a la carte rates of pay channels forming part of a bouquet shall in no case exceed 1.5 times the rate of the entire bouquet of which

Modi government helped Patanjali get loans: Cong.

alleged that the Narendra Modi government helped the Patanjali group buy out an insolvent company by arranging loans from public sector banks. At a virtual press conference, Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera alleged that Patanjali group, led by yoga guru Ramdev, bought Ruchi Soya for ₹4,350 crore. "The Prime Minister and the government cannot continue to support these capitalists and businessmen

ones to COVID-19, while considering the recommendafuse to pay ex gratia to victions in the 15th Finance The court was unimtims once it had declared a Commission Report and pressed by the government's phenomenon as a "disas-A relative mourning the loss funds required for other re-

'It's up to NDMA to fix ex gratia amount'

SC unimpressed by govt. argument that COVID-19 is a 'continuous disaster'

of a dear one recently in Visakhapatnam. • K.R. DEEPAH

judges should be wary while delving into economic and fiscal regulatory issues, but in this case, the Supreme Court was "absolutely justified" to intervene as the NDMA had failed in its duty.

"Nothing is on record that any guidelines/decision has been taken by the National

recommending Authority guidelines for the minimum standards of relief in the form of ex gratia assistance on account of loss of life of a person who has died due to COVID-19... the beneficial intent of the legislation [Disaster Management Act] cannot be frustrated," the judgment

argument that COVID-19 was a "continuous disaster" whose trajectory cannot be

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta had contended that a one-time monetary compensation to victims would not help now. Besides, funds need to be channelled into public health, vaccination, treatment, food, economy,

predicted.

"State may have its financial constraint and its priorities in expenditure, the law does not permit any government to deprive its citizens of constitutional rights on a plea of poverty," Justice Shah stated the position in law.

The court said the government could not simply re-

The court, meanwhile, directed that death certificates of COVID-19 victims should show the "exact cause of death." As regards insurance and social security claims of the pandemic-affected, the court ordered the Union of India to take "appropriate steps" in compliance with the 15th Finance Commission Report.

'Big tech firms should be accountable'

Social media platforms should be held answerable to national laws: Jaishankar

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE

Big tech companies that harvest data of Indians should be held accountable, said External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar at an interaction with former U.K. Prime Minister Tony Blair at the India Global Forum 2021.

Answering a question, he pointed out that countries had responded "nationally" to an international problem like the current pandemic. He urged the world to come together to deal with the dif-

fering approach to vaccines. "Right now a big debate on big tech is going on in different parts of the world, in-



cluding a vigorous one in India. Nobody denies that these are forces of progress that are taking us in directions and opening up new vistas that we could not have

ic society we have to ask ourselves, big tech is there in my life, but where is the responsibility [of the big tech]? You have a huge power but where is the accountability," the External Affairs Minister stated. Whether to hold big tech

imagined. But in a democrat-

companies accountable was being viewed as a "governance issue and a democratic issue" by some. International relation was created to include states but the role of "non- state players who are in some ways bigger than many states" needed to be "seriously debated".

former of non-compliance of national laws. Mr. Jaishankar hinted that social media platforms should be held answerable to national laws. "This is not an issue limited to India. They harvest our data as they do across the world. So you have in a sense

have added to the ongoing

tussle between Twitter and

the Government of India

(GoI), which has accused the

the opposite of the American revolution. You have representation but no taxation," he stressed, arguing that these issues should be taken up in a discussion that he described as a "very legitimate The Minister's remarks debate".

Excess deaths I The graph shows the number

nual reports.

count factor slightly comes

Conservative estimate



Narada case: HC allows affidavits from State

KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court on Wednesday allowed applications of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Law Minister Molov Ghatak and the State of West Bengal seeking submission of affidavits in Narada case. "We allow the affidavits... However, the same shall be subject to payment of token cost assessed at ₹5,000 for each, to be deposited with the State Legal Services Authority within a week from

CBI conducts searches in NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of

Bombay HC upholds MUMBAI

the channel is a part.

NEW DELHI The Congress on Wednesday

babas at the expense of the exchequer," he said.

IN BRIEF



'Implement Inter Caste Marriage Act in J&K'

SRINAGAR President of the All Party Sikh Coordination Committee Jagmohan Singh Raina (in the photo) on Wednesday demanded implementation of the Inter Caste Marriage Act in Jammu and Kashmir to stop interfaith marriages. "If the anti-conversion law is implemented, it would stop the forcible conversion of people belonging to any religion whatsoever," Mr. Raina said at a press conference in Srinagar.

2 militants killed in Kulgam encounter

Two militants were killed and a soldier was injured in two separate incidents in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday. The police said the militants were killed in an operation at Chimmer area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district. Violence was reported on Wednesday in Narbal area of Budgam district after the killing of Lashkar-e-Taiba 'commander' Abrar Nabi in the Maloora encounter on Tuesday.

149-year-old capital shifting ends in J&K

The 149-year-old biannual tradition of shifting capitals between Srinagar and Jammu, by moving hundreds of official files physically in trucks on the treacherous Jammu-Srinagar highway, came to an end on Wednesday. The administration served notice to employees to vacate the 'Darbar Move' related accommodations in three weeks in Jammu and Srinagar.

India flags 'green pass' issue

Reciprocal restrictions for EU countries barring Indian entry, say sources

SUHASINI HAIDER

India took issue with the European Union's plans to institute a "green pass" from July 1, with government sources warning that India will introduce a "reciprocal policy" only allowing ease of travel for those European countries that recognise Indian vaccines Covishield and Covaxin.

The latest twist to the controversy of the European Union's Digital Covid Certificate came a day after External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met with his EU counterpart High Representative Josep Borrell Fontelles.

In a tweet after the meeting, Mr. Jaishankar indicated that he raised the issue of possible restrictions on Indian travellers in the EU if they do not have one of four vaccines approved by the European Medicines Agency (EMA), which include the



India will allow travel for those European countries that recognise Indian

European-made AstraZeneca vaccine but not the Indian-made Covishield by the Serum Institute of India (SII) or Covaxin by Bharat Biotech.

"We have requested EU Member States to individually consider extending similar exemption to those persons who have taken COVID-19 vaccines in India, that is,

Covishield and Covaxin, and accept the vaccination certificate issued through the Co-WIN portal," a source said on Wednesday.

"We have also conveyed

to EU Member States that India will institute a reciprocal policy for recognition of the EU Digital Covid Certificate," the source added, making it clear that only citizens of those countries in the 27member grouping who make exemptions for travellers inoculated with the Indian vaccines would be given an exemption from mandatory quarantine on arrival in

Letter of protest

The government's statement, made through officials who did not wish to be identified, came even though the European Union had issued a detailed clarification, denying its plan was discriminatory. The African Union had also issued a letter of protest over the EU proposal saying that it promoted "inequality" for those from India and "lower-income" countries for whom the Covishield vaccine was the "backbone" of the international COVAX alliance programme.

The EU had also explained that SII had not applied for the requisite permissions with the EMA, and had promised to consider its case as soon as it applied. However, New Delhi now appears to be taking the position that the EMA must conthe Indian-made vaccine by accepting the Co-Win certificate, regardless of the applications. The government's stand is especially significant since while Covishield has received World Health Organization authorisation, Covaxin is yet to be cleared by the global health body.

Modi meets Council of **Ministers**

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi cautioned his Council of Ministers that the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic still loomed large, urging them to ensure vaccinations in their areas on a war footing and "put in all efforts to prevent a third wave".

The Prime Minister met the Ministers on Wednesday for a meeting that went on for more than four hours. NITI Aayog official V.K. Paul made a presentation on the COVID-19 situation in the country at the meeting.

"The Prime Minister said that it wasn't enough to just procure vaccines and have a stock, Ministers must campaign to end vaccine hesitancy and see that more and more people are vaccinated," said a Minister present at the meeting.

Delimitation panel to visit Kashmir

It will interact with politicians, officials

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI/SRINAGAR

The Delimitation Commission chaired by Justice Raniana Prakash Desai (retd) on Wednesday decided to visit Jammu and Kashmir from July 6 to 9 "to gather firsthand information and input concerning the ongoing process of delimitation" of Assembly seats, the Commission said.

The Commission, which includes Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and J&K Election Commissioner K.K. Sharma, decided to visit the Union Territory and interact with political parties, public representatives and administration officials, it said.

Valuable suggestions

"The Commission expects that stakeholders will cooperate in this endeavour and will provide valuable suggestions so that the task of delimitation is completed

timely." An EC source said the Commission would visit Srinagar and Jammu, and if need be also other parts of the Union Territory to interact with registered political

The source said the data collection process was com-

parties.

The source said there was a need to look into considerations other than population as factors on the ground had changed since the last delimitation in 1995.

For instance, there were many constituencies that had been split over multiple tehsils, the source said. The geographical, administrative and accessibility factors would be taken into account as well.

AAP leaders attacked by mob in Gujarat

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders in Gujarat were allegedly attacked by a mob of about 60 people in a village in Junagadh district from where the AAP leaders were passing through during a campaign tour on Wednesday. Several workers received minor injuries while one was seriously injured in the violent attack when a mob launched an assault with iron pipes on the Toyota Fortuner vehicle in which the AAP leaders were travelling.

"AAP leaders Isudan Gad-

havi, Mahesh Savani and others were attacked when their car was intercepted by a mob equipped with iron pipes and sticks," said the AAP statement in Gujarat.

"If people like Isudan Gadhvi and Mahesh Savani are being attacked openly in Gujarat then no one is safe in Gujarat," Delhi Chief Minister and AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal said that in a tweet after the incident.

The AAP Gujarat media coordinator Tuli Banerjee claimed that the "BJP organised the violent attack" on the AAP leaders in Junagadh

Sidhu meets Priyanka, Rahul

'Ex-Minister's role in revamped PCC ahead of Assembly poll figured in the talks'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Former Punjab Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu, who has been leading a public battle against Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, on Wednesday had a closeddoor meeting with former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi and party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

The meeting with Mr. Gandhi, where Ms. Vadra was also present, lasted for almost an hour and a half but neither Mr. Sidhu spoke to the media nor did the Congress issue any state-



Punjab Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu with party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ment. But the leaders are said to have discussed Mr. Sidhu's role in the revamped Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) ahead of the next

year's Assembly polls.

Mr. Sidhu's meeting with the former Congress chief in the evening was facilitated by a marathon meeting bet-

ween him and Ms. Vadra at the latter's house in the morning. In the middle of her meeting, Ms. Vadra playing the role of an emissary - drove down to her brother's residence to brief Gandhi on her discussions. "Had a long meeting with

@priyankagandhiji," Mr. Sidhu tweeted along with his photograph with Ms. Vadra.

Congress president Sonia Gandhi too visited Mr. Gandhi's house in the afternoon but it wasn't known if it was a private visit or to discuss the Punjab situation.

Lalu likely to address RJD's foundation day

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad is likely to address the party's silver jubilee foundation day on July 5 in Patna.

Party leader and younger son of Mr. Prasad, Tejashwi Yadav told party leaders and workers, "the time to come is yours".

Rashtriya Janata Dal chief is currently recuperating from various illnesses at the residence of his elder daughter and party Rajya Sabha member Misa Bharti in New Delhi.

E.U. may offer vaccines to Bhutan

The doses will allow the country to complete its second round of inoculation

SUHASINI HAIDAR NEW DELHI

Days ahead of a deadline to complete Bhutan's COVIDvaccination programme, the European Union has stepped in to help supply the muchneeded half a million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine, officials confirmed to The *Hindu*. The vaccines will allow Bhutan to complete its second round of inoculation. India, which had provided enough vaccines for the first round, failed to export the next batch due to the pandemic surge in April, when its Vaccine Maitri programme was suspended.

"The E.U. and its Member States are actively pursuing concrete options through the EU Civil protection mechanism [for Bhutan]; decisions will be taken in the coming days," a E.U. official said on Wednesday. It is un-



Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck overseeing measures to contain the spread of COVID-19. • REUTERS

derstood that the E.U. has agreed to coordinate supplies from its member countries and is now helping negotiate the paperwork with AstraZeneca to allow those countries to re-export their surplus stocks of AstraZeneca's Vaxzevria to Bhutan. The E.U. is also coordinating the logistics including air transportation and cold-

chain requirements for the early transfer of doses.

Bhutan has been running against time in its quest for vaccines, as the prescribed gap between the first and second doses at 16 weeks, runs out in mid-July. In addition, the distribution to the remotest corners is likely to take a further 10-11 days, just as the first round in March

did, when doses reached 93% of the eligible adult population of 5,30,000. Bhutanese officials, who

welcomed the E.U.'s decision to activate its civil protection mechanism to procure the vaccines from countries who could spare them, said India too played a role by putting in a "good word" with countries well-disposed to assist. In particular, the countries who have agreed to send the supplies are those whose vaccine stocks had not expired, nor were they required for their domestic use. Like a good friend, India has been very helpful in helping to mobilise vaccine donations from friendly countries," the official said, adding that they are 'hopeful' that the E.U. donations will reach Thimphu by next week, so that they reach recipients in time.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA GROUND WATER DEPARTMENT NATIONAL HYDROLOGY PROJECT E-TENDER NOTICE IFB NO: NHP/15GW/21-22/Works/3777

Following online tender is invited by the Ground Water Departmer from eligible bidders under National Competitive Bidding (NCB). Details: Building Upgradation of State Date Cenre & Exhibition Ce Department, Hyderabad under National Hydrology Project (NHP), Start Date o Download: 01/07/2021 (10.30 hrs), Date of Pre-bid Meeting: 13/07/2021 (11.30 hrs) Last Date of Submission: 31/07/2021 (15.00 hrs), The details of IFB will be available https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app, https://gwd.telangana.gov.in and

RAJASTHAN SKILL & LIVELIHOODS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION EMI Campus, J-8-A, JHALANA INSTITUTIONAL AREA, JAIPUR 30200 (Phone: 0141-5164217/18, 5164283) Fax:5103246

CORRIGENDUM Reference: No: RSLDC/DDU-GKY /Skill Gap assessment DDU-GKY 2021the above Refereed RFP following dates are a

S.No Particulars Current Date & Time Last date & Time of submitting of Bid Date & time of Opening of technical Bid Managing Director, RSLDC Raj.Samwad/C/21/2844

NOTICE INVITING	TENDER (NIT) Only through E-Tendering Mode Vebsite:https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app					
NFT No & Dated	06CE/HMD/2021-22/D.1521 Dated:30.06.202					
Name of work	Modification of Coal Yard Roads inside Green Gate and Yellow Gate at VOCP					
Estimate cost put to tender	Rs.9,13,97,917/-					
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs.18,27,960/-					
Downloading of Tender from VOCPT online e-tendering website	01.07.2021 to 22.07.2021 upto 15.00Hins.					
Last Date and Time for submission of Tenders online	22.07.2021 upto 15:00 Hrs.					
Online Technical bid opening date and time	23.07.2021 at 15:30 Hrs.					



Justice Ashok Bhushan

Tenure of **Justice Ashok** Bhushan ends

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

Justice Ashok Bhushan, who led the Bench that had been monitoring the COVID-19 management and relief throughout the pandemic days, completed his last working day as judge of the Supreme Court on Wednesday. Justice Bhushan is retiring on

The judge bid farewell to the court after delivering a verdict directing the government to pay ex gratia to the families of those who died of COVID-19.



KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD (A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road Bengaluru - 560 001. website: www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-11/3034/2021-22

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

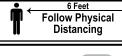
(Through GOK e - Procurement Portal Only)

KIADB is inviting item rate tenders under two cover system as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 | e-Tenders are invited from the eligible Manpower supply through electronic procurement from Class-I Contractors (Civil) registered in KPWD who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following work: Formation of 24M Wide Road (Road | | MIMS & MIMS Institution in Two Cover System as per the No.34), 18M Wide Roads (Road No.2A, 2B, 3, 4C, 4D, 13 14A, 27, 31, 33, || | | KTPP Act 1999 and Rules 2000 37, 38) 15M Wide Road No.37, 12M Wide Road No.36, 7M Wide Road No.35 & 39 Including Asphalting, Construction of RCC Side Drains, RCC Storm Water Drain, Spur Culvert & Box Culvert at Dobaspet 4th Phase (Avverahalli) Industrial Area, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru 📗 lakhs). EMD: Rs. 13.20 Lakhs. Rural District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is: 30.07.2021 upto 04:00 pm Portal https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/-DIPR/DDU/Zen/R.O:706/2021-22

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.





Maintain Hand Hygiene

Date: 30.06.2021

MANDYA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES MANDYA-571 401

(Autonomous Medical Institution, Government of Karnataka) (Fax & Phone: 08232-231003, 222086, E-mail: mimsmandvaoffice@gmail.com Website: www.mimsmandya.org No: MIMS/O.S/HR/e-tender/ 01/2021-22 Date:29.06.2021

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-procurement only)

Agencies for providing the services of Human Resources (Group C & D Staff, House-keeping Staff & Security Staff) Staff through out-Sourcing to the Teaching Hospital of

Sl.No.: 01. Tender Particulars: Human Resources (Group C & D staff, House -keeping Staff & Security Staff)MIMS/ O.S/HR/e-tender/ 01/ 2021-22 Date:09.06.2021. Total Approximate Cost(Rs): Rs. 660.00(Six Hundreden Sixty

Submission of e-Tender by paying non refundable fees is from 29.06.2021 and the last date for filing of Tenders is Date: 29.07.2021 upto 5.30 P.M. Further details can be Tenderers are required to obtain clarifications needed before submitting their tenders. More details may be Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru obtained from the MIMS office during working hours. (Except General Holiday/s)

Sd/-Director, Mandya Institute of Medical Sciences, Mandya DIPR/AD-MDY/MCA/174 /2021-22

ANDHRA PRADESH STATE SKILL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (APSS Dept. of Skills Development & Trainings, Govt, of AP. Tad

Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC) invite: applications for the following positions on contractual basis:

1) Company Secretary 2) Head - Legal/ CGM - Legal Candidates should possess strong interpersonal communication skills and have experience of independently handling secretarial matters and legal matters respectively.

Detailed notification showing eligibility criteria and application format are available on our website www.apssdc.in

DIPR 219PP/CL, Dt: 30-06-2021 Sd/- Managing Director, APSSDC, Tadepalli



NOTICE UNDER CLAUSE (a) OF SUB-SECTION (5) OF SECTION 15 OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT, 2003 (the Act) An application for grant of Category-V licence for inter-State

trading in electricity in whole of India has been made before

the Commission by Reneuria Power LLP with its registered office at C/o RAJM Automobiles, NR Katariya Auto Moto Mava, Kalawad Road, Rajkot-Gujarat-360 005. 2. A copy of the application, along with its annexures and enclosures, made by the applicant for grant of inter-State trading licence to by Reneurja Power LLP before

the Commission can be accessed at the website www.reneurjapower.in or inspected by any person in the Commission's office by following the laid down procedure. 3. On consideration of the material available on record, the Commission is satisfied that prima facie the applicant qualifies for grant of licence for inter-State trading in electricity and by order dated 28.6.2021, the

Commission has proposed to grant a Category-V licence to the applicant for inter-State trading in electricity in

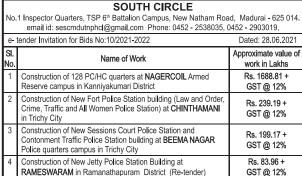
- whole of India. Notice is hereby given in pursuance of clause (a) of subsection (5) of Section 15 of the Act to invite suggestions or objections, if any, to the proposal to grant licence for inter-State trading in electricity as aforesaid by the Commission to be received by the undersigned latest by 16.7.2021 at the above noted address. The objections or suggestions received after the specified date shall not be considered.
- The Commission will fix the date for final disposal in due course and the person who files the suggestions or objections may in his discretion attend the hearing, for which no TA/DA shall be paid by the Commission.

TAMILNADU POLICE HOUSING CORPORATION LTD.

(A Government of Tamil Nadu Undertaking)

(Sanoj Kumar Jha)

Secretary



RAMESWARAM in Ramanathapuram District (Re-tender

For Tender document, visit www.tntenders.gov.in
Date and Time for downloading and submission the tender documents:
15.07.2021 from 12.00 Noon to 02.08.2021 upto 06.00 P.M (for SI.No.1 to 3) 06.07.2021
from 12.00 Noon to 13.07.2021 upto 06.00 P.M (for SI.No.4)
Date and time of 04.08.2021 at 11.15 A.M (for SI.No.1 to 3)

opening of the e-tender: 15.07.2021 at 11.15 A.M (for SI.NO.1 to 3)
Detailed Tender Notice available in the website www.tnphc.com & www.tnpolice.gov.in Superintending Engineer, South Circle, TNPHC Ltd DIPR/1878/TENDER/2021



Ban on international flights till July 31

The suspension of scheduled international passenger flights has been extended till July 31, the DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation) said on Wednesday. "International Scheduled flights may be allowed on selected routes by the competent authority on a case by case basis," the DGCA said in a circular. The restriction doesn't apply to international all-cargo operations, International scheduled flights have been suspended since March 23, 2020. However, flights are permitted under the "air bubble" agreement India has entered into with 27 countries

Covaxin neutralises **Delta variant: NIH**

India's Covaxin, developed by Bharat Biotech in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research. effectively neutralises both Alpha and Delta variants of coronavirus, the U.S.' National Institute of Health has said. The NIH said results of two studies of blood serum from people who had received Covaxin suggest that the vaccine generates antibodies that effectively neutralise the B.1.1.7 (Alpha) and B.1.617 (Delta) variants of SARS-CoV-2, first identified in the U.K. and India, respectively. PTI

Maharashtra to go in for doorstep vaccination

The Maharashtra government informed the Bombay High Court on Wednesday that it would not wait for the Centre's approval and would proceed with implementing door-to-door vaccination for the aged on an experimental basis. Advocate General (AG) Ashutosh Kumbhakoni made the statement before a Division Bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice G.S. Kulkarni. "We want to do it on an experimental basis, and we propose to start it from Pune

Odisha begins unlocking

district is not too large or not

district, as the size of the

too small," the AG said.

The Odisha government on Wednesday commenced the unlocking process in 20 out of 30 districts where the COVID-19 test positivity rate had fallen below 5%. It, however, extended a partial lockdown in the remaining 10 districts till July 16. "In 17 districts, mostly in the southern and western region, lockdown has been relaxed following improvement. It is a matter of great satisfaction that there has not been an increase in the rate of infection in these districts," said Suresh Chandra Mohapatra, Chief Secretary

fake jabs in Kolkata

It directs local administration to respond in two days

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Alarmed at alleged instances of fake COVID-19 vaccination camps in some pockets in Kolkata, the Union Health Ministry has directed the local administration to submit a report within the next two days.

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said in the communication that "in view of the instances of CO-VID vaccination camps being organised allegedly by unauthorised people, it is requested that the matter be urgently enquired into and the factual position about the serious allegations be clarified in the next two days."

The letter noted that in some of these camps, notably in the Kasba locality of the Kolkata Municipal area, none of the beneficiaries received any vaccination certificates generated from the CoWIN portal.

The Health Ministry had been advising States repeatedly that vaccination certificates must be issued to the beneficiaries. "Non-issuance of these certificates therefore does lead to apprehensions of fake vaccination camps and also raises doubts on the contents of injections delivered in such camps," Mr. Bhushan said.

More than 32.13 crore (32,13,75,820) vaccine doses have been provided by the



Do no harm: SFI and DYFI activists participating in a demonstration against fake vaccination camps in Kolkata. • PTI

'No evidence to link vaccines with infertility'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Union Health Ministry on Wednesday said there is no scientific evidence suggesting COVID-19 vaccination can cause infertility in men and women and asserted the vaccines have been found to be safe and effective. It further said that the National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration had also recommended COVID-19 vaccination for all nursing women, terming it safe with no need to stop or pause breastfeeding before or after the inoculation.

Centre to the States and the Union Territories so far, according to a release issued by the Ministry on Wednes-

This, it said, had been given through free of cost channels and through direct state procurement category. Of this, the total consumption, including wastage was

31,40,75,654 doses (as per data available at 8 a.m. on Wednesday). More than 73 lakh (73,00,166) balance and unutilised doses were still available with the States and the Union Territories. More than 24,65,980 doses would be received by them within the next three days, it ad-

Centre seeks report on Court gives relief to CA aspirants

It allows them to opt out if they or family members suffer from COVID-19

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

In relief to chartered accountancy aspirants, the Supreme Court on Wednesday allowed them to opt out if they or their family members had COVID-19.

The court directed the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) to allow candidates to opt out of the July exam if they were able to produce a certificate from a registered medical practitioner showing that either they or any of their family members were suffering from COVID-19 or its after-effects and unable to prepare for the exam.

"A candidate shall be entitled to exercise the option of opting out if he/she personally, or any of his/her family member, has suffered CO-VID-19 in the recent past and the fact is so certified by a registered medical practitioner, as a result of which he/ she is unable to appear in



the ensuing examination or, for that matter, is disabled in preparing for the examination," the court order said. RT-PCR test result was not necessary if a candidate had a doctor's certificate.

Change of centre

The court further directed that candidates should be given the option to opt out even if the exam centre has been changed to another location within the same city.

"If you are changing the exam centre at the last minute because of your own lo-

gistical problem, you should leave it to the candidate to decide whether he or she wants to opt out. You have to give the candidate the choice and respect their choice," Justice A.M. Khanwilkar, leading a three-judge Bench, addressed the ICAI, represented by senior advocate Ramji Srinivasan.

The court said candidates who opted out due to "CO-VID-related problems" and exam centre changes should be allowed to appear in the back-up exam whenever it would be conducted.

The court said the ICAI scheme already allowed candidates affected by the lockdown during the examination to opt out appear for the back-up exam to be conducted by the institute in due course.

The court, allowing the ICAI to go ahead with its exams in July, directed the institute to strictly adhere to

On Tuesday, the court pointed out to the ICAI that opt-out option should be made available not only for the candidates who are CO-VID-19 positive at the time of exam but also for those who could not prepare for it due to extended post-pandemic complications certified by an

The Bench was hearing pleas to postpone the exam due to the pandemic.

The ICAI had said that July was the apt time to conduct the exam with all safety protocols in place, considering the lull in cases. The third wave may hit in September or October.

It had noted that candidates were eager to take the

"Out of 3,74,230 candidates, as on June 27, more than 2,82,000 candidates have downloaded their admit cards, thus showing their eagerness to appear in the

Issue clear guidelines on death certificates: SC

'Fatalities due to related complications must also be certified as COVID deaths'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed that deaths due to COVID-related complications must be certified as COVID deaths.

This would apply to cases where patients had died of COVID-complications even a month or two after being

diagnosed and irrespective of whether the patients died at home or in hospital, the court said.

"A simplified procedure/ guidelines is/are required to be issued by the Central Government and/or appropriate authority for issuance of an official document/ death certificate stating the

exact cause of death, i.e., 'Death due to Covid-19'," a Bench led by Justice Ashok Bhushan directed.

"It is the duty of every authority to issue accurate/ correct death certificates stating the correct and accurate cause of death, so that the family members of the deceased who died due to

COVID-19 may not face any difficulty in getting the benefits of schemes that may be declared by the government," the judgment noted.

The court ordered that the guidelines should also lay down the grievance redressal process for the families of COVID-19 patients in case of errors in certificates.

Due process in Brazil deal: Bharat Biotech

Firm says it took routine approach

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD

Covaxin manufacturer Bharat Biotech on Wednesday asserted that it had followed a routine 'step-by-step approach' towards getting contracts and regulatory approvals for supply of the vaccine in Brazil, and added that it had neither received any advance payments nor supplied any vaccines to the South American country's Health Ministry.

Reacting to media reports, including a news report in which Reuters cited Brazil's Health Minister Marcelo Queiroga announcing the suspension of a \$324million Indian vaccine contract in the wake of allegations of irregularity, the Hyderabad-based company laid out the timeline of developments related to its efforts to supply the vaccine to Brazil.

Stating that discussions with the Brazilian Ministry had begun in November 2020, Bharat Biotech said

that over the course of eight months, a step-by-step approach, similar to what was observed in other countries where the company sought approvals, had been fol-

Subsequently, Covaxin received emergency use authorisation in Brazil on

Price point

Bharat Biotech said it had been clearly established that the vaccine would be priced between \$15 and \$20 per dose for supplies to governments outside India. The pricing for Brazil had also been indicated at \$15 per

Also, while advance payments had been received from several countries at the same price points, with supplies in process, pending approvals, "as of June 29, Bharat Biotech has not received any advance payments or supplied any vaccines to MOH Brazil," the

Pilots urged to seek 'follow me' services to counter low visibility

DGCA issues safety advisory to all aircraft operators

S. VIJAY KUMAR

The Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued an advisory to all airlines to instruct their crew not to hesitate to seek "follow me" vehicle service during poor visibility at airports.

The safety guidelines follow after an investigation into an accident revealed that the aircraft, while taxiing to the bay, entered an open drain and suffered extensive

The runway markings were not visible due to rain over the airfield. The Pilot in Command manoeuvred the aircraft, ignoring the advice of the Pilot Monitoring's request for a "follow me" vehicle service for taxi to the

The DGCA in the advisory issued early this month said during the aircraft ground operations on an aerodrome, operational and/or environmental issues such

SCAN TO PLAY



'Follow me' cars guide the aircraft till the parking guidance signal is sighted.

as human factors, airport design, crew technique, etc., affected the performance of the flight crew. A deterioration in performance may lead to runway or taxiway incursion.

"One of the major contributing factors for runway/ taxiway incursions is the lack of situational awareness of the flight crew during ground operations at an airport wherein visibility has reduced due to weather considerations. Accordingly for low visibility operations,

'follow me' services are recommended," the advisory said. Referring to an Airports

Authority of India circular issued in 2011 which recommended use of "follow me" vehicle for guiding the aircraft until such time the pilot reported having sighted the parking/docking guidance signal, the DGCA advised air craft operators to sensitise their flight crew to inform the Air Traffic Control and not to hesitate to request for "follow me" vehicle service at any time when they had doubts about their location or experienced difficulty in navigating aircraft on ground due to water logging, poor visibility, etc.

In 2017, an Air India Express flight IX-452 from Abu Dhabi to Kochi with 102 passengers on board landed in an open drain amid heavy rains. The accident left three passengers injured and the aircraft heavily damaged.

Cabinet clears viability gap funds for BharatNet

Project will follow the PPP model

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a viability gap funding support of up to ₹19,041 crore for the implementation of the BharatNet project through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model in 16 States.

The project will be extended to all inhabited villages beyond the gram panchavats in 16 States – Kerala. Karnataka, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh, Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said.

"The Cabinet has in-principle approved implementation of BharatNet in 16 States in a public-private partnership model with a total expense of ₹29,430 crore. The Government of India will only spend the viability gap fund of ₹19,041 crore," the Minister said, ad-

ding that an estimated 3.61 lakh villages, including gram panchayats, would be covered via BharatNet.

An official release added that the revised strategy will include creation, upgrading, operation, maintenance and utilisation of BharatNet by the concessionaire or the private sector partner, who will be selected by a competitive international bidding process.

The private sector partner is expected to bring an equity investment and raise resources towards capital expenditure and for operation and maintenance of the network.

Extension of BharatNet to all inhabited villages will enable better access to e-services offered by various governments, enable online education, telemedicine, skill development, e-commerce and other applications of broadband, Mr. Prasad said, adding that it would help bridge the digi-

TH CROSSWORD+ 13288 We are digital now. Come solve online.

@ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn 12 Hired thug ran away from the capital of Myanmar (4)

14 M+OM+ENT? (5,6)

18 Comic actors sit on drawers (11) 21 Piece of news comes first in the evening mail (4)

22 Rialto ideally suited (10) 25 Improving middle of song's text with permission finally from

26 Meal provided by sailor (5) 27 One with strong liking missed cuddle occasionally from desperate

28 I say why no eyeglass designed for one that never looks older? (7)

1 Source of light comes from saint's apparel (6)

2 Food from heaven comes around afternoon tomorrow (6) **3** The entertainment provider lacks fundamental decency in grounding violent side (10)

5 Goes pop over mounting record in engagements (9)

7 No room possibly to accommodate unknowns found missing, 8 Song composed about a rending heart (8)

16 A petty offence at most excuses law's harshness (8)

17 The drink that flummoxed teenager (5,3) 19 Courage to sacrifice love for American war (6)

20 Red lentil primarily forms part of pulses and granules (6) 23 Daily touring an ancient region of Asia Minor (5)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 13287 Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

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FAITH

Eyewitness account

Valmiki's Ramayana is known as Adi kavya, because it was the first kavya to be written. Although many other Ramayanas came to be written later on, Valmiki Ramayana is special, said M.A. Venkatakrishnan, in a discourse. Sage Narada visits Valmiki, and Valmiki then puts a question to him. He lists sixteen good qualities, and asks if anyone alive at that time has all these qualities. Narada says that Rama has all these qualities. Brahma then enables Valmiki to see all the events of the Rama avatara – past, present and future. Because of Brahma's boon, Valmiki is witness to everything that takes place during the Rama avatara. His kavya, therefore, is an eyewitness account of what happened. It is nothing but the truth, with no additions or deletions.

The Vedas are to be understood with the help of Itihasas and Puranas, and Itihasas are more important than the Puranas. However, some events described briefly in the Ramayana are elaborately described in some Puranas, and so, at such times, Vaishnava Acharyas have used the descriptions given in the Puranas. For example, Paadma Purana gives the Kakasura episode in more detail than one finds in Valmiki's Ramayana, and Acharyas have quoted from the Paadma Purana. The Ashtakshara mantra, dhvaya mantra and charama sloka are significant for Sri Vaishnavas. And the Ramayana shows us the importance of dhvaya mantra, for it shows the inseparability of the Lord and His Consort. The Ramayana makes us realise that we have to approach the Lord, only with the blessings of His Consort. The kavya shows us both the end to be attained and the means to attain it. The end is to serve Him in Sri Vaikunta. The way to achieve this is through surrender to Him. The concept of total surrender lies at the heart of the Ramayana.

9 Intrinsic adrenalin is relating to kidneys (5)

ACROSS

1 Characteristic of extremely scary animals essentially is to chase 5 Tactical maneuvers initiated by half-dead marshals (7)

10 He settles taxes on first residence depending on constructed area

and type (9) 11 Caring tendency to hide love rejected by nurse (10)

4 Extra large mushroom (5) 6 Asian dish from South, double up (4)

13 China regularly enters into Everest dubiously carrying set of utensils (3.7)

15 "Listen! Stop supporting a knight around king" (4,2,3)

24 Beloved rector retires in favour of new churchman (4)





GOWRI S AND ANASUYA MENON

Dhola village near Jodhpur, in Rajasthan, is veiled in darkness as the electricity snaps, interrupting Sua Devi's Zoom call.

Undeterred, the 46-year-old *kalbeliya* dancer, asks her son to rev up his motorcycle right outside the room. Under the powerful headlights, which bounce off her glittering jewellery, she continues her class, dancing in front of the smartphone positioned in her living room, teaching students from across the world.

The artiste who has lived most of her life on stage — Sua has been dancing since the age of seven — now handles a video call with dexterity. She says the pandemic forced her to find ways to adapt: "I was able to learn something new in between this crisis. I have a family of 13. Thanks to online classes, I am able to feed them and also help others in the village."

Sua, like a clutch of other folk artistes, has pivoted online out of necessity; she has not been on stage for a year and a half. But there still remain many who are outside the digital economy, struggling to make ends meet. Of the artistes performing and teaching online; some are individual pursuits while in other cases, NGOs and private organisations help with the transition.

Sua is supported by the arts platform Kalbeliya World, which was born during the pandemic in May 2020. Run by three women – Aakansha Maheshwari (USA), Chritsina Gomez (USA) and Ayla Joncheere (Belgium) – Kalbeliya World connects traditional *kalbeliya* dancers from Rajasthan with students and fellow artistes from around the world.

When the lockdown began in March 2020, Ayla was in Rajasthan, where the seed of this idea took form. She explains, "There were these traditional dancers and musicians whose artforms were very interesting but for whom, going online was difficult. On the other hand, we also had a huge international network of dancers who were already practising *kalbeliya*. We thought we could bring them together." Registration and payment is done in collaboration

Now, log on for Kathakali

Play the *chenda* via an app or learn *kalbeliya* dance on a group call, with help from traditional performing artistes who are innovating to survive a tough year and keep their craft alive

body and earnings from the class are directed to the respective teacher.

"We had over 600 students from over 20 countries in the first month. Each class was priced at \$10," says Christina, adding that they have 12 teachers – six dancers from Pushkar, three from Jodhpur (including Sua) and three from Jaipur. Each teacher has more than one family in their village that they directly or indirectly support.

A year on, though the number of students have visibly decreased with gyms and studios opening up internationally,

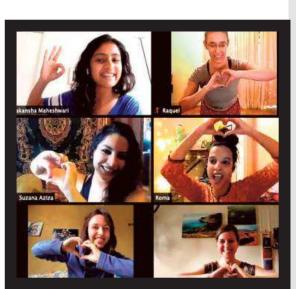
the platform soldiers on. They plan to make the initiative hybrid once travel restrictions are eased, where dancers can fly to India for physical workshops.

Meanwhile, Kasaragod-based *mizhavu* artiste Kalamandalam Sivaprasad has developed the Natya Arts Learning App, which offers courses in English and Malayalam on Indian traditional and classical arts, including a soon-to-beintroduced beginner's module on Kerala's percussive instrument *chenda*, seen in temple concerts and festivals. Live

and recorded classes on Kathakali, *ottamthullal* and *nangiarkoothu* are also in the pipeline.

"These are art forms that were not conceptualised for an online space. It took us a lot of time to prepare a module that could work in the virtual system of learning," says Sivaprasad of the app that took over two-and-a-half years to create.

Today, it has 7,500 downloads on Google play store. Recorded classes come with accompanying notes explaining rhythm patterns and scales on



the screen. "We have 25 students from France, the US and the Gulf countries as well," says Sivaprasad.

Temporary breather

This increasing interest from students outside India transcends genres. Chennai-based theatre and folk artiste Vishwa Bharath, who has been teaching *paraittam* (where the artiste moves according to the beats of the *parai*), *silambam* (a weapon-based martial art of Tamil Nadu) and *devarattam* (derived from movement celebrating victory in the battlefield) online since last year says the latter has dominated the 2021 lockdowns.

"Devarattam is a spinal and leg movement-oriented form where you need your body warmed up... You have to move while chanting the *swarkattu/sol-lu* (rhythm signatures) and be in the frame at the same time," explains Vishwa

Recognising that it is not easy to transition to virtual events, Vishwa has also opened up his home studio in T Nagar

MILES TO GO

Despite these stories of grit, a majority of traditional artistes lack the resources to experiment online. This year has been brutal: along with financial strains, many have lost family and crew members to COVID-19. Carnatic vocalist TM Krishna along with his team has been helming fundraisers, raising money via online concerts. He says, "If we are looking at the larger spectrum, it (the number of folk artistes who were able to create a presence online) is only negligible. We have to work very hard on the demand side and for social mindsets have to change."



Question of survival (Anti-clockwise from left) Kathakali dancer Biju Bhaskaran; screengrabs from Natya Arts Learning App; and Kalbeliya World; artistes Vishwa Bharath; and Sua Devi • THULASI KAKKAT AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

for senior artistes who wish to use it for online classes.

Vishwa currently has six online students. Karthik Gowrishankar has been his student since 2019, and has had a taste of both physical and online folk arts classes and would choose the former to the latter, any day. Currently he

is learning devarattam online.

"There is a lot of history behind the artform, about how it is be-

ing

prac-

and propagated, that is taught," he says. A designer by profession, Karthik finds these one-and-a-half hour classes, twice a week, a welcome diversion.

"For a student who has had a few

years of training, moving to an online medium is not tough. But for a new student, it is not easy," says Kochi-based Kathakali artiste Biju Bhaskaran. His student base comprises a mix of both. They are first taught the *kaal sadhakam* (footwork) followed by *chuzhippu* (body movements). *Thalam* (rhythm) and *mudras* come much later. The one-hour classes are held on Google meet.

Before the pandemic hit, he taught in Aluva and Paravur in Kerala for 12 years. Even after lockdowns were lifted, there were safety concerns. But by the second wave in 2021, Biju decided to take things into his own hands and started teaching online. "Kathakali is an art form

that has to be taught in the physical space. But since we have no option, we had to migrate online." He now has about 20 students that he teaches virtually.

Biju, who started classes in March, restructured the process for the online medium by focusing more on theory.

"Theory is extremely important for a

kathakali dancer. I felt this time could be effectively used to learn the theoretical part." Biju also concentrates on the vaaythaari, the rhythmic sequences that decide timing in kathakali. He says, "If the students learn this, once the physical classes start, it would be easy for them to adapt. They would just have to perfect their mudras then."

A platform for

mentor - SPECIAL

network and

ARRANGEMENT

Future plans

Register the forum as a

Farmer Producer Organisation

 Encourage scientific farming and share core expertise, for

Conduct short-term

workshops and training

programmes with experts

example selecting quality

Make regular farm visits

opportunity to intern at a

To know more, email

youngfarmerforum@

successful farmers

model farm

across Tamil Nadu to learn from

• Promote farm internships -an

gmail.com or call 9003099166

farmers To learn,

Booster juice on the go

A startup initiative that installs charging stations in *kirana* stores could change the way consumers view electric vehicles in India

RUTH DHANARAJ

A friend's predicament served as a blueprint for Kirana Charzer, a charging station for electric vehicles (EVs).

"A friend using an electric bike ran out of charge outside Bengaluru city limits. With no provision to charge his bike anywhere along the way, he ended up pushing his vehicle for close to four hours. Fearing this may happen again, he decided to stop using EVs," says Sameer Ranjan Jaiswal, one of the founders of Charzer.

He adds, "It struck us that there is a *kirana* or basic supply store every 500 metres in India. If these shops doubled up as charging areas, such incidents could be minimised."

Entrepreneurs Dheeraj Reddy, Sameer Ranjan Jaiswal and Yugraj Shukla, launched FAE Bikes, an EV scooter rental and fleet management startup in 2016.

"We had experienced the challenges of the EV market first-hand and were working with manufacturers, stakeholders and the Government. We understood why many a customer walked out of showrooms without buying a vehicle," says Sameer.

Kirana Charzer was launched at MOVE 2020 in London on February 12, 2020. Compatible with two-, three- and four-wheelers, it is a compact, zero-maintenance and IoT-enabled charging station

and IoT-enabled charging station.
With the help of the Kirana
Charzer app, EV users can locate
nearby chargers, book a slot and



Stays sturdy The Kirana Charzer is available in Mangaluru, Hyderabad and Kerala

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

make a payment. A completely drained out four-wheeler would require six to eight hours to get the battery charged, though customers usually use it for one or two hours, as that is sufficient for a 30-40 kilometre power boost.

The app also aids hosts with a daily report of power consumed, bookings and earnings.

Since the Kirana Charzer works with a basic single phase electricity connection, it can be installed without any changes to the existing grid connection. Keeping in mind weather conditions in India, the Charzer is sturdy enough to withstand rain, wind and grime from the outdoors.

With their headquarters in Bengaluru, the team has taken Charzer to Mangaluru, Hyderabad and Kerala; stations in Delhi and Pune will be operational once the lockdown lifts.

The Indian Young Farmers Forum collective is dedicated to training young farmers across the country, starting with Tamil Nadu

:: K JESHI

Six years ago, Pradeep Kumar Manickam began farming on his arid ancestral land in Karur, Tamil Nadu. The barren five-acre farm is now a flourishing 'food forest' with 200 varieties of edible native species.

Similarly, A Jai Ganesh, 45, conducted repeated trails with dragon fruit cultivation for over five years, before converting his one-acre plot at Illupanagaram village near Udumalpet into a thriving farm with 4,000 plants, of which 80% are already fruiting.

"It's time to talk about economic success in farming," says Saravanan Chandrasekaran, 32, who has formed Indian Young Farmers

Forum, a collective where successful farmers mentor newcomers.

"Identify-

ing success stories is the first step, followed by farm visits to replicate the model." The forum has 75 members, with an age of

model." The forum has
75 members, with an age cap of
45. However, experienced
mentors of different ages form
the advisory panel.
Saravanan points to a growing trend in the last 10 years,

ing trend in the last 10 years, where many young people are making a mid-career drift to invest in agricultural land and start farming. Kailash Nandan, 27, worked in Bengaluru for a few years before returning to

his ancestral land in Narisipuram near Thondamuthur. "I wanted to try out non-conventional farming. We have coconut, arecanut, turmeric, groundnut, and sesame on a commercial scale. The forum is a neutral place to collaborate and learn from each other," he says.

Some of the members are part-time farmers, including Saravanan who works as an administrative officer at Kumaraguru Institute of Agriculture. He owns over 15 acres in Pollachi where he is developing a food forest with native guava, sapota, and tamarind trees. "The forest is taken care of by Nature. There is no intensive farming. We just harvest. People pay a premium to

source good food from an authentic source. We have to understand and adapt." The forum also encourages use of

technology farming "In the West, farmers master it. Our country is a land of small farmers; the average land holding of an Indian farmer is 1.5 acres. We cannot push a futuristic thought or technology to experiment. That's why this forum is significant, as young farmers here are economically stable, have a good volume of land, and are willing to experiment. We expose small farmers to technologies that are already a

success," says Saravanan. The spotlight is on sustainatarmer.

become a

ble farming, adds 32-year-old K Gnana Saravanan, an awardwinning agripreneur of Deesan Farm at Meenakshipuram, on the Tamil Nadu- Kerala border. He adds, "We have integrated farming of coconut and other inter-crops like banana, nutmeg, and arecanut. I conduct classes on natural farming for youngsters."

So, how does one become a

farmer? Pradeep Kumar replies, "Well, you become one." In his internship programme, aspirants from across India stay at his farm for up to three months and get exposure in end-to-end farming. His farm has a community seed bank to conserve native species. "We



practise farming just like our ancestors: we thrive on value additions. If we cultivate groundnut, we ensure to extract oil."

His social media pages document natural agriculture meth-

ods and how a farmer can create a sustainable business out of agriculture. "When you choose farming as a way of life, you better ensure that it's the most profitable business on Earth."

M ND-NDE



Responding to a rising interest in heritage varieties. farmers work on preserving and marketing indigenous mangoes

CHITRADEEPA ANANTHARAM

At his 35-acre farm in Bodi, Jayanth Kaliappan fiercely protects eight local varieties of mango. "We have 1,200 mango trees, of which 22 are native varieties. Of them, eight are rare and unique to this region," says Jayanth.

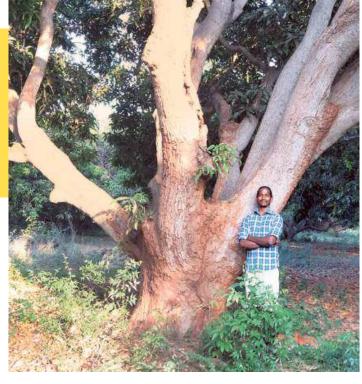
His organic farm, set in Theni district, follows the legacy of his father A Kaliappan, who made it his mission to save native rare mangoes from extinction.

At his farm, Jayanth harvests thennampaalai, which tastes like coconut; and muttakose, shaped like a cabbage. The farm also protects its brightly-flavoured singivaada; big, fibrous javadu; and sweet, pulpy thadaga kaai. Finally, there is the rosemary, tinted pink near the stem, and adamaga, used for pickling, which weighs between 1.5 and 2 kilograms.

"We are creating saplings from the mother tree of these varieties so that future generations will also benefit from the nutritional value of these mangoes," says Jayanth.

Umaramanan Umapathi of Auro Orchards, set in Auroville, near Puducherry explains how many of Tamil Nadu's native mangoes began to disappear over the last three decades as farmers preferred to grow just five or seven popular varieties for the domestic and export market. "Now, people are bored of eating the same varieties year after year and are showing interest in local mangoes or *nattu kaai*. This year, our customers pre-booked native mangoes even before we beharvesting," Umaramanan.

At the 44-acre Auro Orchard, he grows iruttu, rettikola, kadhar, malliga, pether, neer malgova, Kwhite and amarapalli. He also has "Natty," as the local farm workers call it, which are unrecognised native varieties (perilladha mambaz-





hangal), and ratna, which is a hybrid of the neelam and popular alphonso. There is the fleshy rettikola, three times bigger than the rumani; the kadhar is mediumsized and very sweet; pulpy malliga with huge flat fruit and firm iruttu, weighing about 250 grams each.

"So far I have seen iruttu only on our farm. We have a single tree, so we are now creating more saplings from this mother tree. The fruit has a thick, dark green skin like kalapadi, orange flesh and a unique sweetness, " he says.

Umaramanan sells the harvest at Saragam, a retail outlet in Auroville, as well as at organic stores in Chennai, Organic Farmers Market and reStore. "I deliberately keep the price of native mangoes on a par or higher than the popular ones, as I don't want people to judge the fruit based on its price," he says, adding that rettikola, peth-



TAKING ORDERS IN CHENNAI

Organic Farmers Market, Thiruvanmiyur: 9790900887 reStore, ECR: 044 24921093

Jayanth Agro Farms, Bodi: 9962008974

Mango Super Kings, Royapettah : 7338866441

Roo's Food Concepts, Kilpauk: 8870801234

Legacy lives on (Left) The only Iruttu mangu tree at Auro Orchard, Puducherry; (below) Rettikola mango ready for harvest • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

er and *malliga* sell the fastest.

Rajapalayam-based farmer and researcher KS Jaganatha Raja has been propagating and conserving rare and native trees for 25 years. He says we have already lost many precious mango varieties, unique to the region. "As a custodian of native mangoes, I have saved from extinction certain varieties such as mohandas, pottalma, panchavarnam and karupatti kai, which tastes like jaggery. By combining mohandas and swarnareka, I developed a variety which I named Raju-1," he adds.

Jaganatha who runs the Rajapalayam Nursery Garden says he creates over 14,000 saplings a year from various mother trees, and distributes them to farmers in the region. Establishing a healthy, productive mother tree requires planning and preparation. Using the grafting method, he grows a sapling and waits for three years for the tree to yield fruit. Then he confirms the mango variety based on taste, texture and size.

Newer markets

Fazila Fathima's family grows 15 mango varieties on their 8.5-acre farm in Tada, near the Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh border. "This includes dilpasand, putty, guamango, khudadad, khadar, pether, badami, and jehangir," says Fazila, adding that this summer they sold it via home delivery around Chennai under the brand name, Mango Super Kings

For over two decades, the harvest from the grove was exported, but with the pandemic affecting exports since last year, they have been retailing within Chennai.

As mangoes are seasonal and their shelf life limited, many of these farmers are finding ways to preserve their harvest so that nothing goes to waste.

While Mango Super Kings makes mango jams from different varieties, Umaramanan sells dehydrated mangoes online. He says that, as native mangoes have solid flesh with less water content, which helps the process and yields more output, "they suit this process the

On the

DEEPA ALEXANDER

For nearly 180 years, Chennai's famed Musée Musical has celebrated a near-perfect score. The story of the music brand weaves into its plot an English pianist, a French businessman and an Indian accountant who took a Portuguese firm - Misquith & Co, founded in 1842 - and made it a place where many Indians had their first tryst with music; some of them went on to become legends.

The firm that resides on Anna Salai in a red-tiled building with green awnings and a signage that reads 'music saloons, pianos and organs', has since 1901 represented Trinity College, London, prepared nearly 20,000 students for the College's exams, and serviced and sold musical instruments. Helmed by the Das brothers -Kishore and Sachin - Musée Musical has now jumped on to the app bandwagon to accelerate learning and develop technical skills. Manoké, which means 'play along' in Japanese, has been developed by US edu-tech company Topxight Labs.

"Good teaching cannot happen without a teacher and face-to-face classes. The tech intervention is to ensure transparency and engageAs lessons move online, 180-yearold Musée Musical turns to learning app Manoké to connect musicians, teachers and students



ment among the teacher, learner and the parent in the case of a young student. One of the biggest challenges for teachers during this time has been consistency and monitoring students' practice," says Sachin, an architect. "Since a teacher has multiple students at multiple levels, technology aids in assessing them through a single channel. This is what this initiative is aimed at."

"Manoké's journey began in 2016 with Delaware-based technocrat Siva Visveswaran. Initially Manoké was launched with the idea to help anyone who wanted to learn to play their favourite song," says Sachin, adding that it addresses the need of the Indian majority whose first foray into music is generally through films. "There are a lot of apps for chords of popular western

songs, but there aren't many sources for popular Indian songs. Manoké Studio, is a notes creation, curriculum planning and publishing platform, while Manoké Stage is a play-along app for the entire orchestra.'

Manoké helps teachers curate structured lesson plans based on international benchmarks created by Musée's dean of studies, Karl Lutchmayer, a pioneer in identifying the gaps in teaching of Western Music in India. "Detailed analytics and metrics provided by the platform can help improve learning outcomes. It is currently the only platform available in India that works as an interactive sheet music set by the learner to suit his learning ability - practice tools such as tempo and metronome, share and get feedback from trainers," says Sachin. "The pandemic has shown us that if those in the creative arts do not embrace technology we cannot carry forward the good work of musicians and music teachers.'

While general users can download the app for free, music schools need to subscribe. Teachers get access to the International Benchmarks for learning and also more content for teaching support. The family of Manoké apps is compatible with PC, Android



■ THE HINDU ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

*Through Tony's eyes

Laurie Woolever, who co-wrote World Travel: An Irreverent Guide with Anthony Bourdain, says the book is an artefact of the world as it was when the chef, author and television host, visited it

MINI ANTHIKAD CHHIBBER

One would imagine a travel guide has no place at a time when travel is either a distant dream, or a nightmare. Yet here is World Travel: An Irreve-

rent Guide (published by Bloomsbury) by celebrated chef, author and television host, Anthony Bourdain, who died in June 2018, and his long-time assistant, Laurie Woolever. "The idea of a travel book seemed insignificant from the perspective of a world that had stopped travelling," states Woolever over a video call from New York City.

She adds, however "With parts of the world opening up again, and people feeling comfortable about travelling, this book seems to come at a perfect time. If you are in a place where it is not safe to travel, this book can be a surrogate, a way to fantasise and remember."

The Internet has changed how we consume travel information, Woolever, 47, says. "What I think adds value to this book, is that it is Tony's perspective. People miss Tony's voice. This book is an artefact of the world as it was when he visited it. Some things do not change, cuisines are much more stable than individual businesses or political situations, so there is something to be gleaned from a book that you can't get from a single Instagram photo or a tra-

recommendation website.'

The book, like Bourdain's other books, including Kitchen Confidential, A Cook's Tour, The Nasty Bits and Medium Raw, is on the bestseller

Woolever does not want to call it a homage to Bourdain, or a greatest hits compilation. "It is much

more focussed than that. There are essays from people who knew, loved and worked with Tony that adds new context and

perspective. There is my research and perspective of my travels with him." In her introduction,

Woolever writes about how difficult it is to co-author a travel book when your coauthor, the traveller, is no longer travelling the world. "What made it possible

for me to carry on with the

project was that he had left

behind this extraordinary body of work in his books and television work. Between that and my long-standing relationship with him - I was his assistant for nearly 10 years – I had a good sense

of how he spoke, his voice, tone and

She adds, "It was a process of putting together a puzzle or a quilt into a cohesive new thing. Of looking back and seeing where he had been and what he had liked or not liked about a place, and working with this template that we created before he

Layer of quirk

Wesley Allsbrook's exquisite illustrations add a layer of quirk to *World Travel*. "Logistically it would have been not only very difficult and time

consuming but also extremely expensive to get new photographs. Using old photographs would mean an inconsistent look and style. Tony was doing television from 2001 and cameras have changed so much in that time. The idea was to do something unexpected."

Bourdain's original idea, Woolever says, was to try and find someone who did a Victorian naturalist style of illustration. "While we did deviate from that a little bit, the idea was to keep it in the vein of a field guide, with illustrations that are more evocative than a flat photograph. Tony spent a lot of time as a teenager and a young adult working on illustrations and cartoons. He was modest about it but was actually quite a gifted illustrator."

In the fall, Woolever has a second book coming out, Bourdain, the Definitive Oral Biography. "It is the story of his life, as told through the stories of people who knew him. I did close to 100 interviews with everyone from his mother, brother, first and second wife, daughter, childhood friends, cooking school friends, kitchen, television, and publishing colleagues."

Bourdain's legacy, Woolever says, is his way of seeing the world. "There is so much more to the world than fine dining and hotels. He was at the forefront of a movement to show people that the entire world is interesting. It is this openness to experience and discovery that is his legacy. Tony functioned as a wonderful example of someone who had strong opinions, but also had respect for people who disagreed with him. I hope that people can hold that memory of him; as someone who would be willing to sit down and break bread with someone whose views were not the same as his."

Allsbrook in World Travel; Laurie Woolever ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Surrogate travel Anthony Bourdain's sketch by Wesley

What doesn't kill you...

Actor Kabir Bedi discusses heartbreaks and loss in his deeply personal memoir

SRIVATSAN S

When Kabir Bedi sat down to pen his memoir, Stories I Must Tell, which was launched in April by actor Priyanka Chopra, he offhandedly pasted a sticker onto his computer that read: "Be vulnerable." It resulted in reliving a quagmire of emotions and a deeply contemplative book beyond the regular glitz and glam of filmdom.

It is a story of love and loss, but also milestones and mistakes - Bedi's words, not mine. "It is a story of what it takes to be a human; to go through the rollercoaster of emotion I went through and the lessons that emerged. I wrote the book to inspire people and at the same time, caution them about the joys and dangers of success," says Kabir Bedi, who recently gave a talk as part of FICCI FLO Chennai's chapter titled Stories We Must Hear.

Edited excerpts:

When you started writing this book, what were the images that came to you?

• I thought I had a hell of a story to tell.

But when I sat down to write, I began to think: 'how am I going to tell this story?' Because, if I start from the beginning, it is boring and if I start from the middle, the flashback seemed distracting. I decided to tell mine as a human story, starting from college days at St Stephen's and the interview I did with The Beatles, which changed my life

You started out in the '70s and became a bona fide star in Europe. You have worked with some of the biggest names in Indian and European cinema...were you at all worried about being self-indulgent?

• I was determined not to be self-indulgent. I haven't shied away from stating

the wrongs and I haven't spared myself either. I have been equally brutal in the mistakes I made or should have done differently. It was also the story of the depths in which I fell into and how I rose from it. I was relooking at my younger self more compassionately in the most interesting way possible. In that sense, it was cathartic.

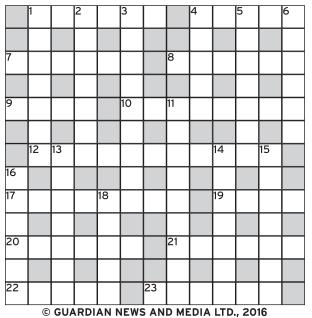
How would you describe the writing process, was it therapeutic or did it make you go further down the rabbit hole, like the chapter about your son?

• You have to dive in. There is no other way than to relive in its complete complexity, in its beauty and tragedy. Whatever resistances I had about my life came before the book.

Is your book a heartfelt apology or a stubborn justification?

• None of those. It is to give people a vicarious sense of what it is like to be a man who has been out of many relationships. To understand the idealistic era of the freedom struggle where my parents came from, and what it took them from being revolutionaries to becoming religious figures. To understand what it takes to be in Hollywood where they aren't writing roles for you; what it takes to be noticed by James Bond fans around the world.

THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13419



■ Across 1 West German chancellor,

1969-74 (6) 4 Small pop group (5) **7** Small mouthful (6)

8 Playfully makes fun of (6) 9 Male parent of a horse, for example (4) 10 Clothing business (informal)

12 Profuse bleeding (11) **17** Special significance (8)

19 Giant who eats people (4) 20 In truth (6) 21 Beat by cunning (6)

22 Devotion to religious principles (5) 23 Cash in shares, bonds etc (6) Down

1 Given to reading (7) 2 Grim – a US tree (anag) (7) 3 In a state of wild excitement (9) 4 Large box used for storage (5)

5 Hardy wild horse of the

American western plains (7)

6 Forced out of office (6) 11 Rotating wheel used in navigation systems (9) 13 Placate by making concessions (7)

14 Evangelist (7) 15 Irritatingly catchy tune (7) **16** Endure cheerfully (4,2) 18 Mixture of two or more metals (5)

C O L D H E A R T E D L Y
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N L E U W C N
D I S C R I M I N A T E D

Solution will appear in MetroPlus dated July 08, 2021. Solution No. 13418

MARKET WATCH

	30-06-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	52,482	-0.13
US Dollar	74.32	-0.12
Gold	45783	-0.83
Brent oil	75.05	-0.22

NIFTY 50		
		CHANGE
Adani Ports		
Asian Paints		
Axis Bank		
Bajaj Auto		
Bajaj Finserv		
Bajaj Finance		
Bharti Airtel		
BPCL		
Britannia Ind		
Cipla		
Coal India		
Divis Lab		
Dr Reddys Lab		
Eicher Motors		
Grasim Ind		
HCL Tech	983.50	-0.10
HDFC		
HDFC Bank		
HDFC Life		
Hero MotoCorp		
Hindalco		
Hind Unilever		
CICI Bank		
ndusInd Bank	1016.35	1.80
nfosys		
ndian OilCorp		
TC		
JSW Steel		
Kotak Bank		
L&T	1500.55	-10.35
M&M		
Maruti Suzuki		
Nestle India Ltd		
NTPC		
ONGC	117.70	1.70
PowerGrid Corp		
Reliance Ind		
SBI Life		
State Bank		
Shree Cement		
Sun Pharma	675.45	-2.15
Tata Consume		
Products Ltd		
Tata Motors		
Tata Steel		
TCS		
Tech Mahindra	1095.45	7.30

EXCHANGE RATES Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on June 30

1732.50

6776.00

792.85

CURRENCY	II DUY	II SELL
US Dollar	74.13	74.45
Euro	88.10	88.48
British Pound	.102.68	103.12
Japanese Yen (100)	67.08	67.37
Chinese Yuan	11.48	11.53
Swiss Franc	80.31	80.66
Singapore Dollar	55.13	55.38
Canadian Dollar	59.77	60.04
Malaysian Ringitt	17.86	17.94

Co-location: CCI rejects complaint against NSE

The Competition

Commission of India (CCI) has rejected allegations of anticompetitive practices against the NSE in the co-location case

May's lower spending pegs fiscal deficit at 8.2%

Increase in revenue receipts in first two months also helps

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

India's fiscal deficit in the first two months of 2021-22 stood at 8.2% of the Budget target with revenue receipts rising even as spending contracted by the end of May, data released by the Controller General of Accounts on Wednesday show.

Economists said capital spending contracted by 41% in May after a sharp uptick in April, indicating that Statelevel restrictions during the second wave of the pandemic had hurt economic activity. They, however, cautioned against interpreting the outcomes over April and May.

"Benefitting from a jump in tax and non-tax receipts



amidst a contraction in revenue expenditure, the Government of India's fiscal deficit was limited to ₹1.2 lakh crore in April-May... less than 30% of last-year's level of ₹4.7 lakh crore during the nationwide lockdown," Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ICRA, wrote in a note.

Sunil Kumar Sinha, India Ratings' principal economist, said the revenue and expenditure trends of the first two months were unlikely to provide any clarity on the year's fiscal deficit. "April and May 2020 were

unusual months due to the nationwide lockdown and again April and May 2021 witnessed regional/local lockdowns resulting in loss of economic activities and revenue generation," he said. The change in the RBI's accounting year to April-March had advanced the release of its dividend payment, pushing up non-tax revenue collections to 47.9% of the year's Budget estimates, Mr. Sinha added.

Core sector output rose 16.8% in May

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Output from India's eight core industries grew 16.8% in May 2021, with six sectors reporting significant positive growth due to the base effects from May 2020 when the country was in a national lockdown.

Steel output rose 59.3% in May, compared to a 40.4% decline in the same month of 2020, while cement grew 7.9%, compared to a 21.4% dip last May. Coal production increased by 6.9% from a 9% contrac-

tion in May 2020. Fertiliser production, which was the only sector to record growth (7.5%) in May 2020, declined by 9.6% this May, according to provisional data released on Tuesday.

'Current account deficit widens as imports revive' 'Gold shipments surged in Jan.-March'

REUTERS

India's current account deficit (CAD) widened in the January-March quarter on the back of a higher trade deficit and lower net invisible receipts, the Reserve Bank of India said in a release on Wednesday. The CAD stood at \$8.1 billion in January-March compared with a surplus of \$0.6 billion in the same quarter last year.

The deficit stood at 1% of the gross domestic product in the latest quarter, RBI data showed. "A normalisation in import demand as well as a surge in gold imports contributed to the widening of the current account deficit," said Aditi Navar, chief economist at the ratings agency ICRA. The deficit had wi-

Portfolio investments rose by \$7.3 bn versus a decline of \$13.7 bn dened to \$6.28 billion in

May from \$3.15 billion in May 2020. RBI said net external commercial borrowing had fallen to \$6.1 billion in January-March compared with \$9.4 billion a year earlier, but portfolio investments, mainly in the form of equity purchases, rose by \$7.3 billion versus a decline of \$13.7 billion.

Rupa Rege Nitsure, chief economist at L&T Financial Holdings, said, "India needs to focus on improving the competitiveness of its exports to make its external balance position sustainable".

Rupee fell by most in 15 months in June

REUTERS

The rupee posted its biggest monthly drop since the onset of the pandemic in March last year, pressured by high global crude oil prices and concerns over the U.S. Federal Reserve hinting at unwinding its massive stimulus.

Traders said month-end demand for dollars from oil importers was one of the main factors driving the unit lower. The rupee ended at 74.3250/3350 per dollar, from 74.22 on Tuesday.

It dropped 2.4% in June, its biggest fall since last March when it fell 4.6%. Over the quarter, it lost 1.7%, its worst quarterly fall since January-March 2020 when it tumbled 5.8%.

GST: CBIC to felicitate 54,439 taxpayers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

To mark the completion of four years of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) said it would felicitate as many as 54,439 taxpayers on Thursday who made most of their indirect tax payments in cash and filed their returns on time.

"GST has been a milestone in the economic landscape of India. It has decreased the number of taxes, compliance burden & overall tax burden on common man while significantly increasing transparency, compliance and overall collection," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a tweet.

Government must aid Jet Airways' revival: NCLT

'Airline can't claim historicity over slots'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The government must help in Jet Airways' revival and resolve the issue of airport slots though the airline can't claim historicity over them, the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has said. "The claim of historicity

debtor cannot be made available to it," the NCLT said in the judgment delivered on June 22. "We trust the authorities concerned, including the Government of India, shall

take a holistic approach and

provide necessary assis-

tance in allocation of slots as

advanced by the corporate

and when they are sought. The consortium of Murari Lal Jalan and Kalrock Capital would infuse ₹1,375 crore



into the airline, including ₹475 crore for payments to financial and corporate creditors, employees and workmen. The balance ₹900 crore would be spent on capital expenditure and working capital.

The ₹475 crore will include a payment of ₹380 crore to financial creditors, ₹52 crore to employees and workmen and ₹10 crore to operational creditors who will each get ₹10,000 only.

MPL FY21 revenue leaps to ₹1,037 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Manali Petrochemicals Ltd. said consolidated revenue for FY21 crossed the ₹1,000-crore mark to ₹1,037 crore.

The firm reported a consolidated revenue of ₹816 crore in FY20. MD M. Ravi attributed the higher revenue to favourable international and domestic market conditions and lower product imports into India.

In Q4, standalone net profit surged to ₹92 crore from ₹12 crore. Revenue from operations almost doubled to ₹333 crore (₹183 crore). MPL wrote off ₹1.40 crore pertaining to property, plant and equipment and assets. The board has declared a dividend of ₹1.50 per share.

Non-food bank credit growth eases to 5.9%: RBI

Industrial, services loan demand slows

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA MUMBAI

The non-food bank credit growth slowed to 5.9% in May compared with 6.1% in the year-earlier month, RBI data showed.

Credit to agriculture and allied activities continued to perform well, registering an accelerated growth of 10.3% compared with 5.2%.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday released the sectoral deployment of bank credit for May. Growth in advances to industry decelerated to 0.8% from 1.7%.

Size-wise, credit to medium industries registered a robust growth of 45.8% compared with a contraction of 5.3% a year earlier.

Credit growth to micro



and small industries accelerated to 5% compared with a contraction of 3.4%, while credit to large industries contracted by 1.7% compared with 2.8% growth.

Loan growth to the services sector decelerated to 1.9%, from 10.3%, mainly due to deceleration in credit growth to NBFCs, transport operators and commercial real estate. Personal loans registered an accelerated

growth of 12.4% (10.6%).

SpiceJet posted loss of ₹235 cr. in Q4

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

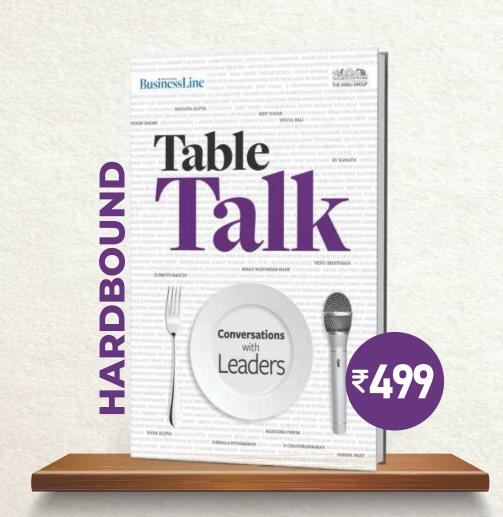
Low-cost carrier SpiceJet on Wednesday reported a loss of ₹235 crore for the quarter ended March 31. For the financial year 2020-21, the airline incurred a loss of ₹998 crore.

The board approved plans to raise fresh capital of up to ₹2,500 crore through the issue of eligible securities to qualified institutional buyers.

"These funds will be used to significantly strengthen our balance sheet," the airline's CMD Ajay Singh said. The airline has also decided to hive off the cargo business, SpiceXpress, as a separate entity.

Revenue from cargo jumped more than sixfold to ₹1,117.5 crore in FY21.

Business Line









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INTERVIEW | RANA MITTER

'Domestic considerations always come first for China's Communist Party'

There's been a shift towards a more controlled way of looking at history under Xi Jinping, says Professor of the History and Politics of Modern China at Oxford University

ANANTH KRISHNAN

As China's Communist Party turns 100 on July 1, its current leader, Xi Jinping, has staked out a greater global role for China even while championing a message of assertive nationalism at home. How China will manage these two increasingly conflicting trends remains to be seen. For China, says Rana Mitter, Professor of the History and Politics of Modern China, University of Oxford, at the heart of the party's aspirations is domestic stability and prosperity, and the fear of the system somehow being overturned. So, domestic considerations will always come first. Excerpts from an interview:

On June 29, Xi Jinping honoured 29 people with a medal, including veterans of the Chinese Civil War and the Korean War, and called on Chinese Communists to remember past contributions and sacrifices. Do those messages still resonate in 2021?

What the ceremony showed was the continuing importance of history in the way that the Chinese Communist Party thinks about itself. Also the way in which that history is used to burnish a narrative, which essentially is about the sort of inevitability in the eyes of the party of its eventual victory. It is a really important indication that when the party thinks about 100 years of its own history, it sees it as a continuity. That's a large part of what the message that was being put forward today [June 29] had to say.

There has been some limited space in China in the past to debate history but it seems

increasingly that's narrowing. Do you see a change under Xi on how the party approaches the history question?

■ There's definitely been a shift towards a much more controlled way of looking at history under Xi Jinping. It's always been the case, actually, for thousands of years in the sense that history is political in China. One of the first court historians, Sima Qian in the Han Dynasty [206 BCE to 220 CE], actually found himself being severely punished for writing history that was insulting of the Emperor. There is this long tradition of political history getting people into trouble. In the case of Xi in particular, he has moved the dial from where it was certainly 10 years ago, maybe even five years ago. At that point, it was certainly possible for scholars in particular to read alternative his-



I think Xi would feel that he is the leader who essentially has fulfilled that promise or expectation from Deng

tories of the party, ones in which some of the leaders who had previously been sort of purged might be somewhat reconsidered. The disasters of the Cultural Revolution of the 1960s were acknowledged, if not fully, at least as being mistakes that had to be overcome. But now, there is a much stronthose sort of cautious criticisms of mistakes in the party's history can't be permitted any more.

The idea of national rejuvenation has been around for a long time, but has become more prominent in the Xi era. Do you see a difference in the party's approach to creating a national identity?

■ I think it is different. He

does, of course, draw on what his predecessors did. If you look at the idea from Deng Xiaoping back in the 1980s, that China should "hide its light and bide its time", that China should be concentrating on getting rich, securing its economy, engaging with the world and creating this huge economic miracle, when Deng Xiaoping said that he didn't intend that should be the case forever. He meant that China

should use that time to build up to a position where it could reveal itself to the world as a major new power. I think Xi Jinping would feel that he is the leader who essentially has fulfilled that promise or expectation from Deng.

If you look at the Party Congress speech that Xi gave back in 2017, that's one of the first explicit articulations of the idea that China is going to take this global role, that it's going to have influence around the world.

The party pushing this idea of rejuvenation, that China has grown strong and stood up, plays well at home, but doesn't play very well externally. It seems that contradiction has become more acute. Is it too simplistic to suggest the domestic will always win over external

■ I don't think it's too simplistic at all. You've actually given a very astute assessment of what is at the heart, in the end, of the aspirations of the Chinese Communist Party and the state they run, which is domestic stability and prosperity, but also fear, more than anything else, of the system somehow being overturned. So that domestic consideration will always be most important.

I'd like to say it's not inevitably true, but I think it's broadly true that when Politburo member Xi Jinping or one of his colleagues gets up in the morning, they're not so much worried about what the Prime Minister of Japan is about to do as they're worried about what the Party Secretary of Hunan or the Party Secretary of Sichuan, is about to do.

Nonetheless, let's understand that international politics in some senses is in ser-

vice of domestic politics, the two can't be entirely separated. So in that sense, I think there is a debate going on. One reason we can tell that there clearly is some sort of reset going on, at least in words, is a speech made by Xi Jinping just a couple of weeks ago, in which he talked about the need for China in the world to be more humble and more lovable. The idea that basically China's diplomats have gone around the world, essentially barking their heads off, and telling their host countries where they've got it wrong, has just not gone down at all,

change of language than a change of policy remains to be seen.

well, anywhere. Whether or

not this marks more of a

full (For interview, scan the QR code)

Tourism losses could cost \$4 trillion: report

It calls for quick roll-out of vaccines

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN WASHINGTON DO

The collapse of international tourism due to COVID-19 could cost the world at least \$4 trillion in terms of global GDP for 2020 and 2021, according to a report from two United Nations (UN) institu-

India experienced a 54% drop in tourist arrivals in 2020, according to CO-VID-19 and Tourism: An Update, a joint report released by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the UN World Tourist Organisation (UNWTO) on Wednesday.

Tourism is not expected to return to pre-COVID levels until 2023 or later, costing the world somewhere between \$1.7 trillion and \$2.4 trillion in 2021, based on three scenarios (optimistic, pessimistic, and a third scenario in which the uneven roll-out of vaccines is considered).

On average, in the absence of any economic stimulus, a drop in tourist sales leads to a 2.5-fold loss in real GDP due to linkages with upstream sectors such as agriculture, according to

the study. Developing countries could account for 60% of these loses owing to asymmetric vaccine roll-out globally the report said. Tourism is likely to pick up faster this summer in North America and Europe where

vaccination rates are higher. The impact of travel resWorkers should be protected rather than specific jobs in declining sectors, for example through training

trictions could be felt particularly by women and young people who are employed in significant proportions by the tourism sector, where barriers to entry are low. Some 100 -120 million tourism jobs are at stake as per the report.

The report recommends quick roll-out of vaccines globally to bring back tourism, including in developing countries. It has commended the European Union's (EU) digital COVID certificate and acknowledges the International Air Transport Association's (IA-TA) travel pass which includes a vaccine certificate and test results. Agreed protocols for testing on departure could mean quarantine on arrival is not necessary, the report says.

The report also recommends socio-economic measures to protect livelihoods. "Workers should be protected rather than specific jobs in declining sectors, for example through training," it says. Finally, some tourism-related businesses will not survive even after restrictions are removed. the report says, advising governments to decide which ones to support and for what duration.

U.S. House passes resolution in support of India's COVID fight

U.S. has provided over \$100 mn in govt. assistance

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN

The U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution, introduced in May, when India was in the throes of a massive second wave of CO-VID-19, expressing solidarity with India, backing the Biden administration's assistance to India and asking it to facilitate in kind medical supply donations from the private sector.

"The resolution stands with the people of India as they collectively work to stem the spread of CO-



Expressing gratitude: A man walking past a mural depicting frontline COVID-19 workers in New Delhi. • AFP

VID-19," said Brad Sherman, a California Democrat and co-chair of the House India Caucus. "The U.S. must work with our partners around the world to quell the virus everywhere it persists," said Mr. Sherman, who introduced the legislation along with his Republican cochair, Steve Chabot.

"As co-chair of the House Caucus on India and Indian Americans, I am pleased my colleagues came together today to pass this important resolution expressing the House's support for India during this trying time," Mr. Chabot said.

While criticised for being slow to mobilise support for India, over the course of May, the U.S. had provided – as per official estimates - over \$100 million in government assistance and a total of over \$500 million in assistance, including individual and private sector contributions.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had also spoken with U.S. President Joe Biden as well as Vice-President Kamala Harris on the assistance India needed and the U.S.'s plans to share its excess vac-

Israel seeks to build wider ties across West Asia

UAE visit opens road to peace: Lapid

REUTERS

Israel's new Foreign Minister said on Wednesday his landmark visit to the United Arab Emirates was just the start of a road to wider peace in West Asia, reaching out to Arab states still wary of normalising ties.

Yair Lapid, the first Israeli Cabinet Minister to visit the Gulf state since the countries forged ties last year, also reiterated Israel's concern about the Iran nuclear deal being negotiated in

The trip comes amid unease in Israel and Arab capitals about U.S. efforts to reenter a 2015 nuclear pact between Iran and world powers, which then President Donald Trump quit in 2018 in a move backed by Saudi Arabia and its Gulf

"This visit isn't the end of the road to peace, it is just the beginning," he told reporters.

'Our hand is outstretched ...I hope this visit is the first of many and that together with our new friends we continue to make history in the entire region."



Yair Lapid

The UAE and Bahrain normalised ties with Israel under so-called "Abraham Accords" brokered by Mr. Trump's administration-,creating a new regional dynamic based on mutual concern over Iran and Islamist groups. Sudan and Morocco followed suit.

Mr. Lapid declined to comment on whether Israel was coordinating with Gulf states over Iran, saving he did not want to "embarrass" his hosts by remarking on a neighbour while in the UAE, but noted his country was worried about the nuclear

Gulf states have called for

: 30.07.2021

as on 30.07.2021

U.S. involved in U.K. warship incident: Putin

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday accused Washington of involvement in an incident involving a British destroyer off the coast of Moscow-annexed

Tender No: SE/PHC/MPM/12/2021-22

EMD: Rs. 500000

Tender fee : Rs. 17700

Phone: 04832734871

KWA-JB-GL-6-234-2021-22

off the British Navy's *HMS* was carried out not only by Defender as it passed near the Crimean peninsula in the Black Sea in what it said was a violation of its territorial waters. "This, of course, was a provocation - that is

Last week, Russia said it completely obvious," Mr. Pufired warning shots to ward tin said. "It was complex and the British, but also by the Americans." Britain has defended the ship's route, saying it was "in accordance with international law".

Mr. Putin said that "we on

No.: EE-2(Lakes)/Corr/2021-22

date: 15.06.2021

shall be read as under:

our territory fight for ourselves, for our future". "Even if we sank that ship,

Date: 25.06.2021

the world wouldn't have been on the verge of World War III, because those who are doing this know that they couldn't be the winners in this war," he said.

ii : CSIR-INDIAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGY

Last date for receipt of online applications

Uppal Road, Tarnaka, Hyderabad - 500 007. Telangana, India.

Advertisement No.02/2021 Dated 01.07.2021

Date of commencement of online applications : 01.07.2021

Last date for receipt of hard copy of applications: 16.08.2021

CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad (CSIR-

IICT) invites ONLINE APPLICATIONS from Indian Nationals only for

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For further details please visit our website http://www.iict.res.in and

apply through online by filling the application form available there. The detailed

advertisement, terms and conditions and instructions to the candidates are

*Total

Emoluments

(approx.)

Rs.54.000/-

Sr. Controller of Administration

illing up of Security Assistant post, the details are given below:

No. of posts

Reservations

One (01) Post

SECURITY

ASSISTANT

available on the website.

SAT01

a stronger deal of longer duration that also addresses Tehran's missiles programme and support for regional proxies that Iran has denied giving.

Russia sanctions extended

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

EU Ambassadors agreed to prolong wideranging economic sanctions imposed on Russia in 2014 for the annexation of Crimea and fuelling the conflict in Ukraine, diplomats said. The latest six-month extension to the end of January – set to be signed off by Foreign Ministers meeting on July 12 – comes as Brussels says ties with Moscow remain at their "lowest point".

following Services The details are as under,

Tender Description

Supply of Manpower

Supply of Security

Manpower



GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT NABARD & RURAL ROADS CIRCLE, SALEM - 1.

Last Date for submitting Tender: 15-07-2021 03:00:pm

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY - e-TENDER NOTICE

Providing FHTCs to AR Nagar Panchayaths and allied works

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

TENDER NOTICE Tender Notice No.03 / 2021-2022 / SDO / Dated : 29.06.2021.

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamilnadu percentage tender through online only will be received upto **02.08.2021 - 11.00** hours (as per Server System Clock) by the Superintending Engineer (H) NABARD & Rural Roads Salem Circle 3 Bridge Works under NABARD XXVI-2020-2021-21 Bridges in Erode Division pertaining (H) NABARD & Rural Roads Concerned Division.

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender locuments and all other details are available from the Government web site http://tntenders.gov.in. If any changes / Corrections etc in the tender, it will be published on the above website(s) only. SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (H)

NABARD AND RURAL ROADS CIRCLE, SALEM-1. DIPR/1914/TENDER/2021

Last Date & Time

for submission of

Tender / Bids

15.07.2021 @

17.00 Hrs

Wear Mask

COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Lakes Division-2, BBMP

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer, Lakes Division-2,

Room No. 309, 3rd Floor, New Building, BBMP,

N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002

CORRIGENDUM

Ref.: Tender Notification No.: EE-2(Lakes)/TN-06/2021-22

Due to technical reason the revised dates pertaining to the notification No.: EE-2(Lakes)/TN-06/2021-22 date: 15.06.2021

Revised calendar of events: (1) Last Date & Time fo

receipt of Tenders: 09.07.2021 upto 4:00 p.m. (2) Opening of

The other terms and conditions of the tender remains unaltered

Technical bid Tender Document: 12.07.2021 at 4:00 p.m.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE Office of the Executive Engineer, Rajarajeshwari Nagara Division BBMP Office, Near Chowdeshwari Bus Stop, Mathikere, Bengaluru - 54 No.EE/RRND/Tend/03/2021-22

NVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)

(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only) The Executive Engineer, Rajarajeshwari Nagara Division, invites enders from eligible Contractors for the works detailed in the

Name of the Work Redesign and upgrading of existing Musical Fountain interfaced with multimedia based Laser and Video Projection on Aqua Screen at 1000.00 J.P. Park Ward No. 17 under PACKAGE-2019-20 RRN-DIV-(08).

EMD Declaration: As per G.O. No. FD 675 Expenditure-12/2020 dated: 22.12.2020. 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from e-procurement portal from: 05.07.2021 onwards. 2) Pre-bid Meeting: 19.07.2021 at 11.00 a.m. 3) Last date for uploading of filled tender document: 22.07.2021 upto 4.00 p.m. 4) Date of opening of Technical Bid: 23.07.2021 at 4.00 p.m. 5) Date of opening of Financial Bid: 27.07.2021 at 4.00 p.m. Further details can be accessed from GoK e-procurement website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in o contact the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Rajarajeshwari Nagara Division PAY DEVELOPMENT CHARGES, HELP TO DEVELOP BENGALURU STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE. Follow Physical Distancing



NOTICE NO: 08a / 2021 e-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous scrap, Non-Ferrous scrap, other Misc Scrap, condemned Wagon, Coaches & Locos, Scrap Rails and other Permanent Way scrap material

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

S.	e-auction	Date of a	uction for	Materials for
No.	conducted by	the Month	of July' 21	auction
1.	CMM/GSD/PER	09.07.21	19.07.21	
2.	Dy.CMM/CSSD/GOC	10.07.21	20.07.21	
3.	Dy.CMM/SSD/PTJ	12.07.21	22.07.21	The details of
4.	Sr.DMM/MAS	13.07.21	23.07.21	item to be sold
5.	Sr.DMM/SA	14.07.21	26.07.21	in e-auction will
6.	Sr.DMM/TVC	15.07.21	27.07.21	be available in
7.	Sr.DMM/PGT	15.07.21	28.07.21	www.ireps.gov.in
8.	Sr.DMM/TPJ	16.07.21	29.07.21	catalogue in
9.	Sr.DMM/MDU	16.07.21	30.07.21	website

For detailed terms and conditions and downloading of catalogue please visit out web-site http://www.ireps.gov.in → E-Auction → Sale → Live

Principal Chief Materials Manager

SI Re-Tender

01. MPVL/2021-22/

02. MPVL/2021-22/

No. Notification Number

MANPOWER/CALL-2

SECURITY/CALL-2

For Mysore Paints and Varnish Ltd. Sd/- TIA / General Manager (Admin) DIPR/DDMYS/MCA/254/2020-21

Interested parties may visit www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in, for details and participating in the tender.

MYSORE PAINTS & VARNISH LTD.,

(A Govt., of Karnataka Undertaking)

New Bannimantap Extension, MYSURU-570 015

Phone: 0821-2493831/ 2497469/ 2499340, website: www.mysorepaints.karnataka.gov.in

email: admin-mpvl@karnataka.gov.in/materials- mpvl@karnataka.gov.in

RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION Date:28.06.2021

Tenders are invited from the registered suppliers / Agencies through Karnataka e-Procurement Portal for the

Estimated

Tender Value

Rs.85.70 Lakh

Rs.40.00 Lakh

Date & Time of

Technical Bid

Opening

19.07.2021 @

11.00 Hrs

Djokovic slides into the third round

Kyrgios outlasts Humbert in five-setter; Cornet packs off Andreescu; Kenin crashes out

WIMBLEDON

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Novak Djokovic slid, slipped, skidded and stumbled into the third round on Wimbledon's slick grass by beating Kevin Anderson 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 on Wednesday.

Book COVID-19 Vaccine Slot on Paytm



Djokovic didn't face a break point and committed just six unforced errors, inwith his one forehand.

The retractable roof was open when the top-ranked Djokovic was first on Centre Court for his rematch against Anderson, who also lost when they played in the 2018 final.

While Djokovic endured an up-and-down performance on the slippery surface and rose from one spill

Thursday's picks

- Men: 6-Federer vs Gasquet
- 2-Medvedev vs Alcaraz
- Women: 1-Barty vs Blinkova ■ 2-Gauff vs Vesnina

muttering in frustration, he had little trouble with Anderson. The preternaturally limber Djokovic extended one rally by hitting a forehand while down on his knee – and won the point.

Nick Kyrgios finished off No. 21 seed Ugo Humbert 9-7 in the fifth set of their suspended first-round match.

The contest had been halted at 3-all in the fifth set on Tuesday evening because local rules prevent play past 11 p.m. When they resumed on the No. 1 Court, Kyrgios broke for an 8-7 lead and then saved two break points in the final game before clinching the match with a service winner.

It was Kyrgios' first match since the Australian Open in February, where he also beat Humbert in an entertaining five-setter.

The Australian is now 4-0 in five-set matches at Wimbledon. Kyrgios had won the first and fourth sets and Humbert the second and third. The latter was coming

THE RESULTS The highlights Men: Second round: 1-Djokovic

Before Tuesday, the only progressed beyond the first round at a Major was at the 2012 French Open (lost to Virginie

Since winning the 2019 US 6 Since winning the 2019 00 Open, Andreescu has missed three Majors and not progressed beyond the second round in the

16 Djokovic nas work to straight matches at Djokovic has won 16 Wimbledon since his retirement against Berdych in the 2017 quarterfinals

58 Wimbledon 2021 is Cornet's 58th consecutive Grand Slam singles appearance, the longest among active players

Not too bad for a part-time player. I was in so much pain in the morning, after not having played for so long. But to play in front of you fans, it was easy to get up and

HUMBERT, IN ONLY HIS SEVENTH TOUR-LEVEL MATCH SINCE FEBRUARY 2020

off his first grass-court title after winning the Halle Open this month.

Bianca Andreescu made another early Grand Slam exit when she lost to Alice Cor-

American fourth seed Sofia Kenin was knocked out in the second round, losing in just 45 minutes to compatriot Madison Brengle.

Kenin lost 2-6, 4-6 to the 82nd-ranked Brengle.

Injured Serena exits in tears

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

American legend Serena Williams's dreams of winning an eighth Wimbledon singles title and equalling Margaret Court's Grand Slam record of 24 ended in tears on Tuesday as further doubt was cast on her future in the sport.

The 39-year-old was leading 3-1 in the first set of her first round match against Aliaksandra Sasnovich of Belarus when she slipped and injured her right leg.

Williams returned after receiving medical

attention, but called it a day at 3-3 and walked off the Centre Court in tears.

"I was heartbroken to have to withdraw today after injuring my right leg," she said in a statement posted late evening on her Instagram account.

Perhaps tellingly, she waved to all four sides of the court as she left.

However, she gave no indication in the statement of how serious the injury was nor about her future.

It is the first time that Serena has bowed out in the opening round of Wimbledon in 20 appearances.



Agony: Serena Williams slipped on the Centre Court and could not take further part in her first round match. •AP

Bopanna-Divij set to miss Tokyo cut

SPORTS BUREAU

) ohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan look set to miss the cut for men's doubles at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. India could be without a men's doubles team for the first time since Barcelona 1992, where Leander Paes and Ramesh Krishnan reached the quarterfinals.

With a low combined ranking of 113, Bopanna (38) and Divij's (75) entry rested on a series of withdrawals. Despite some, the cut for 22 teams out of 24 direct acceptances is said to be as high as mid-60s, according to sources. The final cut-off could not be confirmed.

This now greatly diminishes the country's possibility of fielding a mixed doubles team, for each of the mixed doubles players should mandatorily feature in their respective doubles draws. Sania will be playing in the women's doubles competition in Tokyo alongside Ankita Raina.

Regardless, as preparation, Sania and Bopanna have teamed up for mixed doubles at Wimbledon, where they will play Hungary's Timea Babos and Marton Fucsovics in the opening round. The Indian duo lost the mixed doubles bronze medal playoff at Rio 2016.

Underwhelming Ukraine's fairy tale continues

Makes quarters as Dovbyk's strike at the very end of extra-time dumps Sweden

EURO 2020

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ukraine had reached the round of 16 at the European Championship with two losses and the worst record of the advancing teams. And now the quarterfinals, too. Ukraine eliminated pre-

viously unbeaten Sweden 2-1 on Tuesday with a goal in stoppage time at the end of extra-time from a player who was left on the bench for the entire group stage

Substitute Artem Dovbyk stooped to guide a header from Oleksandr Zinchenko's cross past goalkeeper Robin Olsen.

Faces England

Ukraine will now head to Rome to face England on Sa-

Zinchenko gave Ukraine the lead in the 27th minute when he rifled in a low shot set up by a crafty pass from



The clincher: Ukraine's Artem Dovbyk stoops to head home and break Swedish hearts. • AP

captain Andriy Yarmolenko. Emil Forsberg's deflected shot from outside the area in the 43rd minute equalised for Sweden.

Unlucky Forsberg

It was his fourth goal at Euro 2020, but a tournament lead-tying fifth eluded him in the second half despite curling shots off the post and

the crossbar.

Sweden coach Janne Andersson cited the momentum shift in extra time when Sweden defender Marcus Danielson was sent off in the 98th minute for following through on a challenge with a raised boot on substitute Artem Besedin.

The game lost all rhythm and flow in scrappy extra

By The Numbers

- **4** Sweden v Ukraine was the last 16 tie to go to extra-time, the most ever in a single knockout round in the competition
- 5 Oleksandr Zinchenko is the fifth different Manchester City player to score in this edition. Only Atalanta has had as many different players score
- 121 Timed at 120:37, Artem Dovbyk scored the second-latest goal in Euros history, behind Semih Senturk vs Croatia in 2008 (121:01), and the latest match-winning strike in the competition, overtaking Michel Platini v Portugal in 1984 (118:53)

time periods littered with fouls, injuries and an argument between the two coaches

The result: Sweden 1 (Forsberg 43) lost to Ukraine 2 (Zinchenko 27, Dovbyk 120+1).

Abhimanyu is youngest ever GM

(Srb) bt Anderson (RSA) 6-3, 6-3,

6-3; First round: Kyrgios (Aus)

bt 21-Humbert (Fra) 6-4, 4-6,

3-6, 6-1, 9-7; Thompson bt 12-

Ruud (Nor) 7-6(6), 7-6(3), 2-6,

2-6, 6-2; 7-Berrettini (Ita) bt Pel-

la (Arg) 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, 6-0; Nish-

ioka (Jpn) bt 28-Isner (USA) 7-6

(5), 2-6, 6-3, 6-7(3), 6-4; Chardy

(Fra) bt 20-Karatsev (Rus) 7-6(4),

7-6(6), 6-3; Querrey (USA) bt 11-

Carreno-Busta (Esp) 7-6(6), 6-4,

7-5; Ymer (Swe) bt Tsonga (Fra)

Women: Second round: 7-Swia-

tek (Pol) bt Zvonareva (Rus) 6-1,

6-3; 2-Sabalenka (Blr) bt Boulter

(GBR) 4-6, 6-3, 6-3; Brengle

(USA) bt 4-Kenin (USA) 6-2, 6-4;

11-Muguruza (Esp) bt Pattinama

Kerkhove (Ned) 6-1, 6-4; Samso-

nova (Rus) bt 22-Pegula (USA)

6-4, 3-6, 6-3; Osorio Serrano

(Col) bt 32-Alexandrova (Rus)

7-5, 6-2. First round: Cornet

(Fra) bt 5-Andreescu (Can) 6-2,

6-1; 3-Svitolina (Ukr) bt Van Uyt-

vanck (Bel) 6-3, 2-6, 6-3; 16-Pav-

lyuchenkova (Rus) bt Bogdan

F(Rou) 6-2, 6-2; Vondrousova

(Cze) bt 24-Kontaveit (Est) 2-6,

Men: 11-Carreno Busta,

12-Ruud, 20-Karatsev,

21-Humbert, 28-Isner

5-Andreescu, 6-Serena.

22-Pegula, 24-Kontaveit,

9-Bencic, 17-Bertens,

Women: 4-Kenin.

32-Alexandrova

6-4. 6-2.

Fallen seeds

7-5, 6-7(4), 5-7, 6-4, 6-3.

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

"My short-term goal," Abhimanyu Mishra had said over phone from Budapest last month, "is to become the world's Grandmaster."

Wednesday, reached that goal. The US player of Indian origin has become the youngest GM in history, at 12 years, four months and 25 days. He beat the record of Sergey Karjakin, who had completed his GM title in 2002 at 12 years and seven months.

Abhimanyu scored his third and final norm by defeating India's Leon Mendonca in the penultimate round of the Vezerkepzo GM tournament at Budapest.

He had reached the Hungarian capital along with his father Hemant a few months ago on a one-way ticket, on a mission to complete the GM

Arjun falls to Aronian in tiebreaker

Carlsen overcomes fighting So; Ding, Artemiev set up second semifinal

CHESS

RAKESH RAO NEW DELHI

Arjun Erigiasi's gallant show against Levon Aronian ended in the blitz tiebreaker where the Armenian prevailed 1.5-0.5 to set up a clash with Magnus Carlsen in the semifinals of the Goldmoney Asian Rapid online rapid chess tournament on Wednesday.

After enjoying several promising positions in four drawn rapid games, Arjun finally cracked in the first blitz game before Aronian easily gained the draw in the second to advance.

Carlsen survived a brilliant comeback by Wesley So who won third and fourth games to win the second set 2.5-1.5 to force the blitz tiebreaker. Carlsen recovered from the doubleblow to win the first game in

From winning position In the second, too, Carlsen reached a winning position and then took a draw needed to go through. From the lower-half of

the draw, Ding Liren and Vladislav Artemiev made it past Jan-Krzysztof Duda and Anish Giri, respectively. The results:

Quarterfinals: Set Two: Ariun Erigaisi drew with Levon Aroblitz playoff); Wesley So (USA) bt Magnus Carlsen (Nor) 2.5-1.5 (Carlsen wins blitz playoff 1.5-0.5); Ding Liren (Chn) bt Jan-Krzysztof Duda (Pol) 3-1; Vladislav Artemiev (Rus) bt Anish Giri (Ned) 2-1. Semifinal line-up: Carlsen-

Nihal Sarin won the Silver

Nihal Sarin triumphs

IN BRIEF

Lake Open chess tournament in Serbia on Tuesday. The third-seeded Indian emerged on top of the field with eight points from nine rounds. In the final round, he defeated Branko Damljanovic of the host. The second and third places were also taken by Indians Raunak Sadhwani and Abhimanyu Puranik who scored seven points each

Pogacar wins fifth stage

Slovenian Tadei Pogacar overwhelming Tour de France favourite when he destroyed the field by winning the fifth stage, a 27.2-km individual time trial, on Wednesday. The defending champion clocked a best time of 32 minutes

India shot out for 221 in second ODI

Mithali comes good again; Cross scalps five, Ecclestone three

INDIA IN ENG

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

India was dismissed for 221 in the second ODI against England on Wednesday.

Captain Mithali Raj topscored with 59 (92b, 7x4) and stitched together a 68-run partnership for the fourth wicket with Harmanpreet Kaur (19).

Young opener Shafali Verma contributed 44 off 55 balls while the other opener, Smriti Mandhana, scored 22 before being the first of seamer Kate Cross' five victims. Shafali and Smriti had added 56.

Jemimah Rodrigues, who had replaced Punam Raut, struck two boundaries before falling to Cross for eight. Shafali departed a run later, stumped by Amy Jones off left-arm spinner Sophie Ecclestone.

It was at this stage that Mithali and Harmanpreet did the repair job before the latter was caught and bowled by Cross. Wickets fell regularly before the last-wicket pair of Jhulan Goswami (19 n.o.,s 19b, 3x4) and Poonam Yadav (10, 15b, 1x4) added 29 to take India to a respectable total. Cross finished with impressive figures of five for 34. Ecclestone's spell read 10-2-



to help India go past the 200-mark. • GETTY IMAGES

SCOREBOARD

INDIA Smriti Mandhana b Cross 22 (30b, 3x4), Shafali Verma st.

Jones b Ecclestone 44 (55b, 7x4), Jemimah Rodrigues c Brunt b Cross 8 (15b, 2x4), Mithali Raj run out 59 (92b, 7x4), Harmanpreet Kaur c & b Cross 19 *(39b, 1x4)*, Deepti Sharma c Dunkley b Cross 5 (12b, 1x4), Sneh Rana c Knight b Cross 5 (7b. 1x4). Taniya Bhatia c Jones b Ecclestone 2 (10b), Shikha Pandey c Jones b Sciver 2 (7b), Jhulan Goswami (not out) 19 (19b, 3x4), Poonam Yadav b Ecclestone 10 (15b, 1x4); Extras (b-6, lb-6, w-13, nb-1): 26; Total (in 50 overs):

FALL OF WICKETS 1-56 (Smriti, 11.5 overs), 2-76 (Jemimah, 15.4), 3-77

(Shafali, 16.4), 4-145 (Harmanpreet, 33.5), 5-160 (Deepti, 37.2), 6-168 (Sneh, 39.1), 7-178 (Taniya, 42.2), 8-181 (Shikha, 43.5), 9-192 (Mithali, 46.2). **ENGLAND BOWLING**

Brunt 10-0-55-0, Shrubsole

8-1-31-0. Ecclestone 10-2-

33-3. Cross 10-0-34-5.

7-0-27-1,

Toss: England. **England 135/5**

Sciver

5-0-29-0.

in reply

■ England had reached 135/5 after 30 overs with Sophia Dunkley (17) and Katherine Brunt (0) at the crease. Poonam Yadav took two

Injured Gill could miss England series

AMOL KARHADKAR

Opening batsman Shubman Gill is likely to miss India's Test series in England which will start in Nottingham on August 4.

In fact, Gill could well be asked to return home even before the squad reassembles in Durham on July 14.

The Hindu understands

that Gill was carrying an internal injury which had aggravated during the WTC final

against New Zealand. While the precise nature of the injury could not be ascertained, it is understood that the medical staff has advised Gill to be sent home since he cannot recover in time for the five-Test series

It will be interesting to see

if the Chetan Sharma-led national selection panel, in consultation with the team management, decides to recall Gill and names a replacement to

be available for the first Test. India's squad includes Mayank Agarwal and K.L. Rahul as the reserve openers, with Mayank likely to be preferred as Rohit Sharma's

SA IN WI

Aronian; Ding-Artemiev.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE ST. GEORGE'S (GRENADA)

Tabraiz Shamsi inspired South Africa to a thrilling one-run victory over the West Indies in the third of the five-match series at the National Cricket Stadium here on Tuesday.

With South Africa de-

fending a modest 167 for eight, the left-arm wrist spinner's spell of 4-0-13-2 proved the turning point.

South Africa 167/8 in 20 overs (Quinton de Kock 72, Rassie van der Dussen 32, Obed McCoy 4/22, Dwayne Bravo 3/ 25) bt West Indies 166/8 in 20 overs. South Africa won by one run to take a 2-1 lead in five-

The scores:

It is possible to be nice and sweep the world too

Southee's gesture to help a young girl has added another feather to the Kiwis' cap



Tim Southee. ■TWITTER

CRICKET

S. DINAKAR CHENNAI

When Tim Southee recently auctioned his World Test Championship final shirt to raise funds for the treatment of an eight-year old suffering from a rare type of cancer, it shone light on a wonderful bunch.

Over the years, the Kiwis have met disappointments with a smile rather than a frown, their behaviour raising the bar. And talking about disap-

pointments could there have been a greater setback than seeing the ICC ODI World Cup final at Lord's being snatched away from them by a bizarre rule.

Most teams in a similar situation could have exploded with hurt and anger. Not the Kiwis. They collected their runner-up awards with grace and dignity, underlining their glowing qualities.

And in Kane Williamson, the New Zealanders have a captain and a role model. Play the game hard but fair. While winning matters, the means to it is more important.

Southee's gesture to help a young girl is not one in isolation. Over the years, the Kiwi cricketers have, in their own quiet way, chipped in for noble causes. Yet, they do not advertise it. You hear about them when in New Zealand, from those in the know of things.

The manner the Kiwis rallied around their former captain and batting great Martin Crowe is a case in point.

Crowe was in some pain when he attended the Wel-

lington Test of 2014. The can-

cer had returned. Yet. throughout the match, he was surrounded by his former teammates who made their skipper laugh, feel at ease and momentarily forget the great physical discomfort he was under.

This is how men of honour pay homage to their leader. Sadly, Crowe passed away in 2016, but his men cushioned the agony as the scourge consumed him.

But for the occasion when Ross Taylor lost his captaincy to Brendon McCullum under controversial circumstances, the Kiwis have been rather blemishless in the manner they go about their

And as the WTC final revealed, you can be nice and sweep the world too.



between Change and Laval. Shamsi stars in SA's win

TV PICKS

Wimbledon: SS Select 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m. Tour de France: Eurosport (SD & HD), 5.15 p.m. England vs Sri Lanka: 2nd ODI: Sony Six (SD & HD), 5.30

NBA: SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 6 a.m. (Friday)

IN BRIEF



Hawks down Bucks to level series

Giannis Antetokounmpo suffered a knee injury as Milwaukee Bucks slumped to a series-levelling defeat against Atlanta Hawks in their NBA Eastern Conference finals clash on Tuesday. An all-round offensive effort from the Hawks secured a 110-88 victory at the State Farm Arena to square the best-of-seven series at 2-2. The result: Eastern

Conference finals: Milwaukee Bucks 88 lost to Atlanta Hawks 110. Series tied 2-2.



World 400m champion Salwa Eid Naser banned

World women's 400m champion Salwa Eid Naser of Bahrain was banned for two years for doping on Wednesday in a ruling by the Court of Arbitration for Sport. Sport's top court upheld an appeal by World Athletics against a ruling by the federation's own disciplinary tribunal which had cleared Nigerian-born Naser of missing doping tests. AFP

National u-10 chess put off till July 4

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Owing to unresolved issues with the official online platform Tornelo's server in Australia, the last four rounds of the National (under-10) open online rapid chess championship were cancelled on Wednesday

and rescheduled for July 4, According to an announcement by the All India Chess Federation, "The Tornelo Server is not taking the load and there are major network issues in Australia. We tried to fix the same on Tuesday night.

"However, the same issue occurred today. Considering the situation, we are forced to call off the rounds of the National (Under-10) Open for the day. The remaining rounds will be played on July 4, 2021."

After seven rounds. Ethan Vaz. Revan Mohammad. Sanyam Srivastava and Jval Saurin Patel shared the lead with seven points.

Mairai to drive to Croatia for vaccination

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The long wait for vaccination will culminate with a long drive for skeet shooter Mairaj Ahmad Khan.

After unsuccessful attempts to get inoculated at his training base in Italy, Mairajwill drive from Italy to Croatia to get the vaccine shot.

Driving on the European highways for more than 1,000km from Capua towards the north of Italy, Slovenia and into Croatia may serve as a pleasant change from the rigours of training for the Olympics. A flight across the Adriatic Sea could help cut down the distance by half, but the two skeet shooters were unwilling to exercise that option owing to the

risk of catching the virus. Mairaj will take the single-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine. All other vaccines require two shots.

FINA ratifies Srihari's A-mark

Swimmer says he drew inspiration from Sajan's performances

SWIMMING

SPORTS REPORTER BENGALURU

Srihari Nataraj has become the second Indian after Sajan Prakash to secure A-mark Olympic Qualification Time, after his time of 53.77s in a 100m backstroke time trial in Rome last weekend was ratified by FINA, the Swimming Federation of India announced on Wednesday.

Sajan had breached the Amark in 200m butterfly on Saturday with a timing of 1:56.38s (A-mark: 1:56.48s) to become the first Indian ever to achieve the feat.

Srihari's timing required FINA's approval because it was clocked at a requested time trial after the youngster had missed the A-mark (53.85s) by five hundredths of a second last Friday. The 20-year-old can now heave a



Relief: Srihari Nataraj, who was on tenterhooks over his Tokyo participation, can now fully concentrate on preparing for the Olympics. ■FILE PHOTO

sigh of relief and look forward to joining Sajan on the trip to Tokyo as Monal Chokshi, SFI secretary, confirmed that Srihari's name was on the FINA list, and that the official letter would arrive Thursday or later.

"I was very anxious but I was well distracted because

we went around sightseeing in Rome," said Srihari. "That distracted me for a couple of days but I was anxious and [it was] a big relief when I found out."

Srihari said that he drew inspiration from Sajan. "I am very happy that he did it and it's a huge thing. He proved that it was possible, even at that age (27) and with all the injuries he went through. It was a motivation that I can do it too. I saw him drop from 1:57 in Uzbekistan to 1:56 and that showed it wasn't impossible for me to drop another 0.2 seconds a day later."

Srihari will now be training in Bengaluru, where the State Government, through an order on Wednesday, has permitted the opening of 'one designated swimming pool only for training of swimmers for Olympics.'

"There are three weeks left [for Tokyo] and there will be a lot of competition. The main goal is to get a better time. Based on past history and if I can drop [the time] a bit, I see myself making the semifinals. That is the goal," Srihari added.

Ashwin, Mithali and Neeraj recommended for Khel Ratna

SPORTS AWARDS

AGENCIES NEW DELHI

The BCCI has decided to recommend women's cricketer Mithali Raj and spinner R. Ashwin for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award, the country's highest sporting honour. For Arjuna Award, the Board will send the names of senior batsman Shikhar Dhawan, K.L. Rahul and pacer Jasprit Bumrah.

Football

India captain Sunil Chhetri has been recommended for Khel Ratna by the All India Football Federation.

National women's team striker Bala Devi, currently playing for Rangers in the Scottish Women's Premier League, has been recommended for the Arjuna.

The Wrestling Federation of India has nominated



Mithali Raj. • FILE РНОТО

Olympics-bound and World Championship medal-winners Ravi Dahiya and Deepak Punia for the Arjuna along with fast-rising Anshu Malik. Sarita Mor has also been nominated for the same award.

Olympics-bound javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has been recommended for the Khel Ratna by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI).

Two-time European Tour winner Shubhankar Sharma



Neerai Chopra. • FILE PHOTO

has been recommended for the Khel Ratna by the Indian Golf Union. World champion in double trap Ankur Mittal and World Championship silver medallist in air rifle Anjum Moudgil have been recommended for the Khel Ratna by the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI).

A. Sharath Kamal has been recommended for the Khel Ratna by the Table Tennis Federation of India

Sanjeev and Tejaswini finish fifth

ish fifth.

India signs off with four medals

SHOOTING WC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Sanjeev Rajput and Tejaswini Sawant placed fifth in the mixed rifle 3-position event in the shooting World Cup in Osijek, Croatia.

After pulling through into the second stage of qualification - at the expense of the other Indian team of Anjum Moudgil and Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar – with a better score of inner-10s after being tied on 873, Sanjeev and Tejaswini missed the medal match for the same reason.

The Indian pair had a lower score of inner-10s on

being tied with Hungary on 581, and thus had to be fin-

The Tokyo-bound Indian team wound up its campaign with a gold, a silver and two bronze medals in the second World Cup of the It had topped the table

with a total of 30 medals in the earlier World Cup at home in Delhi in March. The results: 50m rifle 3-position: Mixed team: 1. Poland 33 (586) 875; 2. Croatia 19 (586) 877; 3. Belarus 31 (582) 874; 4. Hungary 21 (581) 876; 5. India-B (Sanjeev Rajput, Tejaswini Sawant) 581 (873); 9. India-A (Anjum Moudgil, Aishwary Pra-

Dutee makes Tokyo in both 100m & 200m



Dutee Chand. ■FILE PHOTO

NEW DELHI

Dutee Chand has qualified for the upcoming Tokyo Olympics in both 100m and 200m through the World Rankings quota on Wednesday.

Dutee's overall position of world No. 44 in 100m and world No. 51 in 200m was enough to fly to Tokyo.

'I didn't want a DNF against my name'

Heptathlete Shobha recounts her gritty display at the Athens Games

ATHLETICS

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

The Olympics is not all about winning medals!

In the birthplace of the Modern Games, Athens, J.J. Shobha came up with a display which still stands out as one of the most memorable performances by an Indian, not for winning a medal but for completing her heptathlon events despite a ligament tear before the final segment (800m).

For the 43-year-old Shobha, the 2004 Games is a personal high too because of the amazing spirit she displayed in the face of serious injury for which she received a standing ovation from the crowd for her grit



J.J. Shobha running with her injured leg. • vino John

and determination.

"The memories of that day are still fresh. No doubt, there is a lifelong regret of

missing a huge opportunity of having a go at the Olympic medal when you know you are at your best. But again, it was destiny that saw me suffer that ligament tear in the javelin event," Shobha recalled in a chat with The Hindu. 'Well, some thoughts will be repetitive but I have no

issues for I am taken back to the Athens Games and there is no better joy than sharing that unforgettable experience," said the South Central Railway officer with a big smile.

"When I look back, I had entered the Athens Games after setting the National record in heptathlon (6211 points which still remains in her name) and the injury coming at the wrong time hurts me most. "I vividly remember be-

ing carried away on a stretcher twice during the heptathlon in Athens once after the injury and the after completing the 800m under serious distress," said the mother of two girls.

"Honestly, I was not sure whether I would complete the event. But somehow I mustered the courage and conviction to do that. I just didn't want DNF (Did Not Finish) against my name in the Olympics. I was glad that I finished 11th overall (6172 points)."

Shobha's tryst with the Olympics will be one of those moments which truly symbolise the motto and spirit of the Games.

Prajnesh enters pre-quarterfinals

tap Singh Tomar) 873.

TENNIS

SPORTS BUREAU

Second seed Prajnesh Gunneswaran beat Mathias Bourgue of France 6-2, 3-6, 6-1 to move into the prequarterfinals of the €44,820 Challenger tennis here.

The results: €44,820 Challenger. Porto: First round: Prainesh Gunneswaran bt Mathias Bourgue (Fra) 6-2, 3-6, 6-1.

Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Luca Margaroli (Sui) & Sriram Balaji bt Geoffrey Blancaneaux ne Janvier (Fra) 4-6 7-6 (4), [10-6].

\$25,000 ITF women, Palma

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del Rio, Spain: First round: Anastasia Zakharova (Rus) bt Karman Kaur Thandi 6-4, 4-6,

\$15,000 ITF women, Monastir: **Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals:** Emilie Lindh Gallagher (GBR) & of The Youth Solomatina (Rus) & Humera Ba-

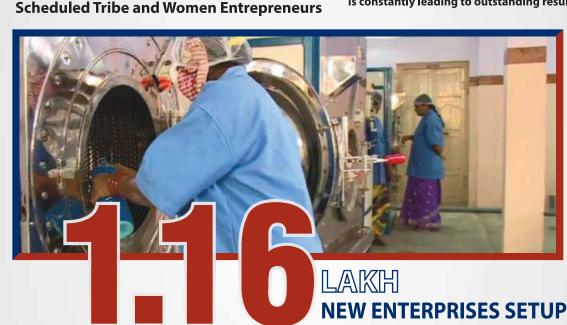
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