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DL Extract	Hypothecation Continuation	Renewal of late permit of Goods Vehicles for more than 3 months	
DL Replacement	Hypothecation Termination	Renewal of late permit for more than 3 months of Passenger Vehicles	
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India sending aircraft to evacuate its nationals from Mazar-e-Sharif



Have faith in Supreme Court, CJI Ramana tells Pegasus petitioners



New York Governor Cuomo resigns over sex abuse charges



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Lionel Messi all set to don Paris Saint-Germain colours

NEARBY

14 States set to reopen schools for Classes X-XII

NEW DELHI At least 14 States and Union Territories have reopened or plan to reopen schools partially this month, given the continued low numbers of COVID-19 infection and the high rate of vaccination among teachers. At a press conference on Tuesday, NITI Aayog member V.K. Paul said almost 50% of teachers across the country have been vaccinated, but emphasised that more effort is needed.

NORTH & WEST ▶ PAGE 5



OPPORTUNITIES PAGE 3

LS clears Bill restoring States' rights to specify OBC groups

Lawmakers across parties call for removal of 50% cap on reservation

You (BJP) tweaked the Constitution by bringing the 102nd Constitution-

al Amendment Bill, which gave

people the opportunity to

go to court and finally the SC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Tuesday passed the 127th Constitution Amendment Bill, 2021, with unanimous support from the House and not a single vote against, with Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Virendra Kumar stating that there was a need for careful examination of the demand made by several Lok Sabha MPs to remove the 50% cap on reservation currently in place.

Orderly debate

Replying to the debate on the Bill, the first such debate in an orderly manner in a session marked by three weeks of disruptions and adjournments, Dr. Kumar said the issue required a careful going over of legal and constitutional issues. "In the Indra Sawhney case the court has

Empowering the States The 127th Constitution Amendment Bill benefits 671 castes in the country and restores the States' rights to make their own list of OBCs

The Bill seeks to restore the power of the States to identify OBCs that are socially and educationally backward after a Supreme Court order in May 2021 empowered only the Centre for this

The amendment was thought necessary because the SC, in its order don Maratha reservations, upheld the 102nd Constitutional Amendment Act, which said the President of India, in consultation with Governors, would specify socially and educationally backward classes, taking away the powers of the State governments to do so

OBCs in the country and to remove the 50% cap on reservations currently in place When the Amendment was brought, the government's intent was that both at the Central and State

level, OBC lists will be

maintained

removed the States' power ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY, CONGRESS LEADER observed that the limit can be increased beyond the 50% but only in certain special

circumstances. The government is aware of the wishes of the members," he said.

The Minister said the cur-

rent Constitution Amendment Bill was historic legislation as 671 castes in the country would benefit from it and restore the States' rights to make their own list of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and should be considered as the 105th Constitution Amendment Bill after being renumbered.

Several parties

census to get a real

idea of the number of

also demanded a caste-based

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8 CASTE-BASED CENSUS ▶ PAGE 9

YSRCP, BJD join demand for scrutiny of insurance Bill

SOBHANA K. NAIR NEW DELHI

In a change of stance, the YSRCP and the Biju Janata Dal, both of whom have maintained a distance from the Opposition, are now supporting the demand to send the controversial General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2021, to a select parliamentary committee.

Discussion today

The Bill, one of the last pieces of legislation on the government's agenda for the monsoon session of Parliament, will come up for discussion on Wednesday. It seeks to enhance private participation in public sector insurance companies.

After multiple adjournments, the government called for a meeting of leaders from all Opposition parties at 3 p.m.

At the meeting, YSR Congress MP Vijay Sai Reddy forcefully argued in favour of sending the Bill to a select committee.

As per sources, he pointed out that the legislation was vastly different from what Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had indicated in her budget speech. He quoted Ms. Sitharaman's from speech where she said "....we propose to take up the privatisation of two public sector banks and one general insurance company in the year 2021-22".

Mr. Reddy, it is learnt, argued that the current Bill aims at privatisation of all four general insurance companies, instead of what was proposed by the Minister.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Parties get 48 hours to publish candidates' criminal records

Supreme Court modifies its February 2020 judgment

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

The Supreme Court on Tuesday warned Parliament that the nation is losing patience with the advent of criminals in politics even as it imposed fines on major political parties, including the BIP and the Congress, for covering up from voters the criminal past of the candidates they fielded in the Bihar Assembly poll last year.

The court had directed political parties to publish the criminal history, if any, of their election candidates on the homepage of their websites under the caption 'Candidates with criminal antecedents' within 48 hours of their selection.

'Nation losing patience'

"The nation continues to wait, and is losing patience. Cleansing the polluted stream of politics is obviously not one of the immediate pressing concerns of the legislative branch of the government," a Bench consisting of Justices Rohinton F. Nariman and B.R. Gavai told the lawmakers.

Justice Nariman, who authored the 71-page judgment based on a plea by advocate Brajesh Singh, said the Supreme Court's repeated appeals to legislators to amend the law to weed out the criminals amidst them had fallen on deaf ears.

Under the scanner

As many as 70% of the candidates analysed from the BJP and the RJD in the 2020 Bihar Assembly election had criminal cases against them. The share was the

to rest for Bor carranates among major parties								
Party	No. of candidates analysed Candidates with decorporate criminal cases (%)							
BJP	109	70						
RJD	141	70						
Congress	70	64						
LJP	135	52						
JD(U)	115	49						
BSP	78	37						
SOURCE: ADR								

The court said it did not take political parties much time to flout its February 2020 judgment, which directed them to prominently publish the criminal antecedents of their candidates in newspapers and on social media accounts, including Twitter and Facebook.

Inadequate information Eight months from the February judgment, in the runup to the Bihar Assembly election in October-November last year, these parties had already subverted the verdict by either publishing inadequate information about their candidates' cri-

The court imposed a penalty of ₹1 lakh each on the BJP, Congress, JD(U), RJD,

scure newspapers.

minal antecedents or by cle-

verly printing them in ob-

Lok Janshakti Party and the Communist Party of India for subverting the February 2020 judgment. It imposed fines of ₹5 lakh each on the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and the Nationalist Congress Party for completely ignoring the February judgment.

In a series of directions to make the right of information of a voter "more effective and meaningful", the court further ordered the Election Commission of India to launch a dedicated mobile app for voters to get details of the criminal history of the candidates at the touch of a button. The Commission should also form a separate cell to monitor political parties on their compliance with the court's judgment.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8





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IN BRIEF

3 high-mast Tricolours to be installed by August 15

The Public Works Department will install high-mast Tricolours in East Kidwai Nagar, Rani Bagh and East Vinod Nagar by August 15 to mark the 75th Independence Day, officials said on Tuesday. The project is being executed under the Delhi government's 'Deshbhakti budget'.

BSES warns against using metal-coated kite string

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The BSES discom on Tuesday issued an advisory asking people not to fly kites near electrical installations, as metal-coated kite string can lead to "trippings" and electrocutions

The discom said that while flying kite is an integral part of Independence Day celebrations in Delhi. the activity can potentially be hazardous and even fatal.

"The widespread use of metal coated manjha - being a good conductor of electricity - poses a great danger not only to the person flying the kite, but may also disrupt electricity supply. Each year, there are several instances on this count that disrupt power supply and cause damage to power equipment," BSES said in a statement.

A BSES spokesperson said: "People should enjoy kite flying, but they should do it responsibly. We advise residents not to fly kites near electrical installations, including overhead cables and certainly avoid using metal or metal coated manjha." Tripping of just one 33/ 66 KV overhead line can disrupt power supply to over 10,000 residents.

Former BJP leader, 5 others held for hate slogans

Most of the men picked up by the police have links to Hindu organisations; students, activists protest against hate speech

HEMANI BHANDARI NEW DELHI

Two days after inflammatory anti-Muslim slogans were raised at a 'Bharat Jodo' rally in Jantar Mantar, police have arrested six persons, including Supreme Court lawyer and former Delhi BJP spokesperson Ashwini Upadhyay.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (New Delhi) Deepak Yadav said the other five accused have been identified as Preet Singh alias Sundar Pal, Deepak Singh, Deepak Kumar, Vinod Sharma, and Vinit Bajpai. It has been learnt that all the accused joined the investigation late Monday night and some of them were picked up from their residence after midnight.

On August 8, a rally was called by Mr. Upadhyay to allegedly demand the end of 'colonial-era laws'.

It was allegedly attended by members of several rightwing organisations.

Subsequently, several videos of the event went viral, including one showing a group of men – led by a man wearing a saffron-coloured T-shirt – raising anti-Muslim

inflammatory slogans. Delhi Police lodged a case on charges of promoting enmity, flouting COVID-19 guidelines, and not seeking permission for the event.

Profiles of the arrested

Among the arrested is Preet Singh, founder of Save India Foundation. In a live video shared on the organisation's Facebook page on Monday, Mr. Preet can be heard calling the man – whose objectionable video went viral – a child. "Kisi bacche ne aise naare lagaye hain... hum use samjhaenge [A kid has raised those slogans... we'll make him understand]".

Deepak Singh is the president of the Hindu Force – an organisation in which Ragini Tiwari is vice-president.

Ms. Tiwari's inflammatory and provocative videos about Muslims during the communal riots in Delhi in 2020 had gone viral. One of the latest videos shared by Mr. Deepak shows him



A woman being detained during a protest against hate sloganeering at Jantar Mantar on Tuesday. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

speaking against building of mosques and mazars. In the video, he says that the structures "are planned because they will be used as centres

during clashes in the future". Deepak Kumar, another of the men arrested, is a member of the Hindu Raksha Dal an organisation founded by Pinki Chaudhary alias Pinky Bhaiya, who claimed responsibility for the attack on Jawaharlal Nehru University

campus in January 2020.

Speaking to The Hindu, Mr. Chaudhary's daughter Karuna said her father was picked up by the police on Monday night.

"Why are the likes of Owaisi [Asaduddin] not arrested?" she asked while questioning Mr. Deepak's arrest. In one of the recent videos shared by Mr. Preet, Mr. Chaudhary can be heard saying: "Muslims should go to

Pakistan".

In support of accused Protesting the arrest of the six men, over 30 people, including Ms. Ragini, blocked the road outside Connaught

Mr. Sharma is a member

of Sudarshan Vahini, a self-

proclaimed religious outfit.

Place police station for at least 30 minutes and raised slogans against Delhi Police. "We have been here since early Tuesday and we are not being allowed to meet our brothers who have been arrested," she said. As traffic grew and the

outer circle started to get affected causing inconvenience to commuters, Station House Officer of the police station approached a male protester, held him by the back of his neck and dragged him to a waiting bus. Ms. Ragini and another protester laid down on the road. They were held by women officers and taken to the bus. They were all removed from the spot.

Piyush Singh, a supporter

IIT, AIIMS develop Telerobotic Ultrasound System

of those who have been arrested, said: "These are the people who had helped police officers during the Delhi riots when they were being beaten up by rioters. They say these people didn't have permission, have the farmers taken any permission? Shaheen Bagh was blocked for six months, where were the police? Why no action is taken for videos where Hin-

'Zero tolerance'

Meanwhile, student activists and civil society members gathered near Jantar Mantar on Tuesday to protest against the alleged inflammatory sloganeering.

dus are being maligned?"

They carried placards saying "zero tolerance against hate mongers". Around 100 of the protesters were detained by the police when they tried to proceed towards Jantar Mantar.

Prashant Tondon, one of the protesters, said: "That speech was very dangerous and not in tune with the Constitution or Indian tradition.

DMRC to roll out e-feeder buses from tomorrow

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on Tuesday said feeder electric buses will be introduced for the first time in the city on a trial basis from August 12, under which 25 low-floor e-buses will ply on two routes.

In a statement, the DMRC said that only metro passengers having a Delhi Metro smart card or metro DTC smart card will be allowed to avail the services.

Entry will be permitted only from metro stations and the bus will stop only at the designated stops for dropping off passengers.

The fare structure will be ₹10 for 0-4 km, ₹15 for 4-8 km, ₹20 for 8-12 km and ₹25 for beyond 12 km.

The two routes are Shastri Park metro station to Gokulpuri metro station via Khajuri Chowk and Shastri park metro station

Tihar inmate death: murder case filed, 4 jail employees suspended

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A week after a 28-year-old criminal was found dead inside Tihar jail, police have registered a murder case and four employees of the jail have been suspended.

On August 4, Ankit Gujjar, a Baghpat-based criminal, was found unconscious in his cell and two others - twin brothers - were injured.

In her complaint to the police, Ankit's mother Geeta Devi alleged that a Deputy Superintendent was de-

over 5000 FPOs acr

Sivasagar Hospital

In recognition of its efforts to give back to the society and bring about positive change, Energy Maharatna Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has been conferred with the AIMA (All India Management Association) Project Excellence Award in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) for its 300-bed Swargdew Siu-Ka-Pha Multi-Speciality Hospital in Sivasagar district of Assam. The Oil Major ranked first in 'CSR non-COVID category' at the 8th Business Responsibility Summit and Project Excellence Contest and Award held during 5-6 August 2021. Notably, ONGC was recently also conferred with National HRD Network and New Dethi Institute of Management (NHRDN-NDIM) People Excellence Award 2021 in CSR for the multiple-speciality hospital in Sivasagar. The AIMA award aims to honor companies and civil society organizations doing outstanding CSR work and showcase exceptional COVID and non-COVID related projects. The Sivasagar multi-specialty hospital is a state-of-the-art hospital with the latest modern facilities, providing best medical facilities at low cost. The project started in March 2017 and is expected to be completed in three phases at a cost of Rs 313 core, Once completed, the hospital is expected to benefit more than one lakh patients every year. The first phase of the

more than one lakh patients every year. The first phase of the hospital with 67 operational beds was inaugurated on 1 March 2019. Medical services including internal medicine, pediatrics,

general surjeys. ENT, orthopedics, gynecology, pulmonary, ophthalmology and dialysis are already being rendered at the hospital. So far more than 9000 dialysis and more than 39000 general patients have benefitted from the services of hospital. The construction of second phase of the hospital with 150 beds is underway and is expected to be completed by the end of 2021.

The award was conferred by AIMA, a national apex body of the management profession in India, which works closely with Industry, Government, Academia and students to further the cause of the management profession. It has a membership

base of over 38,000 members and close to 6,000 corporate

IDP Education, the global leader in international education services, is hosting its Biggest Virtual Education Fair starting from 3rd August and will continue till 29th September. Over 170 world-class universities and institutions from countries like Australia,

UK, the USA, Canada, New Zealand, and Ireland will participal

in this fair to assist students in their plans of studying abroad Representatives from these premier universities and institutions will be interacting with students 1-on-1 via video call and answei

will be interacting with students 1-on-1 via video call and answer all their study abroad queries. The process to attend this fair is very simple. Students will have to visit the official IDP website and book a slot for the virtual fair from there. A few days before the event, students will receive a joining link on their registered mail id. They need to click on the link as per the schedule to join the event. With the help of an IDP expert at the fair, students can select their preferred universities or institutions and interact with them one-on-one through video conferencing. Piyush Kumar, Regional Director (South Asia), IDP Education, said, "We understand that shortlisting an institution and working through the application process can be a strenuous task for students and parents. IDP is committed to providing students with the best advice and top-quality assistance so they can easily choose the right course and institution in top countries like Australia, the USA, UK, Canada, New Zealand, and Ireland to meet their

the USA, UK, Canada, New Zealand, and Ireland to meet the

career aspirations. Our constant endeavour has been to offer

comprehensive platform to facilitate the exchange of valuable

information between students and institution experts so that they can get adequate guidance to make an informed decision." IDP is organising this fair through a virtual platform where students can explore their prospects of studying in top countries from the comfort of their homes. Students can discuss their eligibility criteria, know about programs, scholarships, post-study work options and internship opportunities, submit applications for 2021 and 2022 intakes, avail application fee waivers and get expert guidance on all their queries from IDP's international education specialists over a video call. IDP's constant efforts are dedicated

nation between students and institution experts so that they

IDP hosts Virtual Education Fair

In recognition of its efforts to give back to the society and bring

manding ₹1 lakh as protection money and they had arranged ₹50,000 to pay him.

The family made a PCR call on the night of August 3 stating that Ankit was beaten up by jail staffers and is not being taken for treatment. The police said an official

went to Tihar and was informed that while searching Ankit's cell, a phone, data cable and a knife were recovered. Police said they received another call from the family on August 4 raising similar concerns.

The official went again and was informed that Ankit and the twin brothers were to be shifted to different cells but they refused to leave their cell and started manhandling the employees, who allegedly told the police

that "minimum force" was

used to contain the three. However, a post-mortem report stated that the cause of death is "haemorrhage consequent upon cumulative effect of multiple blunt force injuries". A murder case was then registered.

The need for the system arose due

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

to the pandemic

Researchers at IIT-Delhi and AIIMS have developed a Telerobotic Ultrasound System that allows remote ultrasound access through a robotic arm. The need for this innovation arose during the first nationwide lockdown in 2020 when CO-VID-19 cases and deaths were shooting up sharply.

The researchers said the prevailing situation impacted regular healthcare servic-

es, especially those involving direct physical contact with patients like ultrasound scanning, and they got to work to ensure the safety of healthcare professionals by leveraging their expertise in robotic technology.

The new system will allow doctors and radiologists to perform scans by maintaining stringent social distancing and not coming into contact with the patient, the researchers said.

Multiple benefits In the routine ultrasound

setting, the doctor (radiologist) stands in close contact with the patient for the encross-sectional imaging is preferred in the current pandemic scenario with stringent social distancing requirements - a more expensive and less dynamic technique. Ultrasonography is a non-invasive, non-ionising, cost-effective, rapid, bedside, and readily available modality with immense use in point-of-care and follow-up examinations.

tire scan duration. However,

AIIMS in New Delhi, said that the system will promote healthcare and make our system more prepared for further pandemics.

Chandrashekhara from

"Besides its role in the

pandemic, it will allow a better outreach of ultrasound imaging to remote rural areas of India. The radiologist manipulates the ultrasound probe remotely from a remote location, acquires the ultrasonographs, and then transmits them to the monitors at the doctor's end through a Wi-Fi network," Dr. Chandrashekhara explained.

He added that sitting at a remote location, the doctor can visualise all the images and assess the patient, similar to a clinical setting and that the facility can also be extended for global out-

to well-being

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Preparing for the opening of Delhi government

schools, Deputy Chief Mi-

nister Manish Sisodia on

Tuesday said that there

was a need to bridge the

loss of learning as well as

cater to the mental and so-

cio-emotional well-being of

heads of school, Mr. Sido-

dia said, "Our children and

teachers have gone

through a harrowing phase

of COVID-19, we need to get

the special PTM, most of

the parents agreed that

schools should reopen be-

cause, in the last 1.5 years,

there has been a lot of

damage to the education of

students reconnect with

Green light

for e-auction

of CNG sites

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Delhi Development

Authority (DDA) on Tues-

day gave its approval to a

policy for e-auction of

CNG station sites, seeking

to bring greater transparency and increase efficiency in the process of al-

Mr. Sisodia directed the school heads to strictly follow the SOP issued by the Directorate of Education after the opening of the schools. He also sought suggestion on how to make

He added that during

them out of that phase."

Addressing a meeting of

children.

children.

learning.

NEW DELHI

of children'

'Need to cater __

ENTERPRISE CONNECT

AMO Electric Bikes announces growth of 343% in

amo Electric bises with its vision, wissoin and values has entered from Startup to Growth phase and affirms that with trusted dealer's network and customer satisfaction the journey will go on, Noida-based EV manufacturer, AMO Electric Bikes announced growth of 343% in Retail and 240% rise in Network expansion in first half of 2021. This achievement demonstrates AMO Electric Bikes's commitment, resilience and agility. AMO Electric Bikes, the leading Noida-based EV manufacturer has reported the consolidated financial results for first half of 2021 during the eported the highest spike in electric two-wheeler sales till now With this, the electric vehicle manufacturer witnessed a growth of 343% in Retail and 240% rise in Network. Speaking on this, Sushant Kumar, Founder of AMO Electric Bikes said: We have put our investments in because we believe electric vehicles are the greener alternative to traditional fuel-driven bikes. Also, we have expanded our product portfolio by adding multiple high-speed electric bikes powered by an integrated electric motor and rechargeable batteries for forwarding propulsion. Our products have poised to be the true game-changer in the electric bikes market in India and have already set a prominent footprint in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Haryana, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Tamilnadu and Punjab, With our energy-efficient e-bikes, we are putting our best efforts forward to cope with the positive electric bike market sentiments projected to rise upto USD 70.0 billion by 2027 from USD 41.1 billion in 2020, at a CAGR of 7.9%. In the awake of COVID19 outbreak where people are returning to normalcy and mostly avoiding public transportation, the high-speed electric vehicles by AMO Electric Bikes come as a safer and affordable option to public transportation systems such as metros, buses, and cabride-transportation systems such as metros, buses, and cabridehave expanded our product portfolio by adding multiple high transportation systems such as metros, buses, and cab/ride sharing platforms - he added further.

Korea Tourism Organization (KTO) collaborates with Korikart.com

With the rising popularity of K-Wave (including K-Food, K-Drama, K-pop, K-Beauty) in India, KTO and Korikart.com have collaborated to provide a special discount for the Korea lovers. India's leading one-stop online store for Korean products, Korikart has associated with Korea Tourism Organisation (KTO), the organization of Republic of Korea under the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. It is commissioned to promote outbound tourism to Korea from India. The main objective behind this association is to introduce the Kingdom Friends, the new tourism faces of South Korea and engage consumers interested in Korea and its tourism by providing an incentive. The one-month long association from 23rd July'2021 to 23rd August'2021 is now association from 23rd July2021 to 23rd August2021 is now live on Korikart.com website. A special page with name Explore Korea with Kingdom Friends is being hosted on the website. The visitors on Korikart website can access this page from the offers section or a banner on home page. The page hosts The Kingdom Friends video and information. A special QnA quiz is hosted at the bottom of the page. Post watching the video and participating in the QnA the customers will receive an offer code and by using that they can avail a 10% discount on their next purchase from Korikart's website. To spread the words for South Korea as a perfect travel destination and promote the association. KTO and Korikart are contributing in providing the 10% discount to approx. 1000 customers on first come first serve basis. Mr. VG. Chol, Director Korea Tourism Organization. New Delhi says 1 am pleased to collaborate with Korikart.com for this special discount event. With hallyu wave influence on the rise in India, the Korea preased to consolvate with rounkant.com for this special discount event. With hallyu wave influence on the rise in India, the Korea lovers satiate their love for Korea through Korean products on Korikart.com. The Kingdom Friends special discount with QnA Korikart.com. The Kingdom Friends special discount with OnA quiz is a fun way to engage the K-lovers in India and encourage them to stay connected with Korea." "We are thrilled about our collaboration with KTO and it is an honour for us to promote South Korea tourism through our platform. Korikart as a brand always tries to do everything possible to reach out to itshidian customers and helping them to navigate through the exhaustive variety of Korean products. With this association we are hoping to explore South Korea as a travel destination too for our patrons." says Seo Youngdoo. CEO and Founder, Korikart. South Korea has already opened its borders for quarantine free inbound tourism for fully vaccinated tourist from some countries, regular travel between South Korea and India remains restricted for now. However, as the COVID situation gets better globally and the rate of vaccination improves, tourism between the two countries may begin soon.

Abahan' launched

ONGC-supported Assam Handloom project 'Ujjwal Abahan ONGC-supported Assam Handloom project "Ujiwal Abahan' launched on 6 August 2021 through virtual platform. The project will support and train over a hundred artisans of Bhatiapar of Sivasagar in Hathkarga handicraft. This project is in line with the government's observance of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav", under which Energy Maharatna ONGC has earlier launched two projects supporting the indigenous handicrafts of the country. Observing India's 75th year of independence, PSUs under the Petroleum ministry have undertaken 75 projects to be supported to commemorate each year of Independence. Among the 75 projects, ONGC is supporting 15 projects, which will be implemented by 15 August 2022. The 3rd initiative of ONGC is part of the first phase – in which the energy major will unveil five projects. Assam Handloom project is worth over 26 lakh rupees and expressed confidence that it will substantially benefit the local weavers, subsequently boost the rural economy. benefit the local weavers, subsequently boost the rural econom Technological development is key to increase productivify through these projects. ONGC through this unique CSR project is supporting handicraft and generating employment in rural areas. The skill-based training included in the projects is a major leap towards empowering underprivileged people of the country ONGC CMD Subhash Kumar noted that it is a matter of pride and ONGC CMD Subnash Rumar noted that it is a matter of price and honor to host such CSR project as a part of the government's celebration of the 75th year of Independence, "ONGC has always been supporting local communities in and around its operational areas and will continue to do so." ONGC Director (HR), Alka Mittal assured about the support to such projects in future to make artisans self-reliant. Crafts contribute around 13000 core to the economy of nation every year, she added. ONGC Director (Onshore), Anurag Sharma joined from Bhatiapar, Sivasagar site

A Business Initiative

Central Warehousing Corporation & Nabard join National Fisheries Development Board Signs MOL

In a move which is set to alter the warehousing eco-system in the country, CWC, NABARD and NABFOUNDATION today announced the overall framework of a partnership aimed at bringing much required scientific storage and warehouse facilities closer to farmers affiliated to and farmer producers' organizations (FPOs). The converged efforts of these Govt. Organization will state of the art storage facilities being made accessible to r 5000 FPOs across the country. The MOU between the two ng implemented with g of Rs. 5266.40 cr over 5000 FPOs across the country. The MOU between the two organizations will enable the over 5000 FPOs to benefit from CWC's scientific storage and market linkages. NABARD has spent nearly a decade in encouraging the formation of FPOs on one hand while CWC is one of the oldest organizations in the storage space in India with a phenomenal ground presence. Shri Arun Kumar Shrivastava, MD, CWC, stated that "What we need today is not just warehouses but modern warehouses with tracking system and professional manpower which can also double up as Agri -trade fulfillment centres. CWC has the wherewithal to provide a hollstic storage solution to all interested FPOs, which we perceive as the logical channel partners for us in CWC. Our decision to provide a 30% rebate to FPOs stems from our belief that we need to engage with these large bodies of farmers to make a substantial difference in the short to mid run and contribute towards farmers welfare by addressing two comprising of Rs. 5266.40 crore to be raised by Nodal Lending Entities (NLE), like NABARD, NCDC & all scheduled banks. The eligible entities will be the State Governments / Union Territories Entities (NLL), income eligible entities will be the State Governments / Union Supporter eligible entities will be the State Governments / Union Supporter Corporations/Undertakings/Govt, Sponsored, Supporter Corporations, Fisheries Cooperative Federations (including Collective groups of fish Organizations, Fisheries Cooperative Federations (including FISHCOPFED etc.), Cooperatives, Collective groups of fish farmers & fish produce groups etc. Panchayat Raj Institutions. Self Help Groups (SHGs)/ NGOs, SCs/STs/Marginal Farmers Women & entrepreneurs, Self Help Groups, Private companies entrepreneurs and Physically disabled. FIDF will help in creation entrepreneurs and Physically disabled, FIDF will help in creation and modernization of Infrastructure of capture & culture fisheries Marine Aquaculture, Inland Fisheries, Reduce post-harvest losses and improve domestic marketing facilities and to bridge the resource gap and facilities completion of ongoing infrastructure projects. So far 67 projects have been approved in the country, 14 from the individual/ private entrepreneurs under FIDF and 53 under Entrepreneur model of PMMSY scheme. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. (Smt), Suvarna, IFS Chief Executive, NFDB, said, MML with PSR will brazes the untanged cetaritial of Eisharias. run and contribute towards farmers welfare by addressing two key strategies of Minimisation of Post-harvest losses and get remunerative prices to farmers for their produce which are vital to achieve the Govt, Objective of Doubling of farmers income by 2022." Speaking on the occasion, Dr. G R Chintala, "MoU with PNB will harness the untapped potential of Fisherie sector in tying up the individuals/Private Entrepreneurs of both FIDF and Entrepreneur Models under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Vojiana (PMMSV) for availing Bank Ioan from PNB, pan India." "PNB with 10641 branches 13781 delivery channels Chairman, NABARD stated that, "We need to double our current warehousing capacity to nearly 300 million tonnes to make any and 12518 Business Correspondents, 116 Loan processing centres of Retail, Agrt, & MSME loans and 137 Loan processing centres of Retail, Agrt, & MSME loans and 137 Loan processing centres for Mid Corporate Credit including MSME loans for quick-processing. These dedicated loan Centres will be collaborating with NFDB for Bank funding under FIDF &PMMSY Schemes' ONGC conferred with AIMA Award in CSR for its remarked, Shri CH S S Mallikarjuna Rao, MD & CEO, PNB,

> Public Relations Society of India appoints Ms Anju Mahajan of Indian Oil as chapter Chairperson
>
> National body of the Public Relations and Corporate
> Communication professionals of the country , the Public
> Relations Society Of India has announced its new committee
> for the Delhi Chapter today . The committee was declared by
> Dr Ajit Pathak, National President of the Society. The committee
> will be led by Mrs Anshu Mahajan Dy General Manager(
> Corporate Communications) Indian Oil Corporation Ltd as
> the Chairperson. Shri Ajay Chaturvedi, Ex Director, Press
> Information Bureau will be Vice Chairman, Delhi. Ms. Sheetal
> Sharma, Director, Supreme Support Consultants Pvt. Ltd. has
> been made Secretary, Declaring the new team of the Public
> Relations Society of India (Delhi Chapter) National President
> of the Public Relations Society of India, Dr Ajit Pathak said that
> the executive committee is perfect mix of the Industry and the
> Academia and will set new benchmarks of professionalism,
> considering the Pandemic situation. The chapter white adding
> value to the COVID Awareness Campaign of PRSI will also
> work on the PRSI national theme of "One Nation. One Agenda.
> One Voice: "Dr. Jaya Srivastava Assistant Professor, Apeejay
> Institute of Mass Communication and Dr Harsha Bhargavi
> Pandri, Assistant Director. Telangana State Information Centre
> New Delhi have been appointed Jt. Secretary and Treasurer. Anju Mahajan of Indian Oil as chapter Chairperson Pandin, Assistant Director, Telangana State Intormation Cember, New Delhi have been appointed Jt. Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. The Executive Members of the chapter will be Ms Pashmina Pusdekar Senior Manager (CC & CSR) Indian Ocroporation Ltd, Srhi Siraj Kumar Singh, Public Relations Officer Office of Honourable Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs, Shrii Dinesh Dhanik, Senior Research Officer / Head (Public Relations) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, Shrii UMESH Mishra, AGM(Corporate Communication) Kribhoo, Ms, Shifali Ahuja Assistant Professor, Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Management Studies and Dr. Neha Jingala , Assistan Professor , Delhi College of Arts and Commerce. "On behalf or the Executive Team of PRSI Delhi Chapter, I wish to convey ou heartfelt thanks for the trust reposed in us. We are committee to using the power of communication to script new beginnings and contribute towards building a #NewIndia as envisioned by our Honble PM, said Ms Anshu Mahajan. It shall be our collective endeavour to take the profession of Public Relations to greater heights with the support of team and guidance of seniors further said Ms Meshis upport of team and guidance of seniors further said Ms Meshis upport of team and guidance of seniors further

TRIFED conducts meeting promoting and

Dhan Kendra clusters in the State of Assam The objective of the meeting was to identify the contours setting up a comprehensive Van Dhan network of 7000 VD SHGs subsumed under 350 VDVKCs, 5 TRIFOOD Tribal Food SHGs subsumed under 350 VDVKCs, 5 TRIFOOD Tribal Food Parks and a digital marketing network, Besides the Hon'ble Chief Minister, 7 Hon'ble MPs of the region were also present. During the meeting, Shri Pravir Krishna, Managing Director TRIFED made a presentation which explained the Van Dhan Model of Tribal Development and how it can benefit the state of Assam.TRIFED as the nodal agency that is working towards tribal empowerment, has been implementing several noteworthy initiatives in this direction. TRIFED has been providing necessary marketing interventions for the tribal products on which tribal livelihoods depend. The main philosophy behind this approach is to empower tribal communities with knowledge, tools and pool of information which further aids them to undertake their operations in a more systematic and scientific manner. The presentation information which further aids them to undertake their operations in a more systematic and scientific manner.The presentation touched upon the importance of Minor Forest produce in the tribal economy and the various initiatives that have been undertaken. A holistic model of MFP-led Tribal Development, which includes the MSP for MFP scheme and the Van Dhan Yojana and has put in place several schemes for the same were touched upon. The MSP for MFP scheme envisages fixation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for the selected MFPs which provides both subsistence and cash income for an estimated 100 million people who live in or near forests.

HP.PWD **TENDER NOTICE**

Sealed item rate tenders are hereby invited on behalf of the Governor of HP for the following works fron Sealed term rate tenders are hereby invited on betain of the governor of the following works from the eligible contractor enlisted in the appropriate class in HPPWD. So as to reach in the office of the Executive Engineer, Shimla Division No-I, HPPWD Shimla-3 on or before 28-08-2021 up to 1030 A.M. The tenders will be opened on the same day at 11,00 A.M. in the presence of the intending contractors or their authorized agents who may wish to be present. The applications for issue of tender forms shall be received 2608-2021 from 10.00 A.M. to 4,00 P.M alongwith FDR for the required amount. The tender form shall be issued on 27-08-2021 from 10.00 A.M. to 4,00 P.M.

The intending contractors shall bring their registration letter renewal of their enlistment and proof of CST/GST/ otherwise the tender documents shall not be issued to them.

The earnest money as shown below shall accompany the tender in the shape of NCS/Time deposit receipt or post office Saving Bank Account in H.P. duly pledged in the name of Executive Engineer. The contractors who do not deposit the earnest money in the prescribed manner, their tender shall summarily be rejected without assigning any reason. The tenders offer shall be kept open for 120

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest Money	Time Allowed	Form Cost.
1.	Restoration and improvement of MRR via Chotta Shimla road km. 156/640 (SH;- Breast wall between Rd. 155/845 to155/860)(Near Sanjulli Chowk below M.C. water tank).	482577/-	9700/-	Two Month	350/-

Terms & Conditions:-

- The contractor/firm shall have his GST. No, and attested copy of the same be attached with the application for issue of tender form.
- The contractor/firm should attach attested copy of registration/renewal Copy of PAN card be attached with the application form.
- Copy of EPF be attached with the application form
- HP / 3228/21-22 HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

	•	GOVERNMENT OF HARY	ANA	TENDE	R NOT	CE 💝
	NAME OF BOARD/ CORP./ AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	UHBVN		05.08.2021 26.08.2021	EMD 2 LACS	uhbvn.org.in etenders.hry. nic.in	9517700939 cemm@uhbvn.org.
2	UHBVN	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR EMPANELMENT OF AGENCIES BY UHBVN UNDER PHASE-II OF GRID CONNECTED ROOFTOP SOLAR PROGRAMME.		NIL	https:// etenders.hry. nic.in	9316867621

No. GMC. 35/2021/4

Press Notice

The Chief Engineer P.W.D. (Building), Assam on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites fresh bids for the following projects from registered contractor of class I (A & B) under PWD (Building) Assam having previous experience of similar nature of work. Details of the bid may be seen at e-procurement portal website i.e. www.assamtenders.gov.in

SI. No.	State/ Package	Name of Work	Approx. Value of Work (Rs. in Lakh)	Time of completion	Bid Security (2% for General, and 1 % for Reserved category) to be drawn in favour of	Cost of Bid (Rs.)
1	CMCH- MBB-01	"Model Blood Bank of Gauhati Medical College and Hospital at Guwahati" under SOPD-G for FY 2021-2022	361.07	6 (six) months	Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Guwahati Building Division-II, Dispur-06	10,832.00

 NIT value may be changed during uploading of tender in the website, which may be seen in Detailed NIT of the bid document.

2. The bidders must be enrolled in www.assamtenders.gov.in Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Building), Assam Chandmari, Guwahati-3.

Janasanyog /C/4228/21

lotment, officials said. The decision was taken during a meeting of the highest decison-making body of the DDA, chaired by L-G Anil Baijal.

Under the new policy, the tenure of the licence is 10 years, renewable up to 30 years and increase in the licence fee is fixed.

Timings DELHI

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 11						
RISE	05:49	SET 19:05				
RISE	08:16	SET 21:10				

THURSDAY, AUG. 12 RISE 05:49 SET 19:04 RISE 09:17 SET 21:43 FRIDAY, AUG. 13

RISE 05:50 SET 19:03 RISE 10:18 SET 22:17

Delhi Weather max min Delhi City

Delhi Palam Today 35°C Moderate winds would continue with partly cloudy sky. Day would remain warm

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 36°C Dry weather likely over the area. Rise in day temperature. Occasinal partly cloudy sky and gentle winds

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2019

THE HINDU

CM felicitates Ravi Dahiya for Tokyo feat

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal met with Tokyo Olympics silver medallist Ravi Dahiya on Tuesday and felicitated the wrestler for his victory at the event.

Mr. Kejriwal expressed his delight at the way the wrestler performed at the Olympics and congratulated him and his team.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said the Delhi government was doing its best to promote sports and support athletes in the region.

"I would like to congratulate Ravi Dahiya on behalf of the Delhi government and all the people of the Capital," Mr. Kejriwal said.

Mental pressure, meagre pay take a toll on contract nurses

Nurses' body says government trying to outsource work to private agency

NIKHIL M BABU

Beeram Singh, 31, tested positive for COVID-19 in June last year while working as a contractual nurse at the Safdarjung Hospital. He had been on COVID duty for 15 days. Soon after the infection, his condition worsened and he had to be admitted to the hospital for 20 days.

"Everyone was scared of the virus but no contractual nurse said no to COVID duty. I did it as my duty towards the nation. Despite such efforts, we are paid very little and our contracts last only for three months. This puts us under a lot of pressure. We don't know whether we will have a job tomorrow and there is no one to listen to us," Mr. Singh, a father of two children, said.

Three-month contracts

Like Mr. Singh, several nurses of the hospital who are on a contract basis since 2016 said that they are facing mental pressure as their contracts have to be renewed every three months and their salary has stayed stagnant at ₹37,500 for five years.

Nurses, who have been working in the hospital for over five years, said their salaries get reduced due to the



breaks every three months. Meanwhile, the All India Government Nurses Federation (AIGNF) said the government is trying to outsource the contract work to a private agency and had even issued a tender for it. This effectively means that the current contractual nurses will lose their jobs.

No word from hospital

The Medical Superintendent of Safdarjung Hospital did not respond to calls and messages seeking comment on the issue.

"Two other Central government hospitals: RML Hospital and Lady Hardinge Medical College, have the same three-month policy. In Delhi government hospitals, the contract is for 11 months and the pay is better," said G.K. Khurana, secretary-gen-

eral of AIGNF.

Mr. Singh said he had breathlessness when he got infected and has lost 20kg since then. "My second child is a year old now. It has been difficult to meet the monthly expenses after his birth as my wife doesn't have a job. At the hospital, we do not get equal pay for equal work and the Delhi government pays better salaries," he said.

Vincy Chacko, 29, another contractual nurse, said: "We have to renew the contract by September 30 and the tension will start again. This is torture. We will have to

I stayed away from my toddler for three months last year. We have done so much, but no one is helping us

start running to the ministry to get an extension."

Ms. Chacko worked during the pandemic, though not on COVID-19 duty. "I stayed away from my oneand-a-half-year-old son for three months last year. We have done so much, but no one is helping us," she said.

Ms. Khurana, 76, who worked as a nurse for 38 years said there was no contract system for nurses earlier. "The regular posts are not filled by the government for years as the process takes forever. Thus, they started hiring contractual nurses. We fought at least four times against their attempts to outsource these contractual posts. If Safdarjung Hospital outsources it, then other hospitals will follow suit," AIGNF leader said.

She said workers will lose their rights if the job is outsourced. They will also be paid less by whichever company gets the tender from the hospital.

Centre has not sought data on oxygen-scarcity deaths, says Sisodia

'We will send figures to Centre anyway'

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Tuesday said the Centre has not asked the Delhi government for data on deaths due to lack of oxygen in the city.

"No information or letter has been sent to the Delhi government so far. The Central government is spreading a lie that States are not giving information, whereas they have not asked for any information from the States," Mr. Sisodia said,

He said that during the second wave, the country was struggling with the oxygen crisis and people in hospitals were "dying due to lack of oxygen".

"We have decided that the Delhi government will send complete information about the deaths due to lack of oxygen in the form of a report to the Central government," Mr. Sisodia said.

Meanwhile, Joint Secretary of Union Health Ministry Lav Agarwal on Tuesday said no State has so far said specifically that there were deaths because of oxygen shortage except one.

Delhi Congress Chief Ch. Anil Kumar said the Delhi government was finally ad-



COVID patients get oxygen at a gurdwara in the city in May this year. ■ FILE РНОТО

mitting that people had died due to shortage of medical oxygen as Mr. Sisodia accused the Centre of "lying".

This, he said, comes after Minister of State for Health Bharati Parvin Pawar, in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha, said "no deaths due to lack of oxygen have been specifically reported by States/UTs during the second of the pandemic".

"Due to the shadow boxing between the Modi and Kejriwal governments, the people of Delhi suffered," Mr. Kumar said.

Meanwhile, the BJP accused Mr. Sisodia of playing "petty politics" on the issue of oxygen-scarcity deaths. Rohini BJP MLA Vijender Gupta said the Delhi government was "lying" in the court on this issue.

Delta variant not a cause for concern: **Health Minister**

STAFF REPORTING

Health Minister Satyendar Jain on Tuesday said the Delta variant of the novel coronavirus is not a concern as the same was the cause of the second wave.

"Genome sequencing of the samples during the second wave and after has been done. The results of both show that about 80% of the sample population was infected by the Delta variant. All the reports of Delhi were sent to the ICMR and they also pointed out that the Capital was battling the Delta variant during the second wave. Therefore, I don't think that the Delta variant should be a cause of concern for us," he said.

Seven hospitals

The Minister also confirmed that the Health Department had received financial approval for the construction of seven make-shift hospitals.

"Construction of the make-shift hospitals is expected to be completed within the next six months on a war-footing. Make-shift hospitals will also be equipped with 7,000 ICU beds for improvement in health infrastructure and battling any next possible COVID wave in the Capital," said Mr. Jain.

Make-shift hospitals will come up at Sarita Vihar, Shalimar Bagh, Sultanpuri, Kirari, Raghubir Nagar, GTB hospital and Chacha Nehru Bal Chikitsalaya.

52 new cases, 1 death

The city reported only 52 new COVID-19 cases over 24 hours, taking the tally to 14,36,852, as per a bulletin released by the Delhi government on Tuesday.

One death was also reported, pushing the toll to 25,068. A total of 65,123 tests were conducted in a day and the test positivity rate was 0.08%. There are currently 504 active cases in the national capital.

CM reviews construction works in illegal colonies

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday held a status review on construction of roads and streets in unauthorised colonies.

He directed officials to get the projects completed within time and asked them to maintain speed and quality of work. He added that required funds would be disbursed as required by the finance department. According to the govern-

ment, 441 projects have been completed by the Irrigation and Flood Control Department, while 153 are in the final stages.

Development work in 172 out of 352 colonies has been completed by the Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation and 69 projects are in progress.

Haryana has no report on Coronil efficacy: RTI State spent over

₹2 crore from 'corona relief fund' to buy 'medicine'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GURUGRAM

The Haryana's AYUSH Department, which purchased ₹2.72 crore-worth of Ramdev's Ayurvedic COVID-19 medicine 'Coronil' in May this year, is not in possession of any test reports to establish its efficacy, an RTI reply has revealed.

The department also does not have a record of those who have recovered from the use of the 'medicine'. The proposal for the pur-

chase of Coronil was referred by the office of Chief Minister Manohar Lal as per a letter by Haryana Medical Services Corporation Limited, the RTI reply revealed.

Due to paucity of funds with the AYUSH Department, the drug was bought with funds from the Haryana Corona Relief Fund.

shared by the department, in reply to the RTI application by Panipat-based activist P.P. Kapoor, revealed that the technical panel of the AYUSH Department met on May 18 and approved the purchase saying the composition and strength of Coronil was as per the recommendations for immunity

The set of documents

ble for Corona patients". It also recommended that approval of the CM be taken

boosting and "maybe final-

ised and it may also be suita-

the relief fund by giving relaxation in Medicine Procurement Policy, 2016, and tendering process since the department did not have funds for procurement. The State had 83,161 active

to procure Coronil under

cases on the said date and the panel approved to buy one lakh Coronil kits as mentioned in the quote given by Divya Pharmacy. Some of the ingredients of the tablet includes Giloy, Ashwagandha, Tulsi, Mulethi, Marich, and Choti Pipal.

THEMAHINDU

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT • JOBS • TECHNOLOGY

GENERAL



security)

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ (Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India) Rajendranagar, Hyderabad - 500 030

NRLM Resource Cell, NIRD&PR needs the services of dynamic and experienced persons to be empanelled as National Resource Persons for the following themes under DAY-NRLM to provide technical services: 1. Financial Inclusion (Digital Finance, Enterprise finance, Micro insurance & social

- 2. Livelihood Farm(Sustainable Agriculture, Organic farming, Live stock, NTFP and Value Chain)
- 3. Livelihood Non-Farm (Handloom and Handicrafts, Food Processing, Rural
- Tourism, Business accounting etc..)
- 4. Institution Building and Capacity Building 5. Food Nutrition Health & WASH
- 6. Convergence & Social Development 7. Thematic Studies/MLE

8 Community Funds and Bookkeeping practices

9. MIS (SHG / Federation Transaction System application implementation)

Applications are invited from eligible professionals to support training and capacity building needs of various State Rural Livelihood Missions across the country on the aforesaid specializations. Candidate shall not apply for more than two themes. Last date for receipt of application is 01/09/2021. For further details visit: http://career.nirdpr.in/

(NRLMRC/HR/NRPS/Empanelment/2017-18)

Assistant Registrar (E)



APPOINTMENT

Inviting applications for the following vacancies:

S. No.	Name of Post	No.			
1	Executive Director (Personnel) (E9)	1			
2	2 Medical Services – Sr. Mgr (E3)/ Mgr(E2)				
3	3 GT (Mechanical) (E2)				
4	GT (Electrical)(E2)	4			
5	Manager (Survey) (E2)	3			
6	6 Select Grade Mine Foreman(NE9) / Trainee Select Grade Mine Foreman				
7	Mine Foreman (NE8)	4			
8	Electrical Supervisor(NE9)/ Trainee Electrical Supervisor	8			
9	Mine Mate (NE5)	13			
10	Blaster (NE4)	12			
11	Executive Officer – CSR (Fixed term for MOIL Foundation)	2			

For details please log on to our website www.moil.nic.in on 'Recruitment' link. Any amendment/modification relating to the above advertisement will be notified on MOIL's website only. Chief Manager (Personnel)

भारतीय प्रबंध संस्थान कोषिक्कोड़

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT KOZHIKODE (Notification. No.C-29/2021 & C-30/2021) Online Applications are invited for the following posts (on Contract):

1. Placement Officer 2. Chief (International Relations & Placement)

For details, online application and other open positions, please visit the career page on IIM Kozhikode website: www.iimk.ac.in

Lt. Col. M Julius George (Retd.) Chief Administrative Officer Date:11.08.2021

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SI. No.	Advertisement No.	Name of the Post	No. of Posts & Reservation
1.	M&H/ HR/25/09/2021	Medical Superintendent (Radiology) (Gr-IV)	1-UR
2.	M&H/ HR/25/10/2021	Senior Medical Officer (ENT) (Gr-III)	1-UR 1-SC
3.	M&H/ HR/25/11/2021	Senior Medical Officer (Pathology) (Gr-III)	1-UR
4.	M&H/ HR/25/12/2021	Senior Medical Officer (Medicine) (Gr-III)	1-UR 1-OBC
5.	M&H/ HR/25/13/2021	Senior Medical Officer (OB&G) (Gr-III)	1-UR
6.	M&H/ HR/25/14/2021	Senior Medical Officer (Surgery) (Gr-III)	1-OBC
7.	M&H/ HR/25/15/2021	Senior Medical Officer (Dermatology) (Gr-III)	1-UR

Note: OBC: Other Backward Class (Non-creamy Layer), UR: Unreserved, SC: Scheduled Caste ON CONTRACT BASIS:

M&H/HR/25/16/2021 Senior Medical Officer (OB&G)

M&H/HR/25/17/2021 Senior Medical Officer (Orthopaedic)

Name of the Post

The reservations and relaxations are as per government guidelines. Further, details regarding Age, Qualification, Experience, Relaxations & Concessions, Mode of applying, Selection Procedure, Pay, Allowance etc.., are available on

HAL Website www.hal-india.co.in. The last date for application is 04.09.2021. Corrigendum/Addendum, if any will be posted on HAL Website only. MEDICAL & HEALTH UNIT, HAL(BC), SURANJANDAS ROAD, BANGALORE - 560 017

GENERAL



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Extension of last date of receipt of applications against 'Engagement of Executive Director (Indian Institute of Coal Management) on Fixed Tenure Contract Basis' Advertisement No.: 05/2021

Considering the response received against Advertisement No. 05/2021, the last date of receipt of applications is extended upto

However, all other terms and conditions of the Advertisement No. 05/2021 shall remain unchanged.

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Pediatrics)		upon qualification/ post	E4 grade / Rs. 70,000 - Rs. 2,00,000
Assistant Officer (Finance)	20	01 year (excluding training period, if any)	E0 grade / Rs. 30,000 - Rs. 1,20,000

*Qualification/experience requirement to be referred from detailed advertisement. Interested eligible candidates should log on to our website www.ntpccareers.net or visit careers

section at www.ntpc.co.in for viewing detailed eligibility criteria, experience requirement, full text of the advertisement and for applying. Only online mode of application will be accepted.

NTPC Limited
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13th AUG., 2021

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No. of posts

01

'Give COVID package benefits to needy'

They are denied benefits in the absence of RT-PCR reports

MOHAMMED IQBAL

Health rights groups in Rajasthan have sought extension of benefits of a financial assistance package for children and women who lost their parents and husbands, respectively, during the CO-VID-19 pandemic to all deserving cases through "verbal autopsies". The benefits are at present being denied in the absence of RT-PCR test reports.

A large number of families, especially in the rural and remote areas, are being denied the mandated benefits under the Chief Minister's Corona Sahayata Yojana essentially because they do not have RT-PCR test reports to prove the cause of death.

While the scheme was initiated to financially support women and children from the poorest and the most

marginalised sections of society, they were being excluded from benefits because of the "rigid eligibility criteria", said the activists here on Tuesday.

The Jan Swasthya Abhiyan, which functions as the Rajasthan chapter of the People's Health Movement, said most of these families dwelt in areas with poor availability and accessibility to healthcare information and services.

"They often remain deprived of even basic healthcare, not to speak of CO-VID-19 tests and treatment," Chhaya Pachauli, director of voluntary group Prayas,

In a joint appeal submitted to Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, the JSA and 64 other civil society groups said there were reports and local studies suggesting that the rural areas had witnessed an unusually high number of deaths during the second wave of the pandemic. "While some fatalities were officially confirmed as CO-VID-19 deaths, many who had COVID-like symptoms but could not avail of medical tests or care died at home without any RT-PCR reports," said the memoran-

The groups said a process of verbal autopsies should be introduced to validate the claims of COVID-19 death by any family which applied for the scheme without the RT-

The civil society groups which joined the JSA in making the appeal included Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan, People's Union for Civil Liberties, Centre for Equity Studies, Mahila Punarvaas Samooh, Vividha, Adivasi Vikas Manch and Citizens for Social Action.

Brahmins, Dalits should unite: BSP

Both are being targeted by the BJP, says party gen. secy. Satish Chandra Mishra

GHAZIABAD

"The Samajwadi Party and the Bharatiya Janata Party are two faces of the same coin," said Bahujan Samaj Party general secretary Satish Chandra Mishra while addressing meetings of Brahmins and Dalits in Ghaziabad and Meerut on Tuesday.

'SP rule not different'

Described as the master of social engineering that brought the BSP to power in Uttar Pradesh in 2007, Mr. Mishra said, "Both Brahmins and Dalits are being targetted during the BJP rule," he said. He cited numerous examples, particularly that of Khushi Dubey, the minor wife of the nephew of gangster Vikas Dubey, who was shot dead in a police encounter like his uncle.

Highlighting the political

importance of brotherhood between Brahmins and Dalits, Mr. Mishra said if the two could combine, the BSP could easily return to power. "The Brahmins constitute 16% of the population of U.P. while the Dalits are around He reminded that the SP 23%. If they could come to-

Satish Chandra Mishra •

Singh Yadav's regime.

rule was not different as

Brahmin leaders were humi-

liated during the Mulayam

cross the 30% mark, with little help of OBCs and minorities."

gether, the BSP could easily

He reminded the gathering of the heydays of the Brahmin-Dalit unity when in 2005 during a massive gathering, BSP chief Mayawati was presented with an idol of Ganesha and she had said: "Haathi nahin Ganesh hai, Brahma, Vishnu Mahesh hai. (It is not an elephant (party symbol) but Lord Ganesh).'

Unlike the BJP, Mr. Mishra added, "Behenji delivered what she promised to the community."

'In temple's name'

Mr. Mishra has been addressing such meetings of "enlightened thought" across the State and has already covered 22 districts.

Having started the cam-

paign from Ayodhya, Mr. Mishra said he was shocked to see that the work for the construction of Ram temple was yet to start.

"They have been collecting notes and votes in the name of the Ram temple since 1993. What was the need to collect money from the public for the construction of temple after the SC iudgment? Is the money being diverted to the party and its allied organisations?" he wondered.

He said the name of Sita been deliberately dropped from the chant of Jai Shri Ram because they want to use it as a 'war cry'. "For centuries, it is Jai Siya Ram and is said with humility," said Mr. Mishra.

Mr Mishra also raised the issue of the contentious farm laws and described them as a death knell for the farmer.

M.P.: Bill on death penalty in illicit liquor cases cleared

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Madhya Pradesh Assembly on Tuesday passed a Bill prescribing capital punishment and life imprisonment in cases related to deaths caused by consumption of spurious liquor.

The Bill amending the State Excise Act to enhance punishment in spurious liquor cases was presented by Finance and Excise Minister Jagdish Devda.

Speaker Girish Gautam declared it passed without any discussion amid sloganeering by the Congress legislators who were demanding implementation of 27% qu-

ota for OBCs in jobs and education announced by the erstwhile Kamal Nath

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PUBLIC NOTICE

he general public at large is informed that ny client "Diocese of Delhi" (Regd.), Church f India (Formerly known as Church of India,

akistan Burma & Ceylon) had notified that

hansan burnia ceylion in indirect allegedly executed by S.P.G Cambridge Mission (Foreign part) in favour of 'Delhi Diocesan Trust Association' on dated Twenty Seventh

& dated 29th day of October, 1969, in respect

of 6 properties, mentioned in respective schedule to said deeds as null and void on

.The said documents do not specify any

resolution either of SPG Cambridge

Mission or of DDTA vide which the Person claiming himself to be Bishop of Delhi

had been authorized to execute the

The same person had signed the document on behalf of SPG Cambridge Mission as well as Chairman & Secretary of 'Delhi Diocesan Trust Association', without any

In view of nullity of aforementioned deed, all the properties alleged to have transferred to DDTA, remains to be

administered by Diocese of Delhi, Church

Any person, dealing with the properties allegedly transferred vide aforementioned deed, at instance or at beheat of DDN

(administered by Diocese of Delhi, CNI) and without consent of my aforementioned

Ravi Kumar (Advocate

No. 852, Saket Court, New Delhi-110017

PUBLIC NOTICE

his is to inform all concernd that Wg. Cd

Durga Das Mundra (retd) Aadhar No 2087-0553-3149 S/o Jiwan Lal Mundhr R/o Flat No: 102, Mahindra Antheia

impri Nehru Nagar Road Dist Pune

of India, (formerly known as CIPBC)

client shall be prosecuted as per law.

authority from any of these institutions.

aforementioned document

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- DAILY PRELIMS PRACTICE QUESTIONS DIRECT INTERACTION WITH TEACHER



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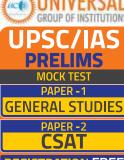
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Founder please inform to 9911259945

GENERAL



NFCSF invites applications from promising candidates

Edu. Qualification: ANSI/AVSI shall be preferred

Essential Experience: 5 years as Chief Engineer / Chief Projec Manager in modern sugar plant o value added downstream projects vith a minimum total experience of 15 years in sugar mill and relevant sector, knowledge o designing, manufacturing, erec-tion of sugar machinery with Co-generation plant & preparation of DPR/Tender Documents, projec ost estimation, project plannin Area of operation: All India &

HQ: New Delhi Annual Salary: Rs. 25.0 lakhs (CTC) approx.

Edu. Qualification: M.E. / B.E. ANSI / AVSI shall be preferred. Age: Up to 50 years.

hief Engineer / Chief Project Manager in modern sugar plant out of total experience of 10 years n sugar mill and related sector knowledge of preparation of DPR / Tender documents. Capable to advice in trouble shooting, impro vement in results of working mills etc. Hands on experience and knowledge of value added downstream projects will be an added

Area of operation: All India

(Distillery) Edu. Qualification:

ginal allottee of Flat No. Q-439. Sector arking space No: 135 had sold the said roperty to Sriram Maheshwari S/o lariram Mundhra, Aadhar No: 5339-6164-570 R/o H-1001, Elite Homz, Sector-77, oida, and General power of Attorney was egisterd in the name of Sushma Mundhra 1/o Sriram Maheshwari, Aadhar No: 2723-897-6551 R/o 10001 Elite Homz, Sector-7, Noida but agreement to se**ll** was no ow the said flat is going to be transferre ı favour of Sriram Maheshwari S/o

Age : Up to 35 years.

ufficient proof in the group housing lepartment of Noida within 30 Days from

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SITUATION VACANT



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Age: Up to 50 years

Experience: Minimum 3 years as

nead of department out of tota experience of 10 years in a reputed distillery/ Consultancy Company with experience in concept to commissioning of distillery projects, production & management of Ethanol and CBG projects, knowledge of prepa-ration of DPR, Tender documents, Facility reports etc. Should have experience in design engineering of distillery /ethanol plants, preparation of plant layouts, techno-commercial bid documents, drawings / QAP approvals, inspection of plant & approvals, inspection of plant 8 nachinery. Should be capable o hooting during erection 8

lariram Mundhra, Aadhar No: 5339-6164-570 R/o H-1001, Elite Homz, Sector-77, Area of operation: All India Annual Salary: Rs. 15.0 lakhs

any person has any objection then he/she nay file his/her objection along with the 4. Marketing Executive Edu. Qualification:

Experience: Minimum 5 years experience in marketing of technical consultancy services. Must have prior experience in Must have prior experience in identifying business development opportunities, procuring new consultancy projects, managing tendering process, liaisoning etc. preferable in sugar, ethanol and alliedproducts (industry. Shall be responsible for achieving consultancy service business revenue target.

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> Age limit can be relaxed in deserving cases. Perks shall be payable as applicable to the respective posts. Eligible candidates may apply through post or by e-mail to the Managing Director within 15 days from the date of publication of this advertisement

National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories Ltd., Ansal Plaza, Block-C, 2nd Floor, ugust Kranti Marg, New Delhi-110 049 E-mail: nfcsfnd@gmail.com NB: Canvassing in any form shall be a disqualification.

Mamata visits flood-hit areas

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Baneriee on Tuesday visited flood-affected regions of south Bengal and directed the Ministers and public representatives to visit Delhi and impress on the Centre for implementation of mega flood control project in Ghatal Master Plan. The CM took an aeriel survey of the area. She later met the affected people and distributed relief material.

"We have raised the issue of Ghatal Master Plan, but the Centre has not sanctioned funds," Ms. Banerjee told journalists.

The CM said Ministers Soumen Mahapatra and Manas Ranjan Bhuniya, Ghatal MP Dev and leader June Malia should meet Union Minister for Irrigation and press for Ghatal Master Plan.

Government of Jharkhand Directorate of Food & Consumer Affairs Ground Floor, Engineers Hostel, HEC, Sector – III Dhurwa, Ranchi – 834004, Jharkhand Letter no: kha.Up.Ni.01(vividh)-119/2021 -1121

Corrigendum Notice With reference to tender number 977 date 13-07-2021 and advertisement under "PR 249504 Directorate of Food and Consumer Affairs (20-21)" for "Expression of Interest for selection of agency

Date -10-08-2021

to provide the services of Reverse e-Auction Platform". This is to inform you that the Corrigendum regarding above EOI has been Issued and uploaded on department website "https:// www.jharkhand.gov.in/food^f

Directorate of Food &Consumer Affairs PR.NO.251104 Food Public Distribution and Consumer Affairs(21-22):D

NE border disputes have killed 157 people since 1979, says rights group

Conflicts have also injured 361, displaced over 65,000

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI

Data-mining by a New Delhi-based rights group has revealed 157 people have been killed in border disputes across the Northeast since 1979.

The border conflicts till the Assam-Mizoram flareup on July 26 have also injured 361 people and displaced another 65,729. The Assam-Nagaland

border has been the most violent with 136 of the 157 reported deaths. The Assam-Arunachal Pradesh border conflicts claimed 10 lives followed by the Assam-Mizoram border dispute with seven and Assam-Meghalaya border dispute with four.

Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland were carved out of Assam between 1963 and 1972. Arunachal Pradesh, formerly known as North East Frontier Agency, was annexed to Assam until it became a Union Territory in 1972.

Letter to Shah, CMs "All the victims are Indian

citizens and the increasing human toll warrants permanent peace building measures," Suhas Chakma of the Rights and Risks Analysis Group said outlining the data in a letter to Union Home Minister Amit Shah and the Chief Ministers of the States caught in the conflicts. "The States usually ap-

DEPARTMENT OF SPACE

CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP (CMG)
SPACE APPLICATION CENTER (SAC), JODHPUR
TEKRA, AMBAWADI VISTAR P.O. AHMEDABAD -380015

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CORRIGENDUM NO: 2 Dated 09.08.2021

E-Tender Notice No.: SAC/CMG/CPHD/C/e/18/2021-22 Dated 07.07.2021

The revised detai is are as below

Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting Tender

(NIT) from website(s) www.isro.gov.in or www.sac.gov.in for further

etails and Purchase of tender documents visit www.tenderwizard.com

ISRO. Tenderers may contact Mr. Sunil Patel (representative from M/s

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All other conditions stipulated in the above NIT will remain unaltered.

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will be held in September, 2021 as per program given below:-

BVP

SBI

RJT

RTM

ADI

MMCT

16/09/2021

29/09/202

21/09/202

22/09/202

24/09/2021

27/09/202

25/09/2021

30/09/2021

28/09/202

27/09/2021

in New Delhi.

Bid Clarifications

01/09/2021

03/09/202

07/09/2021

08/09/2021

09/09/2021

10/09/202

11/09/2021

13/09/2021

14/09/202

Period during which the tender

Last date & time for Submission of

document can be downloaded

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works at Delhi Earth Station (DES) Lakhs

proach the Supreme Court to resolve the disputes, but the demarcation of boundaries is an executive task. The SC has usually recommended the formation of boundary commissions, but if the States do not accept the findings of the commissions, little pro-

gress can be made," he said. Advising the State governments to maintain status quo till the disputes are resolved, the rights group suggested certain measures such as joint enforcement of law and order along the line of de facto control and biometric documentation of the residents living within the disputed areas for prohibiting settlement in

Period of

Completion

Estimated

on 18.08.2021

on 20.08.2021

23.08.2021

GROUP DIRECTOR

CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP

In-Charge

Sr. Divisional

Materials Manager

BVP

Deputy Chief

Materials Manager

DHD

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022-23094142

Up to 17.00 hrs on

Extended up to 17.00 hrs

Extended up to 17.00 hrs

WESTERN RAILWAY

CORRIGENDUM-2

CORRIGENDUM-2
Tender Notice No.: MMCT-FIBA-2021
Dated 23/07/2021. In the said tender the following details of NIT is revised and may be read as follows. (1) Time and Date for Closure of Submission of e-Tender Document. Earlier: 15:00 hrs. on 24/08/2021. To be Read As: 15:00 hrs. on 27/08/2021. (2) Date and Time of Coexisted of Totals. Opening of e-Tender Farlier : 15:30 hrs on 24/08/2021. To be Read As: 15:30 hrs. on 27/08/2021. All other Condition of the NIT published earlier shall remain unchanged. NOTE: Please visit our website www.ireps.gov.in to download the tender document, corrigendum and

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that one boy Namely: Sardul, S/o: Sh. Arshudeen, R/o: Unknown, Age: 8 Years, Height: 3'4", Complexion: Shallow, Built: Medium, Wearing: Saleti Colour T-Shirt and Half Nikar has been found at Counter No. 12 Anand Vihar Bus Adda on 05.07.2021. In this regard FIR No.

SARDUL Area, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped boy but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information

undersigned. Web-site: http://cbi.nic.in E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in Fax: 011-23011334

P.S. Patparganj Industrial Area, Delhi

DP/646/ED/2021 Ph.: 011-22146491, 22146490

General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male Namely Unknown S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown Age: about 70-75 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round long white beared, Built: Thin, Wearing: White coloured kurta & paviama has been found dead on

accident Between KM Pole No. 3/33G & 3/31G, Ghaziabad to NDLS Railway Line, Near PF No.1, Mandawali Rly. Station, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved for 72 hours at the Mortuary of GTB Hospital Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 3A, dated 07.08.2021 U/S 174 Cr.P.C. has been lodged at P.S. Anand Vihar Railway Station, Delhi.

inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers. SHO P.S. Anand Vihar Railway Station, Delhi

Ph.: 011-22145601-02 DP/204/RLY/2021 Mob.: 8750871314

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

The general public is hereby informed that an unidentified person about 25-30 years of age whose name, residence, and family is unknown has been found dead on footpath Asaf Ali Road, Darya Ganj, Delhi. In this regard, a vide has been registered with DD No: 84A, dated: 07.08.2021 at PS Darya Ganj, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to identify the deceased person, but no clue has come to

The description of the UIDB is as under:

light so far.

Sex: Male, Age: 25-30 Years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Dark, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Wearing: White colour shirt and white colour pant.

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax: 011-24368639



15/09/2021

For detailed information please contact the concerned Depot Officers. **Note** (1) Railway reserves the right to withdraw any lot from e-Auction. (2) e-Auction wil start at as per scheduled time. (3) e-Auction catalogues will be available on site www.ireps.gov.in e-Auction portal. (4) In case of any assistance required regarding e-Auction, digital signatures, Registration procedure and participation, please contact above mentioned Depot Officer. (5) All payment transactions shall be done he online payment gateway. (No. S/ III/Auction Programme-1/September -2021 Dated 06/08/2021

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Actor assault case: Kavya appears before court

Kavya Madhavan, actor and wife of actor Dileep who is accused in the sensational female actor abduction and sexual assault case in Kerala, appeared before a special court in Kochi on Tuesday. The investigating team had questioned her in connection with the case involving the alleged abduction and sexual assault of the actor on February 17, 2017.

11 persons held with 3,400 kg of ganja in A.P.

The East Godavari police on Tuesday seized 3,400 kg of ganja worth over ₹3 crore and arrested 11 members of a gang while they were transporting the contraband from Visakhapatnam Agency in a bid to smuggle it to Telangana and Tamil Nadu. Prime accused Sobha Subba Rao is absconding and a search is on, the police said

TDP demands White Paper on 'atrocities against Dalits in A.P.'

Party slams police for foiling rally; sees bid to infringe on fundamental rights

Even as the Andhra Pradesh police foiled the Telugu Desam Party's bid to organise a 'Dalit Pratighatana' rally from the Gymkhana grounds to Tummapalli Kshetrayya Kalakshetram here on Tuesday, the party has demanded that the government release a White Paper on the "atrocities against Dalits" in the State.

The TDP's Dalit wing leaders condemned the police action and described it as an attempt to infringe on the fundamental rights of the weaker sections.

Former Minister K.S. Jawahar alleged that atrocities against the Dalits were on the rise ever since the YSRCP assumed office. "SCs and STs are being detained illegally. False cases are being foisted upon them to silence the voice of dissent. The govern-



Rooftop protest: TDP leaders staging a protest after the police denied permission to the 'Dalit Pratighatana' programme in Vijayawada on Tuesday. • K.V.S. GIRI

Dalit Pratighatana rally. SC

and ST leaders are not being

allowed to express their de-

mocratic rights to protest

ment should release a White Paper on the attacks on Da-

lits," he said. Former Minister Nakka Anand Babu said Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy won the election with the support of the SCs, the STs and minorities in 2019.

"However, he [Mr. Reddy]

has been suppressing the against the atrocities of the communities with an iron hand after coming to power. Police are behaving in a highhanded manner by not according permission to the

ruling party," he said. Former Minister Peetala

Sujatha said the voice of Dalits was being "throttled".

TDP Mahila Wing president Vangalapudi Anita sought to know as to why the government "obstructed" the rally.

Tension in village as man dies post-clash

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Tension prevailed at Peddareddypet in Pulkal mandal of Telangana's Sangareddy district on Tuesday as a man from a minority community, injured in a clash in the village, died while undergoing treatment at a hospital. As a precautionary measure, police clamped prohibitory orders on the village.

According to Pulak subinspector Naga Lakshmi, there was a clash in the village on Monday between Kothakota Shekhar and Mohammad Mahaboob over a piece of land. In a fit of rage Shekhar assaulted Mahaboob. The latter, who sustained injuries in the attack, died on Tuesday while undergoing treatment. This led to minor tension in the village.

As a precautionary measure, the Telangana police imposed Section 144 and brought the situation under control.

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, Mahe and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, east Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Ravalaseema, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam and Karaikal

ITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
gartala	8	.34.0	27.2	Kozhikode	8	.28.0	.24.4
hmedabad	–	.35.7	27.0	Kurnool	–	.34.6	.25.9
izawl	0.9	.28.5	18.3	Lucknow	21	.31.6	.26.2
llahabad	–	.29.6	26.7	Madurai	58	.36.4	.23.8
engaluru	–	.27.3	21.8	Mangaluru	3.1	.28.9	.24.4
hopal	3.4	.28.7	23.5	Mumbai	0.2	.31.9	.26.4
hubaneswar	. 45.6	.35.6	25.7	Mysuru	–	.31.0	.21.0
handigarh	3.4	.35.7	27.4	New Delhi	–	.35.8	.25.0
hennai	42	.35.0	21.8	Patna			
oimbatore	–	.32.5	22.8	Port Blair	17	.31.4	.25.6
ehradun	8	.31.8	22.1	Puducherry	–	.37.6	.24.9
angtok	–	.23.2	13.2	Pune	–	.28.6	.22.0
oa	9	.31.0	24.7	Raipur	–	.33.4	.26.5
uwahati	–	.34.6	27.2	Ranchi	–	.33.7	.23.7
ubballi	–	.28.0	21.0	Shillong	38	.26.1	.17.9
yderabad	–	.33.0	25.4	Shimla	–	.27.0	.19.9
nphal	–	.30.4	22.7	Srinagar	–	.31.4	.16.8
aipur	–	.35.0	26.7	Thiruvananthapuram	0.1	.32.8	.24.4
ochi	25	.29.2	23.4	Tiruchi	. 118	.35.7	.23.8
ohima	3	.25.4	17.5	Vijayawada	15	.33.8	.26.0
olkata				Visakhapatnam			

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

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

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

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

'Present books instead of bouquets'

Karnataka govt. bans garlands, shawls, and fruits in official programmes

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Karnataka government has banned presentation of garlands, bouquets, shawls, and fruits in official programmes. It said organisers could, instead, present Kannada books to guests.

The order was issued on Tuesday by Chief Secretary P. Ravi Kumar. All department heads and government undertakings have been asked to comply with the directions.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who participated in a meeting of senior police officials in Bengaluru earlier



Basavaraj Bommai

in the day, refused to accept a bouquet.

"This is unnecessary expenditure. There is no need to give bouquets, garlands, and shawls in the name of protocol. Henceforth, the should stopped," he said.

Government departments spend a lot of funds on presentation of shawls and flowers to guests at various programmes. Sometimes these gifts are received multiple times in a single day by leaders, as they participate in several programmes. Mr. Bommai had brought

up the issue of cost-cutting in the first meeting with bureaucrats when he took oath as Chief Minister.

He said that in the context of COVID-19, there was a

need to bring in financial discipline and unnecessary expenditure should be curtailed.

Newly sworn in Energy and Kannada and Culture Minister V. Sunil Kumar had appealed to those coming to greet him not to give garlands and gifts and asked for Kannada books instead, which he would donate to a library in the Karkala constituency.

At the meeting with police officials, Mr. Bommai urged the force to be peoplefriendly and initiate measures to bring the crime rate

3 held for stuntman's death on film set

Director was among those arrested

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Following the death of a stuntman, who was electrocuted during the shoot of a Kannada film in Jogenahalli, near Bidadi, on August 9, the police on Tuesday arrested the director, the stuntmaster and the crane operator.

They have been charged with causing death due to negligence. The victim, Vivek, 35, was working on the set of the film Love You Rachchu, starring Ajay Rao and Rachita Ram. "Five people have been

booked. We have arrested stuntmaster Vinod Kumar, director Shankar Idigar, and crane operator Mahadev. We are on the lookout for the producer, Guru Deshpande, who was not present when the incident took place, and the unit incharge, Fernandes, who was on the set but is absconding," said a senior police officer, adding that they visited the spot and conducted an inspection.

NORTH & WEST

14 States, UTs set to reopen schools 8 archaeological sites in Osmanabad for Classes X-XII as COVID cases dip become part of revenue land records

Almost 50% of teachers across the country vaccinated, says NITI Aayog member V.K. Paul

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

At least 14 States and Union Territories have reopened or plan to reopen schools partially this month, given the continued low numbers of COVID-19 infection and the high rate of vaccination among teachers. However, almost all States only plan to bring back older students despite the Indian Council of Medical Research's recommendation to start with primary school students.

At a Health Ministry press conference on Tuesday, NITI Aavog member V.K. Paul said almost 50% of teachers across the country had been vaccinated, but emphasised that more effort was needed.

Although teachers were not among front-line workers, who received the first priority in vaccination, some States had issued circulars directing them to get their shots even as schools begin to reopen.

Last week, a parliamentary panel noted that school closures had hurt the social fabric of families, led to an increase in child marriages and in children being pressed into work at home. The expected learning losses are likely to impact the cognitive capabilities of stu-



Tagore Garden in West Delhi. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

dents, it said, warning that children's nutrition and mental health had also been affected. Over 15 lakh schools across

the country shut their doors in March 2020, and only a few reopened briefly before the second wave of the pandemic. More than 25 crore school children have been dependent on online or distance education since then, with many from poor or remote communities effectively losing more than a year of schooling.

In response to a query from Congress MP Shashi Tharoor in the Lok Sabha, Education Mi-

Students visiting the Government Girls Senior Secondary School at nister Dharmendra Pradhan listed eight States that have

Haryana leads the way

schools by mid-August.

The first to resume face-to-face classes was Haryana, which reopened for Classes IX to XII from July 16, followed by Nagaland, which allowed Classes XI and XII from July 26.

opened or planned to reopen

Punjab, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Puducherry and Lakshadweep all began classes in the first week of August, although only the two Union Territories reopened school for all classes, with the other three sticking to high schoolers only. Andhra Pradesh plans to begin on August 16.

Apart from these eight States mentioned by Mr. Pradhan, Karnataka intends to resume offline classes from August 23 for Classes IX and X and the preuniversity courses, equivalent to Classes XI and XII. Tamil Nadu will also reopen school for Classes IX-XII from September

Uttar Pradesh plans to restart classes from August 16 for intermediate students, while Odisha is carrying out a phased reopening through July to September.

Maharashtra plans to reopen schools on August 17, with offline classes beginning for students from Class V onwards in rural areas and from Class VII onwards in urban areas, although these plans are restricted to areas with a consistently low

rate of infection. In the national capital, students of Classes X to XII will be allowed to go to their schools for admission-related work and practical activities for their board exam from this week onwards, as the Delhi government continues to deliberate on a reopening date.

Move comes after local politician encroached upon a historical pool

STAFF REPORTER

Eight protected archaeological sites at Ter in Maharashtra's Osmanabad district have become part of the State's revenue land records in a bid to preserve and conserve them.

The move, which is a first in the State, comes after the incident in the same district where yet another historical Mankavati *kunda* (pool) near the temple of goddess Tuljabhavani was encroached upon by a local politician who made fake land documents by which he claimed the ownership of it.

"I have given orders to file a cri-

minal case against the person. We cannot let individuals use historical monuments for personal profits. Directions have been given to make appropriate changes in land records as well," said Kaustubh Divegaonkar, Collector, Osmanabad.

He said that the incident was also the trigger behind the move to safeguard eight archaeological sites at Ter by including them in the revenue land records.

"At some places excavations have been done on private land as well. A decade ago, there was an incident where a farmer destroyed remains of a temple found under his land

fearing that the land would be taken over by the government. Inclusion in land record as protected site would mean that nobody can destroy or claim ownership on excavated land for personal profits," he added.

Mr. Divegaonkar said that he is also moving the proposal whereby all such sites will be deemed Class II lands. This means any transfer of such lands would require the Collector's nod. Ter, a village on the banks of the Terna river, was a trade centre for centuries, going as far back as third century B.C. when it was called Tagar.

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The Tender Document can be downloaded from the Government of NCT of Delhi e-Portal (https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in) as well as from the DPCC website www.dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in (for reference). The last date for submission of Tender Document is 24th September, 2021 (15:00 Hrs). Member Secretary

Delhi Pollution Control Committee

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Choppy waters

India must push for ratification of UNCLOS by all major maritime powers, including the U.S.

Then Prime Minister Narendra Modi took the stage to address the UNSC on a debate on maritime security – the first Indian premier to do so – he might have hoped to keep the focus of the discussion on building maritime ties and developing maritime infrastructure through regional cooperation initiatives. Yet, once more the discussion veered toward major nations trading barbs on continuing strategic dissonance in this sphere. At the heart of the strident claims and counterclaims regarding allegations of abuse of maritime resources and disrespect of territorial sovereignty rights of nations were the U.S., on the one hand, and China and Russia on the other. Mr. Modi deserves credit for bringing to the table a five-prong plan to enhance maritime security worldwide through cooperation, including removing barriers to legitimate maritime trade, settling maritime disputes peacefully and based on international law, jointly facing natural disasters and maritime threats created by non-state actors, preserving maritime environment and resources, and encouraging responsible maritime connectivity. Indeed, the acceptance at the UNSC of the legislative framework for UNCLOS, the "legal framework applicable to activities in the oceans, including countering illicit activities at sea", is seen as an important achievement during India's month at the helm of the Council. The sustained interest of India in promoting maritime security also draws from Mr. Modi's SAGAR vision plan aimed at strengthening economic and security connections with regional maritime nations.

If there are strategic barriers to creating momentum in achieving these goals, they are associated with specific regions of maritime tension including the South China Sea and the Black Sea. Regarding the former, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken decried the "dangerous encounters between vessels at sea and provocative actions to advance unlawful maritime claims", rejecting "actions that intimidate and bully other states from lawfully accessing their maritime resources". Similarly, regarding the Black Sea, the Kerch Strait, the Sea of Azov, Mr. Blinken at the UNSC debate hit out at what Washington considered "continued aggressive actions against Ukraine... which are disrupting commerce and energy access". Although India's presidency of the Council is brief, its sustained commitment to promoting maritime security and boosting trade through sea routes will require it to be adroit in negotiating with these squabbling powers and creative in seeking resolution of the very real conflicts at the heart of their disputes. While some may deride UNCLOS as lacking teeth for enforcement, ultimately it is the only comprehensive framework of laws available to maritime powers to assert their rights consistent with the rules-based international order. Through its UNSC presidency and beyond, New Delhi must faithfully advocate for ratification of UNCLOS by all major maritime powers, including the U.S.

Undermining justice

The Government must explain the unusual delay in filling up vacancies in courts, tribunals

Tt was only a matter of time before the controversy over the Union government delaying judicial appointments hit the headlines again. In recent days, the Supreme Court has voiced concern over the Government's lackadaisical attitude towards the large number of vacancies in High Courts and tribunals. Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana confronted the Government with a list of 240 vacancies in various tribunals. He asked rather bluntly whether there was a plan to close down some tribunals. Many tribunals lack presiding officers, and recommendations made by selection committees have not been acted upon. The vacancies in High Courts are at a staggering 455, as on August 1. It appears that exhortations from the courts, and even a judicial order from the top court in April – fixing time-frames for the Intelligence Bureau and the Government to process names forwarded by the Collegium for making appointments to the High Courts or returning files and for accepting names reiterated by the judges' body – has not imparted a sense of urgency. A two-judge Bench has noted that the Centre's delay in making appointments to the High Courts is adversely affecting the adjudication of commercial disputes.

The judiciary's concern over the vacancies in the tribunals is quite justified, as the jurisdiction previously exercised by High Courts is now being exercised by the tribunals, and the failure to adjudicate or dispose of disputes in these fields would amount to denial of justice to the parties. The present regime's eagerness to undermine the independent functioning of tribunals is quite apparent. It has been repeatedly framing rules that seek to provide for greater executive control over the tenure, emoluments and conditions of service of those manning the tribunals. If specialisation, domain expertise and relatively quicker adjudication are the reasons for which certain kinds of disputes are being resolved through tribunals, these purposes are lost if these bodies are rendered nearly dysfunctional through a large number of vacancies. To compound the problem, the Union government has been inexplicably reluctant to create a national body for overseeing the work related to the appointment of members on tribunals as well as the appraisal of their functioning. As far as higher judiciary appointments are concerned, there is little to enlighten the public on what is causing the delay. Whether it is a dispute over the undoubtedly problematic memorandum of procedure, or the desire of the executive to subject the Collegium recommendations to its own political scrutiny is not clear. In any case, the delay is causing great harm to India's justice delivery system.

The construct behind the 'Shining U.P.' card

Uttar Pradesh's 'status' as India's top State is in contradiction of evidence and felt experiences



These days, India's national capital, Delhi, is a sight to behold - strangely, not for reasons connected to the city-State. As a matter of fact, a visitor might think she was in neighbouring Uttar Pradesh seeing the profusion of posters and flex boards featuring its Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, all of them claiming that U.P. is today India's number one

Bagging the top rank

U.P. as India's number one State? The miracle owes to an award that was given out this summer by the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry under the Smart Cities Mission (https://bit.ly/3yAAPJx). Tamil Nadu, with an exemplary record on development and welfare, was placed third on the list after Madhya Pradesh. If anyone had quibbles about the line-up, they had to lump it. U.P. and its Chief Minister were going to savour the trophy which had most conveniently arrived in the months ahead of the 2022 State Assembly election. By another coincidence, it was also the first time that States had been picked for the award.

In the days since the award, the Chief Minister has found himself hit by an avalanche of praise, most notably from the Prime Minister and the Union Home Minister, Amit Shah. The praise also settled speculation that Mr. Adityanath and Mr. Modi were in conflict over a State-level appointment proposed by the Prime Minister. In

the end, Mr. Adityanath had his way. The Gujarat cadre retired IAS officer, said to have been Mr. Modi's nominee for the State Cabinet, got appointed to an ornamental party post. If indeed there was a conflict over this, it made sense for both sides to sue for peace. U.P. is the all important State that the Bharativa Janata Party (BJP) has to win, and win by a wide margin. What has followed is a mammoth, nothing-left-to-chance effort to rebrand Mr. Adityanath as the leader of India's best-run State.

In their speeches, Mr. Modi and Mr. Shah have attributed qualities to the U.P. Chief Minister that are in embarrassing contradiction of evidence and felt experiences. Some of the flattery and claims were so over-the-top that factchecking sites such as Alt News instantly demolished them, among them the astonishing one that the Chief Minister's handling of the second COVID-19 wave was "unparalleled". The situation in U.P. at the time was indeed unparalleled, but not in the glowing manner it has been imagined and told. Quite the opposite with images of floating corpses and mass burning of pyres making it to the internation-

In the pandemic's grip

As the second wave raged, there was no sign that U.P. had become a shining example of good governance. Hundreds lost their lives in the scramble for hospital beds. ambulances and oxygen. Men and women collapsed unattended and many died begging for oxygen. These deaths were not statistics that the Government could hide or dispute. These happened in real time as friends and families watched helplessly. A Lucknow journalist's last cries for help are recorded in the phone of an editor friend she desperately called. He

continues to be hounded by her cries and remains inconsolable over not being able to save her despite his access to higher-ups in the Government. The sad truth is that U.P failed its citizens during the second COVID-19 crisis – the better off died trying in vain to work the political system for beds and oxygen. The worse off died anyway, some of them abandoned by their kin and turning up as bloated corpses in the swirling waters of the Ganga.

The floating bodies, discovered along the length of the Ganga by the reporting teams of the Hindi newspaper, Dainik Bhaskar, have since become a metaphor for all that is wrong with U.P. The U.P. government and the Chief Minister have underplayed the deaths and passed them off as jal samadhis – the ancient practice of burying the dead in shallow river beds.

However, the explanation has not convinced many. In his report dated May 22, 2021 (https:// bit.ly/37sZTGu), The Hindu's Omar Rashid cites residents who had watched the bodies wash up as saying they had not witnessed floating bodies on this scale before. For Vishwambhar Nath Mishra, the head priest of Varanasi's Sankat Mochan temple, the floating bodies represented a truth that could not be hidden. "Ganga has revealed the truth," he told Mr.

Mr. Rashid also reported on the

deaths of Government employees who had contracted COVID-19 while on polling duty in the panchayat elections that were held irresponsibly at the peak of the second wave. The Government at first denied the deaths, but has now confirmed them by awarding compensation to the families of over 2,000 employees who fell to COVID-19 after being on election

The horror of U.P.'s second wave is too recent and too graphically captured for it to be so easily forgotten. To insist that the virus was controlled with "incomparaefficiency", therefore, amounts to a reconstructed truth, an alternative reality intended to replace the original memories by the time the 2022 Assembly election is held.

There have been other exaggerations in the project to build Mr. Adityanath as a brand, among them claims that U.P. has topped the charts for COVID-19 testing and administration of vaccine shots and also that it has provided a violence-free environment to its residents. The State does have impressive absolute numbers for both COVID-19 testing and vaccine shots but plunges close to the bottom once the figures are adjusted for population. U.P. has so far lagged behind even the national average on both counts.

Crime data

On general law and order and women's safety, the less said the better. Women's safety, a key promise in the BJP's election campaigns, has been callously treated in U.P. An Alt News analysis of national crime data placed U.P. on top for custodial rapes and dowry deaths. Further, National Crime Records Bureau data show that the number of dowry deaths per one lakh people in U.P. is the highest in the

country. This is besides the gang rapes that have regularly hit the headlines. The State BJP's sweep of the recently held block pramukh elections came amidst widespread violence and allegations of booth capturing and intimidation. Clearly, in the current day U.P., law and order has come to mean just one thing: the State government's aggression against minorities and its crackdown on alleged gangsters and anti-nationals, many of whom are in fact students and rights' activists.

U.P.'s self-appointed status as India's top State is ironic considering it was at the bottom among large States in an index (Public Affairs Index) compiled by the Public Affairs Centre, a not-for-profit organisation headed by K. Kasturirangan, formerly chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation. Released in October 2020, the index used 50 indicators to measure the quality of State-level governance on the three pillars of equity, growth and sustainability. Unsurprisingly, Kerala was adjudged the best-governed State while U.P. came last (in the large States category).

Political impact

So what are the BJP's opponents in U.P. doing to counter the party's public relations offensive? Not much as both the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) seem focused on chasing the elusive Brahmin vote in U.P. This is baffling logic considering the wellknown Brahmin affinity to the BJP. The SP and the BSP both came to power on rainbow alliances of the forward and backward castes. Having lost that platform to the BJP, they now watch as Mr. Adityanath plays his 'Shining U.P.' card.

Vidya Subrahmaniam is a senior

Unpacking the resiliency of global trade, yet again

Going by past experiences and historic ruptures, there is hope for global trade recovery in the post-COVID-19 world



DAMMU RAVI

n the last year, the devastating impact of COVID-19 pandemic has shrunk the world economy by 4.4% and global trade by 5.3%; job losses have been estimated to be to the tune of 75 million. Around the world, countries have responded to pandemic-induced shortages with protectionist reactions and nationalist aspirations with the potential to disrupting complex cross-border supply chains. The blame game on trade openness and trade agreements for widening trade deficits, income inequalities and growing unemployment are all but natural domestic reactions. These trends make projections for the post-CO-VID-19 world even more dismal and depressing.

Going by past experiences, historic ruptures often generate and accelerate new global links that lay foundations for institutional changes, seeking enduring cooperation among nations. The Second World War created sustaining multilateral institutions; besides the United Nations, the Bretton Woods Institutions such as

World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) and International Trade Organisation (ITO) were created to help rebuild the shattered post-war economy. The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) was negotiated in 1947 as a means to reducing barriers to international trade. The oil shocks of the 1970s led to the establishment of the International Energy Agency (IEA) in 1974 to manage oil supply disruptions and went on to create awareness on the need for global energy security. The financial crisis of 2008 led to the G20 Leaders Summit, an elevation from the G20 Finance Ministers forum in 1999, in a bid to take cooperation beyond the G7 in a global quest to control inflation due to fiscal expansion. These developments had a consequential impact on global trade, with dramatic surges in volumes; from a mere \$60.80 billion in 1950 to \$2,049 billion in 1980; \$6,452 billion in 2000; \$19,014 billion in 2019 (Source: wto.org).

Future prospects

The patterns above leave much hope for optimism for global trade in the post-COVID-19 crisis in the collective belief that international trade is vital for development and prosperity, while competition is central to generating competence. Stimulus packages and forced savings in several countries in the last year have created financial buffers. Global supply chains that have

remained dormant for long are expected to be resilient to help revive manufacturing with lower production costs, induce invest-

ments and promote technology

In a post COVID-19 world, members of the World Trade Organization are expected to stitch trade facilitating rules that may impinge on national sovereign policy space with a collective resolve to discipline errant nations that are known to dumping goods and erecting trade barriers through multilateral rules. Mutually beneficial trade arrangements that seek deeper economic integration will be entered into at the bilateral and regional levels to create win-win situations for all stakeholders, including consumers, who tend to benefit from lowered barriers and harmonised standards.

Countries that harness technology are expected to dominate international trade in future with a transformational impact on the global economy. Just as the steam engine in the 19th century and computing power in the 20th century, data will be the main driver of economic growth in the 21st

century. Businesses will aim to harness data for innovation to remain ahead of the curve in a post-COVID-19 world. However, increasing use of data and automation will make nations vulnerable to job losses. Rapid growth in ecommerce and the virtual world will demand entirely new skills from the workforce. Therefore, economic policies are likely to focus on stronger safety nets for workers; income protection, skill training, health care and educa-

India's outlook

India's challenges during the CO-VID-19 pandemic have been no different from those faced by other countries: its GDP contracted by 7.3% according to the National Statistical Office; and about 10 million iobs were lost according to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy Pvt. Ltd; trade remained subdued at \$493 billion (goods at \$290 billion and services at \$203 billion). The projections of the International Monetary Fund for India's economic growth ahead are positive and in line with the general trends world-wide, assuming that the widespread vaccination might limit the COVID-19 agony. Unleashing trade potential is expected to have a ripple effect on the economy. Merchandise exports for the second quarter of 2021 from April-June at \$95 billion (+6%), is indeed encouraging, but would need to remain focussed on

value added products, beyond the traditional exports basket comprising refined petroleum products, pharma, gems and jewellery, textiles and garments, + engineering items, rice, oil meals and marine products (Source: DGCI&S)

Building an ecosystem that incentivises value-added manufacturing and technology-induced finished products should form a part of our long-term strategy. Plug and play manufacturing units under Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) schemes, if carefully nurtured, could lead the industry on that path. Beyond the timely stimulus packages for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), supporting them with cheaper input costs, including raw material and intermediate goods would help sustain them with job creation at the local level. Developing a synergistic relationship between the big industry and MSMEs is at the core of a successful Atmanirbhar Bharat; the former should be encouraged to move into technology space and finished products, while the latter feeds them with locally made inputs at competitive prices. Skills upgradation to global standards should form a part of India's strategy in a post-COVID-19 world.

Dammu Ravi is a serving Foreign Service Officer, currently working in the Ministry of External Affairs. The views expressed

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

The starkest warning The Sixth Assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is foreboding. The current overall global warming trends are likely to lead to increased rainfall, flooding and heat waves. As India has a 7,517 km coastline, the warming of the Indian Ocean, leading to a rise in sea levels, makes southern India particularly Aggravating matters for India is that it is already sitting on a powder keg with indiscriminate encroachment into water bodies, mining and deforestation. A developing, fossil-fuel dependent nation such as India, is now finding itself

between the devil and the

deep sea. What is grossly

unfair is that the developing

nations are being made to pay heavily for the environment-damaging activities of the earlier carbon emitters, such as the West, who have a historic responsibility towards mitigating global warming and are now looking the other way. It is unfortunate that the IPCC's report is long on warnings but short on suggestions for concrete actions to reduce climate change. NALINI VIJAYARAGHAVAN,

■ The report only reiterates what we already know. The world is standing at the edge of a precipice due to our complete neglect of environment concerns in our developmental projects. India is more vulnerable than the other industrialised nations because of its dependence on agriculture.

With nations unable to come to any meaningful conclusions on measures, there seems to be very little chance of pulling away from the brink. ANTHONY HENRIQUES,

■ To those living in the Global South, the latest report is nothing but old wine in a new bottle. The reasons are simple, because even prior to the Paris Agreement, many of these countries were experiencing severe coastal flooding, irregular rainfall and

extreme drought. The gargantuan "heat dome" in America has finally driven home to many complacent Americans and Canadians that this current crisis can also spell tragedy to them and not just to the distant Third World. It is the same case in Europe, after

devastating floods and forest fires. It is time to stop the usual finger pointing at India, China, Brazil and South Africa, because their per capita emissions are still lower when compared to the industrialised western nations. Merely talking, procrastinating and business as usual policies of the past will most certainly make the world completely uninhabitable for all. G. PARAMESWARAN,

■ The report, though alarming, is not surprising. Every region on earth is being impacted by adverse conditions which are increasingly becoming irreversible. Every citizen on the planet is responsible for averting a catastrophe. It is time to act, or die. B. RAMAKRISHNAN,

A struggle It is the practice of

corporates, large business houses and governments to bestow on sportspersons, accolades, cash awards and other benefits after they win. But there is also the reality. There are also sportspersons who struggle hard to find a sponsor, training equipment, and even funds to buy the basics such as a pair of shoes or a hockey stick. There are tales of personal suffering and sacrifice. Sports enthusiast corporates and philanthropists need to identify talent and help such sportspersons blossom. It also takes political will. THARCIUS S. FERNANDO,

White paper

It is a surprise that the Tamil Nadu Finance Minister has submitted a white paper on Tamil Nadu's finances

To read more letter: online, scan the QR code

Things are indeed grave and one wonders what awaits households in the State already struggling with the costs of petrol, diesel and cooking gas. Incidentally, reliable sources cannot recollect any precedent of a white paper submission. Mani Nataraajan,

■ The white paper is a grand culmination of reckless populism followed by the Dravidian majors. With scant regard for financial prudence or administration, successive governments have burnt a massive hole in the State's finances. Electricity and transport are the top money burners, with freebies given away at will. Power and transport must be privatised. K. RAMACHANDRAN,

A call for improving civil registration systems

India needs to swiftly assign resources and give high priority to improving data on births and deaths



GOPALAN BALAGOPAL & K. NARAYANAN UNN

A working paper for the Center for Global Development, co-authored by former Chief Economic Adviser Arvind Subramanian, concludes that excess deaths during the pandemic period could be as high as 49 lakh in India as against the 4.14 lakh reported in government data. The Hindu has come out with estimates of excess deaths based on Civil Registration System (CRS) data for many States which showed that the death toll was several times higher than the official death toll due to COVID-19. Such discrepancies have been reported from other countries including the U.S. and Europe though they may not have been of such magnitude.

Capturing excess mortality

'Excess deaths' are defined as the difference between the observed number of deaths in specific time periods and the expected number of deaths in the same time periods. At the time of a pandemic, when the normal system is disrupted, it is not likely that every person who dies could have been tested for COVID-19 or the death could have been mistakenly assigned to some other cause.

Soumya Swaminathan, Chief Scientist at the World Health Organization, has tweeted in this connection: "For every country, it's important to capture excess mortality only way to prepare the health system for future shocks & to prevent further deaths. It's also why we need to invest in strong civil registration and vital statistics, so policies can be adjusted based on real data".

Section 19 of the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969, stipulates that the State governments have to "publish for the information of the public a statistical report on the registered births and deaths during the year at such intervals and such form as may be prescribed". The Act also stipulates that the deaths be registered at the place of occurrence.

In India, the annual report for

deaths is replicated at the district

and lower levels with municipalities

and panchayats playing a major role

in registration. This impedes effec-

tive oversight. Also, the traditional

bureaucratic practice is to function

Another complicating factor is

that civil registration involves good

coordination between different ac-

tors. The responsibility to report

births and deaths to the Registrar

rests with the hospital where the

event occurred or with the head of

the household if it occurred at home.

The Registrar then provides them

with a legal document (the birth or

death certificate) that is the evidence

for registration. The Registrar could

be a full-time government employee,

or a medical officer in a hospital or a

health centre, or the secretary of a

local panchayat or municipality as

appointed by the State government.

In case of deaths occurring in public

places, other agencies like the police

or the local government would need

to be involved. The State govern-

ments have not given adequate atten-

tion to the CRS. This has resulted in

an inadequate budget for carrying

out its regular activities including

The data needed to establish 'ex-

cess deaths' originates from the pro-

cesses described briefly above. The

information on deaths registered are

compiled at regular intervals by the

Chief Registrar. Dissemination of this

data is neglected to such an extent

that the Health Departments, includ-

ing the States where they are in

charge of the system, are generally

processing of the data.

not aware of this data.

within departmental silos.

2019 that is based on the data provided by the Chief Registrars has been released though the States themselves have not published the data. According to the Rules, these were to be submitted by the Chief Registrars to the State governments by July 31, 2020 and published within five months thereafter. Considering that technology enables the States to release data on the number of deaths registered on a monthly, weekly or daily basis, it is shameful that in some States researchers had to use the Right to Information law to obtain data on the number of deaths registered. What stands in the way of our ability to record deaths and bring out reports that are of critical importance today?

Complicating factors

Let us look at the organisational structure of the administrative machinery that is responsible for this task. While the Registrar General, India, is the head of the national organisation tasked with the registration of births and deaths, the actual work is carried out by the State and Union Territory (UT) administrations. The heads of the State organisations are called Chief Registrars. These officers come from the Health Department in 21 States/UTs and the Department of Planning, Economics and Statistics in 13 States/UTs. In two States/ UTs, they are from the Panchayat/Local Administration Departments. We also have Secretaries to the State government functioning as Chief Registrars in a few States. The multiplicity of agencies responsible for the registration of births and need to coordinate their activities seamlessly to ensure that the civil registration work is carried out efficiently. Committees established at the State, district and local government levels to ensure coordination meet rarely and the challenges of coordination continue to be a major issue in most parts of the country. Strengthening the system

All the agencies involved in the

processes of civil registration will

The first step that needs to be taken to address this is to accord high priority to strengthening civil registration and generation of vital statistics. The top level of the leadership at the Central and State governments must announce a time-bound commitment to achieve 100% registration of deaths in the country.

While eleven States register more than 90% of deaths, they do not include several of the larger States including Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Uttar Pradesh registered 63% of the deaths and Bihar registered only 51.6%, according to the 2019 report of the Registrar General, India.

Vital Statistics Reports that the government is required to publish are expected to meet a standard that is set by the UN Statistics Division, which seeks to ensure that all national reports are produced in a way that they can be internationally comparable. Apart from the problem that our reports are overdue, they do not contain all the tables that are prescribed even under our own Rules. Data include deaths that took place in previous years but are registered in the years that the report is published. This distorts the accuracy of the report. Some reports do not cover some major areas in the country. For instance, the Kerala report does not include data for Kochi Corporation.

We need data that fully meets quality standards. This is what the pandemic has called on us to do. We need to use this as an opportunity to mend matters in this critical area of public concern and swiftly assign resources and give high priority to make the changes that are badly overdue in all States and UTs.

Gopalan Balagopal is a former civil servant and continues to work on Civil Registration Africa. K. Narayanan Unni is a statistician and former Deputy Registrar General (CRS)

The silent erasure of Adivasiyat

The discourse of Adivasiyat or non-Vedic cultural survival dislocates the Hindutva narrative



ANSHUL TRIVEDI

On the first day of the monsoon session of the Vidhan Sabha in Madhya Pradesh, Opposition leaders staged a protest demanding that the State holiday on International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples on August 9 be restored. At first glance, the demand seems ordinary. Jharkhand Mukti Morcharuled Jharkhand and Congress-ruled Chhattisgarh, both of which have considerable Adivasi populations, declared that August 9 would be a public holiday. The Congress-led government in Madhya Pradesh had declared it a public holiday too. When the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) came to power, it made the holiday optional and did not allocate any money for celebrations despite the fact that over a fifth of the State's population comprises Adivasis. The roots of this intransigence are located within the ideological imperatives of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), its approach to Adivasi identity and its fundamental opposition to the discourse of Adivasiyat (indigeneity).

Imagined community of Hindus

The RSS's stated objective is the establishment of a Hindu Rashtra. In this imagined community of Hindus, the community will be the master race by virtue of being the majority. However, nations are not a given entity; they need to be constructed, nurtured and sustained. Each nation is sustained by an ideological edifice erected upon shared historical experience, myths, memories and folklore. These elements combine to create a sense of a shared past which imparts the feeling of oneness and a common destiny. It is this sense of a shared past which forms the fountainhead of any collective identity.

The Hindutva discourse situates the Hindu nation at the intersection of history and mythology, thereby investing it with a divine and timeless quality. V.D. Savarkar used myths and symbols from the Ramayana and Vedas to construct the foundational notions of the geographical sovereignty and cultural identity of the Hindu nation. This quasi-historical narrative performed the twin functions of anchoring the identity of the Indian nation in the framework of Vedic Hinduism and, by implication, establishing the adherents to Vedic Hinduism as the indigenous inhabitants of this land; and 'othering' Muslims and Christians within the nation.

However, the discourse of Adivasiyat or

non-Vedic cultural survival dislocates this narrative. Moreover, it strips the Hindu nation of its divine quality and re-establishes it within the secular historical framework. This is why the RSS is opposed to the category of Adivasi, for accepting it would entail giving up its claim of being autochthonous.

Competing indigeneities

Hindutva's approach towards Adivasis is dictated by the need to address the twin anxieties of destabilisation of the imagined ethnic Hindu nation by the discourse of Adivasiyat and the conversion of Adivasis to Christianity. Therefore, the RSS re-articulates the Adivasi identity as Vanvasi or forest dweller, who is just an imperfectly integrated Hindu. It takes upon itself the task of integrating the Adivasis within the Hindu fold by co-opting their rituals. It constructs an undifferentiated Hindu past by retelling the narratives of autonomous Adivasi struggles as fragments of the larger Hindu nation's story of resistance against Christian and Muslim oppressors. It is in a bid to construct such an alternative tribal past that the RSS-BJP advocate the celebration of Birsa Munda's anniversary as 'Tribal Pride Day' in place of observing World Indigenous Day. In Hindutva's narrative, the Vanvasis are simple, animistic Hindus who need to be protected primarily against the onslaught of proselytisation by Christian missionaries. Towards this end, the memory of Birsa Munda is also reshaped in order to paint him as an antagonist of the Christian 'other', while historical facts point to a much more complicated picture of his resistance movement.

Progressive forces like the Jai Adivasi Yuva Shakti construct the Adivasi identity primarily in terms of dispossession and exploitation. Therefore, while they look upon proselytisation by missionaries with scepticism, they consider the exploitative outsider, irrespective of religion, as the primary other. This figure of the non-Christian other, the outsider, is absent within the Hindutva discourse.

The discourse of Adivasiyat enables politics to be framed in terms of ownership of resources, rights and dignity. In this discourse, the Adivasi is the owner of the land rather than an imperfectly integrated cultural fragment. Hence, it links the story of the Adivasi with the global story of oppression and dispossession of indigenous populations at the hands of outsiders. It is in this context that the observance of such a past on World Indigenous Day assumes great ideological significance for the Adivasis. What is playing out in Madhya Pradesh is that very struggle against the silent erasure of Adivasiyat.

Anshul Trivedi is a PhD candidate at the Centre for Political Studies, JNU. He tweets @anshultrivedi47

It's the ecosystem, stupid!

A message from Japan tells us why India is no longer a flourishing arena of economic activity

PULAPRE BALAKRISHNAN

The news from Tokyo has warmed the hearts of Indians. It is not as if we have not had success at the Olympics in the past. For about half a century our hockey players excelled on the global stage through a display of skill and wile. Their dominance declined with the change in the surface on which the game is played. When as-

troturf replaced dirt the attributes for success altered; skill and nimbleness were replaced by speed and strength. But Indian hockey is bouncing back, with a medal for the men's team and a

commendable performance by our young women. In fact, it may be on the ascendant. Actually, this could be said for all of India's future sporting endeavours, with Neeraj Chopra's sterling performance opening up vistas in the track and field space.

Road to success

The rising level of India's performance in sport has been evident for a while now, arguably starting with victory in World Cup Cricket in 1983. But something has changed of late. While half a century ago some of our stars were aristocrats, many of today's sportspersons come from far less privileged backgrounds. Unlike the former, they were not trained on the storied playing fields of England but come from Tier-3 towns and even villages, rising through their own determination and self-belief. However, admirable as their individual efforts may be, this could not have by itself got them where they are today. Their naturally endowed capability has been nurtured by an external agency. Though what is apparent to us are the sports bodies that are their chaperones, their rise has received financial support from the Indian state. There has been a substantial step up in this too, which has made a great difference. The training facilities at the nationally dispersed camps of the Sports Authority of India are close to being world class and the sportspersons get their healthy diet there. Funds have added a dimension unimaginable in the past. The best Indian sportspersons are now able to compete in global cham-

pionships and have international coaches. In his interviews, Neeraj Chopra has spoken of the former driving him to produce superior results as he is pitted against the world's best. Foreign coaches, trainers and physiotherapists are almost commonplace now. It is not their foreignness that has mattered but that they bring along the highest class of expertise available. It may be seen in

the winning outcome from badminton to hockey. Something more than money would have been necessary to bring these wonderful gurus to our shores. This was the Indian government's

willingness to finally recognise

An enabling ecosystem needed

what is takes to succeed globally.

Staring at the harvest of medals for India's sportspersons the economist is left wondering how some of this can be replicated in our struggling economy. Surely it is a wonder that a land that once exported goods to West Asia and ideas to China, then the richest and most evolved civilisations, is now one of the poorest in the world. Why is India no longer a flourishing arena of economic activity?

A message has now reached us. It may be from faraway Japan but has emanated from the performance of our youthful compatriots in Japan. One may as well paraphrase it as 'It's the ecosystem, stupid!' Economic activity in India needs an enabling ecosystem, and everything from the availability of infrastructure to regulation of economic activity must be re-oriented towards creating it.

Compared to the attitude of our sportspersons, who went out fearlessly to meet their opponents on the world stage, the leadership's last-minute withdrawal from the prolonged negotiations on accession to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership appears as a skittish volte face. India's producers, irrespective of their size, cannot expect permanent protection. At the same time, they would be within their rights to expect global standards in the bureaucracy they face and the infrastructure the state provides.

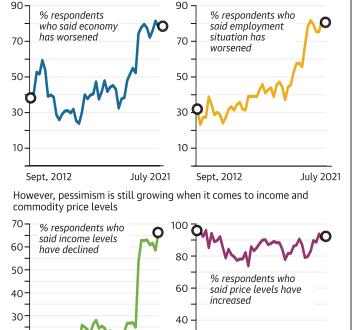
Pulapre Balakrishnan teaches at Ashoka University, Sonipat, Haryana

DATA POINT

Negative

The RBI's July edition of the consumer confidence survey shows that urban Indians are still highly pessimistic about employment opportunities, though their confidence has marginally improved since May when the second COVID-19 wave was at its peak. However, in July, 65.9% of the respondents, the highest since the survey started, said income levels have dropped and 93.1% said commodity prices have increased. Thus, consumers believe that while the employment scenario has improved a little compared to the time when the second COVID-19 wave was at its peak, income levels are yet to recover, with prices continuing to soar. Data backs their perception. By **The Hindu Data Team**

1. PERCEPTION ABOUT ECONOMY | The graph shows the share of respondents who said that the general economic situation has worsened, employment opportunities have worsened, income levels have decreased, and price levels have increased, in the RBI's consumer confidence survey. The latest round was conducted between June 28 and July 9. People continue to be pessimistic about the economy and employment, though there is a marginal improvement in confidence from the levels seen in May during the second COVID-19 wave



July 2021

Sept. 2012

Source: CMIE, RBI, MOSPI



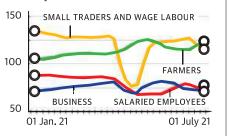
■ While both the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) and employment rate (ER) have improved significantly after the second wave, the quality of jobs has been poor. Most of the job additions in July have come in the daily wage and farm labourers segment, while more salaried jobs have been lost

July 2021

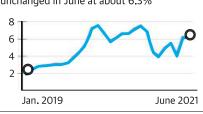
■ Retail inflation continues to increase, breaching the comfort zone for two months in

2. EMPLOYMENT | The graph shows improvement in both LFPR and ER after their fall during the second wave 32 July 21 Jan. 21 May 21

3. QUALITY OF EMPLOYMENT | The chart shows employed persons (in million) under various occupation groups. In July 2021, an impressive 16 million jobs were added in India. However, the quality of these jobs was poor. For instance, 18.6 million of the jobs . added in Julv were in the small and daily wage labourers segment, while 3.2 million salaried jobs were lost in the same month



4. HIGH INFLATION | After touching a sixmonth high in May, retail inflation remained unchanged in June at about 6.3%



The Man Frinder.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 11, 1971

Kennedy visits refugee camps

U.S. Democratic Senator Edward Kennedy was greeted by thousands of Bangla Desh refugees shouting slogans like "Joi Bangla", "Kennedy zindabad" and "Sheikh Mujib zindabad" as he arrived at the Salt Lake camp on the outskirts of Calcutta [Calcutta, August 10]. Some of them carried placards saying "Make Yahya quit Bangla Desh, we will return in seven days," "Thank you for coming to see us," "Independent Banga Desh only solution," "Helping Yahya is helping genocide" and "Save Democracy." At camp No. 5 camp commandant Major S.K. Deb welcomed My. Kennedy and apprised him of the conditions there. Mr. Kennedy also inquired about the organisations working in the camp. On being asked, Maj. Deb told Mr. Kennedy that so far there had been no political activities in the camps. Sheikh Mujibur Rehman's press secretary Badsah requested Mr. Kennedy to save the life of the Sheikh and thus save democracy. Barrister Maudud Ahmed of Bangla Desh sought an interview "to present our case." Mr. Kennedy assured them that he would try to find some time to meet Bangla Desh intellectuals. Mr. Kennedy, who was then taken around the camps, talked with some refugees who broke down while narrating their sufferings at the hands of Pakistani army.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 11, 1921

Workmen's compensation (From an Editorial)

The Government of India's circular to local Governments and Administrations, inviting their opinion on the question of legislation for the provision of compensation to workmen for injuries received by them in the course of their employment, is just published. The Government of India realise that the time has now come for legislation on the subject in view of the probable expansion, in the near future, in the number and size of industrial establishments in the country. Machinery and power are now being employed in factories to a much larger extent than in former days, mines are being worked at greater depths and very often with power machinery and the transport industry are developing. Most of the big industries involve personal risk of the workmen. With a view to safe-guard the interests of workmen employed in large factories and industrial organisations the Government of India consider it desirable that compensation for injuries should be carried out on uniform lines throughout the country.

Restore full

statehood to

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Senior Congress leader Ra-

hul Gandhi on Tuesdav de-

manded restoration of full

statehood to Jammu and

Kashmir and a free and fair

electoral process. He said

he could "relate with the

pain suffered by its

Mr. Gandhi was speak-

ing at the party's newly

constructed headquarters

in Srinagar during a two-

"When our government

was in place, we managed

to hold panchayat elec-

tions, introduce schemes

like Udhaan for youth, in-

vited industrialists here

and took many youth out-

day visit to Kashmir.

people".

J&K: Rahul

FROM PAGE ONE

Nod for Bill on States' rights to list OBC groups

The Bill seeks to restore the power of State governments to identify OBCs that are socially and educationally backward after a Supreme Court order in May 2021 empowered only the Centre to

The amendment was thought necessary because the SC, in its order on Maratha reservation, upheld the 102nd Constitutional Amendment Act that inserted Articles 338B and 342 A (with two clauses) after Article 342, which said the President of India, in consultation with the Governors, would specify socially and educationally backward classes, taking away the powers of State governments to do so.

Lead speaker for the Opposition, Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhary accused the government of turning a deaf ear to suggestions of the Opposition during the debate on the 102nd Constitutional Amendment in 2018.

Supporting the Bill, Mr. Chowdhary said, "You (BJP) tweaked the Constitution by bringing the 102nd Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2018, which gave people the opportunity to go the courts and finally the Supreme Court removed the States'

"We support the Bill but our demand is to remove 50% ceiling in reservation. You should listen to the States, make it legal for States to cross the 50% ceiling," he said. He received support on this from DMK's T.R. Baalu and Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav who also demanded the lifting of a 50% ceiling.

Intervening in the debate, Minister for Labour Bhupendra Yadav said the Congress had buried old reports including the Kaka Kallelkar and Mandal Commission report on backward

He responded to Mr.

Chowdhary's charge of the government having created the need for this bill through its own actions. "When the 102nd Amendment was brought in 2018, the government's intent was that both at the Central and the State level. OBC lists will be maintained. The same arguments were made in the Supreme Court, and its judgement on taking the States' power away was not by consensus," he said. He quoted the observations of two of the judges to bolster his argument. "It is our job to develop the legislative process," Mr Yadav said, and asserted the Centre's commitment to social justice.

Maratha quota Nationalist Congress Party

(NCP) leader Supriya Sule, whose party, a constituent of the Maha Vikas Aghadi government in Maharashtra is pushing for Maratha reservation in connection with which the Supreme Court delivered its verdict on the Centre being the only enumerator of OBCs, necessitating this Bill, said the credit should be given to the Maharashtra government which requested the Centre to move the Bill to address the issue. She too put her heft behind the removal of

Parties get 48 hours to publish candidates' data

 The court said any violation on the part of a political party, if brought to its attention by the Election Commission, would be viewed "very

In fact, Justice Nariman reasoned that publishing the details of their candidates may even benefit the rio where political vendettas were a reality. The court finally said its hands were tied from taking any further action. "We cannot transgress into the area reserved for the legislative arm of the State. We can only appeal to the conscience of the lawmakers," Justice Nariman

YSRCP, BJD demand insurance Bill scrutiny

He also argued that the Bill proposes selling of stakes upto 51% to a private player giving majority control to a private firm. This is not what the FM had proposed, he said.

The Biju Janata Dal,

which was represented by the Floor Leader Prasanna Acharya, too agreed that the Bill needs further parliamentary scrutiny. Mr Acharya, sources said, that considering the impasse, there should be no problem in accepting the Opposition's proposal.

"We said in very clear terms that the House can function only if the Insurance Bill is sent to a select committee. But they [government] did not agree to it. They are adamant that



this Bill has to pass in the House. The meeting ended in disagreement," an opposition leader said. Many opposition leaders had come dressed in black on Tuesday too in anticipation of a debate on the Bill.

However, the AIADMK, which is an NDA ally, stood with the government.

No decision yet on nationwide NRC

But NPR will be updated, says Minister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

The government has not taken any decision on preparing a National Register of Indian Citizens for the whole country, Union Minister Nityanand Rai said in Parliament on Tuesday. He, however, said the government had decided to update the National Population Register (NPR) under the Citizenship Act, 1955, along with the first

phase of Census 2021. "Till now, the government has not taken any decision to prepare the National Register of Indian Citizens at the national level," Mr. Rai said in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha. So far, the NRC has been

updated only in Assam. Replying to another question, the Minister said any person not satisfied with the outcome of the decisions of the claims and objections during the process of preparing the NRC in Assam may prefer an appeal before the designated Foreigners Tribunals within 120 days

from the date of such order. Mr. Rai said the government had decided to update

Modi launches Ujjwala 2.0 scheme

PM says gas connection will provide biggest relief to lakhs of migrant worker families in the country

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday launched the second phase of the Ujjwala gas connection scheme for the poor, and said that it would provide the biggest relief to lakhs of migrant worker families in the country.

Under Ujjwala 2.0 (Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana), migrant workers would no longer have to struggle to get address proof documents to get the gas connections, Mr. Modi said.

Only self-declaration

Now migrant workers would only be required to submit a self-declaration of their residential address to get the gas connection, he added.

'The government has full faith in your honesty," Mr. Modi said, speaking virtually at the launch of the scheme

Three civilians

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

At least three civilians

were injured in a grenade

attack by militants in Sri-

Officials said a grenade

was thrown at the security

forces in the busy Hari

Singh High Street, which

bustling

Earlier in the day, one

CRPF jawan was injured in

injured in

Srinagar

afternoon.

shoppers.



Lights on: Prime Minister Narendra Modi launching the Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojana 2.0 at Mahoba in Uttar Pradesh, through video conference from New Delhi on Tuesday. • PTI

under which LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) connections were handed over to beneficiaries at Mahoba in Bundelkhand. Mr. launched the first phase of the scheme in 2016 from Ballia, also in Uttar Pradesh. ahead of the previous Assembly election. Uttar Pradesh is scheduled to go to

the polls in early 2022.

Mr. Modi lamented that the country had to wait several decades to provide certain basic facilities to its citizens and that the brunt of this was faced by women, especially from poor families. Only when women came out of homes and kitchens could they contribute to nation building, he stated.

"When a society keeps

struggling for basic facilities, then how can it fulfil its bigger dreams," the Prime Minister asked.

Under his government, 11,000 new LPG distribution centres had come up in the country, Mr. Modi said, adding that the figure had doubled in Uttar Pradesh from fewer than 2,000 to 4,000.

Mr. Modi interacted with

voting, the most important

factor being the govern-

ment's handling of CO-

VID-19, abolition of Article

370 or construction of a Ram

temple in Ayodhya, along

women beneficiaries of the Ujjwala scheme from Uttarakhand, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Goa and Uttar Pradesh.

While Bundi Devi of Dehradun told him that the gas connection had allowed her to take care of her aged father, Kiran Devi of Gorakhpur said now she saved time and her life was made easier.

tion and price rise Interest-

ingly, the survey asks the res-

pondent what would be the

criteria for electing an MLA

- caste, religion or develop-

ment issues. Information is

solicited on whether the res-

pondent would be willing to

volunteer for the BJP, has do-

nated money to the party in

the past or bought NaMo

merchandise. The results of

the survey, sources said,

would provide an opportuni-

ty for Mr. Modi to take the

temperature as far as his go-

vernment's own perfor-

around one crore downloads

side J&K to integrate them. The same process of integration is under attack now. J&K is no more a State now. I know your pain and I am with you," he said. "What can be achieved

by showing love, dignity and compassion in J&K cannot be achieved by hatred, violence and division." The strength of the Kashmir people was brotherhood and respect towards each other. "In fact, Kashmiriyat has contributed while laying the foundation for India. I advocate a relationship of dignity and love with the people of J&K," he observed.

There was an onslaught on democratic institutions of India, including the judiciary, Parliament and the press. The concept of India, the democratic structure and the Constitution were under attack.

"I am not allowed to speak in Parliament on the issues of Pegasus, Rafale, J&K and corruption. There is a direct onslaught in Kashmir and indirect in the rest of the country," he al-

NaMo App opens voter survey

It comes ahead of the polls in U.P., Uttarakhand, Punjab, Manipur and Goa

NISTULA HEBBAR

The next set of Assembly polls in 2022 in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Manipur and Goa, coming iust after the halfway point of the tenure of the Modi government, has prompted Prime Minister Narendra Modi to issue a survey aimed at voters in these States, through his personal app, the NaMo App.

The survey starts with de-

a militant attack in south tails of the State and the constituency of the person tak-Kashmir's Shopian. An official said militants ing the survey and is a mix of fired upon a CRPF patrol at multiple choice questions Kral Check area of Zainapand those requiring a more ora hamlet in the morning. open-ended answer to gauge Constable Ajay Kumar of the mood of the public on 178 Battalion, was injured. the performance of the go-



vernments, both at the Centre and in the States going to the polls, including whether Opposition unity is likely to have an impact. The last time such a sur-

vey was conducted under the aegis of the NaMo App was in 2016 after demonetisation and in 2019 just before the Lok Sabha election.

The survey asks questions about what issues influence the respondent's choice in

with questions on the popularity of local MPs. It asks for names of three most popular BJP leaders in that State and three leaders regardless of party affiliation that the survey subject can recall.

Civic services

Rankings are asked for the Union government's handling of health care, CO-VID-19, the progress of vaccination in their States, Swachch Bharat, employment, electricity reforms, farmer welfare and corrup-

mance is concerned and the BJP's popularity and the recall value of its leaders. The NaMo App has had

HC nod must to close

Virtual court facilities to be improved

cases against lawmakers

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

Questioning the Centre's commitment towards the speedy trial and prosecution of criminal politicians, the Supreme Court on Tuesday directed that a criminal case against an MP or MLA can be withdrawn only after getting the consent of the State High Court concerned.

"We deem it appropriate to direct that no prosecution against a sitting or former MP/MLA shall be withdrawn without the leave of the High Court... Various State governments have resorted to withdrawal of numerous criminal cases pending against MP/MLA by utilising the power vested under Section 321 CrPC. The power under Section 321 CrPC is a responsibility which is to be utilised in public interest, and cannot be used for extraneous and political considerations. This power is required to be utilised with utmost good faith to serve the larger public interest," a three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of

India N.V. Ramana directed. The court mulled the formation of a Special Bench to monitor the progress of investigation and trial of criminal cases involving politi-

The court agreed to several suggestions given by amicus curiae Vijay Hansaria and advocate Sneha Kalita in a report, including a freeze on the transfer of judicial officers trying criminal cases involving lawmakers.

"To ensure expeditious disposal of pending cases, it is necessary for this court to direct the officers presiding over Special Courts or CBI Courts involving prosecution of MPs or MLAs to continue in their present posts until further orders. This direction, barring transfer of Judicial Officers, will be subject to their superannuation or death," the court direct-

The court accepted Mr. Hansaria and Ms. Kalita's recommendation to adopt video conferencing facilities to examine witnesses and for the release of funds to establish and improve virtual court facilities.

It voiced doubts about the government's resolve to bring criminal politicians to iustice. The Bench pointed to how central government agencies like the Enforcement Directorate have filed a sketchy affidavits about their cases against sitting and former MPs and MLAs.

Status report "You delay even in filing sta-

tus reports... This report filed by the ED just mentions some random names and random cases... There are no details about the States or which is the oldest case..." Chief Justice Ramana addressed Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the government.

'We are committed. There is no reluctance on our part, maybe just a lack of coordination... The government is committed to ensure speedy investigation and prosecution of elected representatives involved in criminal cases," Mr. Mehta assured the court.

The Bench gave the Centre a last opportunity to submit detailed reports on the cases registered by CBI, ED and other central agencies against MPs and MLAs. These cases range from corruption to money launder-

The court listed the case for arguments on August 25.

India to evacuate its personnel

Military aircraft likely to be used to fly out citizens from Mazar-e-Sharif

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE

India will temporarily relocate its personnel from the consulate in Mazar-e-Sharif in Afghanistan, an official said on Tuesday.

The decision came on a day when the government gave an urgent call for evacuation of all Indian nationals from the Afghan city on a special flight. In a separate statement, the Embassy of India in Kabul has urged all Indian citizens in Afghanistan to make "immediate" travel arrangements before commercial flights are discontinued because of intensifying conflict.

Tuesday's declarations came against the backdrop of Taliban forces rushing to the periphery of Mazar-e-Sharif after their latest conquest of Kunduz city near



The Embassy in Kabul has urged Indians to make quick travel arrangements. • AFP

the border with Tajikistan.

"A special flight is leaving from Mazar-e-Sharif to New Delhi. Any Indian nationals in and around Mazar-e-Sharif are requested to leave for India in the special flight scheduled to depart late today evening. Indian citizens desiring to leave by the special flight should immediately convey their full name, passport number, date of expiry by WhatsApp at the fol-

0785891301," said the Twitter handle of the consulate. It is understood that a military aircraft will be used to bring back both Indian officials as well as citizens from

Temporary shutdown

the besieged Afghan city.

The temporary shut down of the Indian mission comes a month after India evacuated personnel from the consulate in Kandahar, effectively ending all consular work there.

"We are evacuating all India-based personnel from Mazar-e-Sharif. The consulate will remain there under the care of the local staff," said an official.

The Embassy of India in Kabul has called upon Indian nationals to take "immediate necessary steps" to between India and Afghanis tan are discontinued because of escalating violence between Taliban and Afghan "Indian companies operating in Afghanistan are strongly advised to immediately withdraw their In-

ensure physical safety. A pu-

blic notice has urged Indians

to make "immediate travel

arrangements" before flights

dian employees out of project sites in Afghanistan before air travel services get discontinued," said the Indian Embassy which also urged Indian media personnel reporting from the ground to follow security protocol because of rapid changes in security situation on the ground.

The development came two days after the fall of the city of Kunduz to Taliban.

'Neeraj Chopra was identified young'

Army will begin training women sportspersons within this year

Chopra met Chief of Defence

Staff Gen. Bipin Rawat and

Army Chief Gen. Manoj

He was recruited in the 4 Raj-

putana Rifles as a direct en-

try Naib Subedar on May 15,

2016 after which he was se-

lected for training at the Mis-

sion Olympics Wing and the

Naravane.

Training hard

DINAKAR PERI NEW DELHI

Neeraj Chopra was identified many years ago for his exceptional talent by then national coach for javelin Subedar Kashinath and then recruited into the Army in 2016, said an officer from the Mission Olympics Wing and Army Sports Institute (ASI), Pune. The Army is also set to start training sportswomen in national sports at ASI within this year.

"Subedar Kashinath was the national coach for javelin from 2013 to 2018 and a medal winner himself. He informed the ASI that there is a boy who is throwing the javelin over 80m. He was then approached and recruited into the Army," the officer said. Apart from gold medallist Neeraj Chopra, 16 of the sportspersons from the Indian contingent at the Tokyo Olympics were from the ASI.

On training sportswomen, On Tuesday, Subedar the officer said women are

now being recruited as soldiers into Military Police and they have already identified seven for boxing. "Within the year, we should have the first sportswomen in the Ar-There is a sports quota un-

der which candidates with potential are identified and recruited into the Army. They are then provided the support and training to excel in the sports of their choice.

"About 15-20% of medals in the last three Asian Games and three Commonwealth Games are from the ASI which today is one of the best sports establishments in the country," another officer

The Mission Olympics Wing (MOW) of the Army identifies and trains sportsmen in 11 disciplines at five Mission Olympics Nodes to excel in various national and international competitions. It was set up by Gen. Padmanational efforts of furthering sporting culture. It has five nodes disciplines. **Keeping track**

nabhan when he was the Ar-

my Chief to contribute to the

The ASI has supported Sub-

edar Chopra in terms of performance monitoring and equipment support among others. "The Army has supported him all along in terms of coordination," the officer said. There are many stakeholders including the Sports Authority of India and federations behind his success, the officer said. "The silent one is the Army."

For going to Olympics, one has to go through national camps held by the federations. The Army supports sportspersons in reaching that level so that they can compete at the national and international level, the officer said.

Have faith in us, SC tells Pegasus petitioners

Don't engage in parallel debates on social media, says CJI

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana on Tuesday said petitioners in the Pegasus snooping case should place their faith in the Supreme Court and not engage in "parallel proceedings and debates" on social media platforms and other outlets while their case is sub

The Chief Justice, heading a three-judge Bench, said if they had anything to say, they should put it down in affidavits and file them in the court, where it would be debated. "There should be some discipline... If they want to say something on Twitter or Facebook, it is up to them... But we expect them, having come here [to the Supreme Court], to put their faith in the court."

The CII stressed that questions from the Bench during court hearings should not be misconstrued. "We ask questions to all of you... They may sometimes cause

If they [petitioners] have anything to say, they should put it down in affidavits and file them in the court, where it will be debated

Chief Justice of India

inconvenience to you... You may not like it, but that is the process of the court.... Counsel should be responsible. If they want anything, they should bring it to the court," he addressed lawyers, including senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who has been leading the petitioner

Mr. Sibal, who represents senior journalists N. Ram and Sashi Kumar, agreed with the Chief Justice. He said his client, Mr. Ram, was "trolled" on social media after the last hearing. Trolls had latched onto an oral reference from the Bench.

The court had, in the previous hearing, mentioned whether Mr. Ram's petition had "wrongly" ascribed to a California court a statement that Pegasus targeted Indian journalists. But a careful reading of Mr. Ram's petition had found no such allusions regarding the California court. In fact, Mr. Ram's petition merely mentioned that the U.S. court was dealing with a suit filed by WhatsApp against NSO Group "for targeting the mobile phones of around 1,400 users with malware". "It was blown out of proportion... The man was trolled," Mr. Sibal said.

The CJI said he had made it clear that he himself was not sure whether he had read it in Mr. Ram's petition or in some other plea.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, for the government, sought more time to go through the multiple petitions. He asked for a short adjournment, probably till Friday. However, the CJI said he had a personal inconvenience on Friday and was not sitting. The Bench listed INTERVIEW | MALLIKARJUN KHARGE

'Govt. stalling debate on Pegasus to push Bills'

This is the first time 15 parties came together on all issues, says Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha

SANDEEP PHUKAN

As the monsoon session of Parliament winds to a close with key Bills passed in both Houses without any debate with the Opposition continuing to protest, demanding a discussion on the Pegasus row, Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge accused the Modi government of "deliberately" passing Bills in the din.

The monsoon session is headed for a washout and the Opposition could not seek answers from the government over important issues like COVID-19, inflation, farmers agitation

and so on.

■ Our intention is to run the House and discuss all the issues - Pegasus, farmers issue, inflation and the COVID. In our all party meeting also, the agenda was to give priority to these issues. When we give the notice under Rule 267, they could have simply fixed the time. Our first pre-

ference is Pegasus because it is about survival of democracy, our fundamental rights. If I lose my freedom of expression, my privacy, then what remains? If that freedom is there, only then I can talk about farmers or other issues affecting the country. They [the government] are taking and threatening the Opposition leaders, spying on people in the Army, even judges were not spared.

Do you think common people can relate to this or are they more bothered about the rise in prices of essentials and fuels, the pandemic, job losses and so on.

■ Those issues are important. That's why in our first meeting all four issues were taken as priority. But the government isn't ready to discuss Pegasus. When so many countries around the world are inquiring into it, what is the hitch for this government? We want either the Prime Minister or Home Minister to sit in the discussion

common cause. The BJP tried to break the Opposition parties but failed

We are fighting for a

and reply to our queries. But to dilute this issue, they asked Information Technology Minister to reply.

On the farmers' issues, we are very much concerned. Rahul Gandhi ji called a meeting of all political parties meeting, went to meet farmers at Kisan Sansad [farmers' parliament], went on a tractor highlight the issue. We are not alone as all decisions are jointly taken by all parties. The credit goes to all the political parties who have stood united and taken decisions through consen-

sus. I think this is the first time 15 parties came together on all issues. We are fighting for a common cause. The BJP tried to break the Opposition parties but failed.

In your informal discussions with the government, what did they tell you about Pegasus? Are they completely against having a discussion?

■ As soon as you say Pegasus, they say, " no, no, that is a different issue". Now for 16-17 days, the House is in session but not one day has the Home Minister or the Prime Minister stepped in or discussed with all the Opposition parties.

But the government business is going on as usual without participation from the Opposition. By not allowing a discussion on Pegasus, they know that the Opposition will automatically continue their protests and they can pass Bills in the din. That is their intention. They want to show to the people that they are ready for discussion

on important issues but the Opposition is blocking.

Do you think this Opposition unity will continue up to 2024 Lok Sabha polls because problems arise when you ask who is the face of the Opposition?

■ See, there are two things as far as Parliament is concerned and as we all are united. Rahul Gandhi ji told frankly in one of the coordination meetings that we should forget what we are doing in each State. I can't predict now about 2024 but the high command will decide issues like alliances.

How do you look at your colleague Kapil Sibal hosting a dinner yesterday that saw an impressive line of Opposition leaders and apparently, there were discussions on Congress' internal problems including leadership of the Gandhis.

■ I wasn't there at the dinner; so how can I say what

Punjab CM meets Sonia in Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh met Conpresident Sonia Gandhi here on Tuesday, amid talk of a possible Cabinet reshuffle in the State.

This is Mr. Singh's first meeting with Ms. Gandhi after the appointment of Navjot Singh Sidhu as the Punjab Congress president, which the Chief Miinitially nister had

Cabinet reshuffle

Sources said Mr. Singh was likely to discuss the names of potential candidates for the Cabinet reshuffle, and the political situation in Punjab, which goes to the polls early next year. They said Mr. Singh was likely to take up Mr. Sidhu's continuous attacks on the Punjab government with Ms.

The Chief Minister was also expected to discuss the progress made on 18 issues raised by an AICC panel headed by senior Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge and present the action-taken report. The 18 issues include taking action against the drug mafia and transport mafia and those involved in the desecration of the Guru Granth Sahib.

Opposition protests from table top in Rajya Sabha

MPs want repeal of 3 farm laws and not a 'diluted debate'

SOBHANA K. NAIR NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha witnessed extraordinary scenes on Tuesday, with Opposition members, majority of them dressed in black or sporting black bands, clambered onto the table in front of the Chair, protesting against the government for trying to push through a diluted debate on the farmers' issue instead of going in for a repeal of the three controversial farm laws.

This is the second time the government tried to bring a discussion on the farmers' issue to bypass a debate on the Pegasus cyberattack. On August 4, it made a similar attempt.

The trouble began from the moment the House convened for the day at 11 a.m. Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu, ignored the notices demanding a debate on Pegasus which, he said, had already been taken up. He then announced that the House would debate "the agricultural problems and solutions".

The Opposition disagreed with him and began their protest. The first adjournment came within six mi-



Questioning hour: Members protesting in the Rajya Sabha during the monsoon session on Tuesday. • PTI

nutes. Things came to a head when the House reconvened at 2 p.m. and Vice-Chairman Bhubaneshwar Kalita, who was in the Chair, tried to initiate a debate on "the agricultural problems and solutions". Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, who has been listed as one of the movers of the discussion, said the calling attention he had proposed was entirely different. It was on repeal of the farm laws and the farmers' agitation. "This is completely unilateral and not acceptable to me," he said.

A little later, Aam Aadmi Party's Sanjay Singh clambered on top of the "reporters' table" that is right in front of the Secretary-General and the Chair. The TV

cameras did not show any of this, panning the camera on the Treasury benches. Mr. Kalita adjourned the House for 15 minutes, even as other members followed Mr. Singh on top of the table

During the 15 minutes, there was complete chaos. As per a video shared by many members on the social media, the Congress's Pratap Singh Bajwa climbed onto the table and threw a file at the empty seat of the Chairman.

By the time the House again met, the "reporters' table" was cleared of officials and was populated with Opposition members. The House was again adjourned.

(With inputs from Damini Nath)

Modi seeks list of absentee BJP MPs

'Parliamentary Affairs Minister was told to make a list of those missing in RS'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken BJP MPs to task for the absence of some of them in the Rajya Sabha on Monday when the Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Ordinance, 2021, was being passed. Mr. Modi also asked Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi to make a list of those absent, sources said. The censure came on

Tuesday at the BIP's last parliamentary party meeting during the monsoon session

Ref: PR/MC1/E300/E-Tender/2021

Name of the item

with AGMARK



Minister Pralhad Joshi at the BJP meet on Tuesday. • PTI

of Parliament.

Office of the Chief Engineer, SCM, Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Pattom

E-Tender ID 2021 KSEB_434162_1 Supply of 60,000 Nos 8m PSC

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PAC - Rs.22,20,00,000 /-, Last date - 24.08.2021 - 4 pm.

Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in and www.kseb.in

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS:TIRUPATI

MARKETING DEPARTMENT e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

e-tender cum e-Reverse auction is invited for procurement of the following item by the

For Tender notice and tender details log on to the web site http://www.tirumala.org and

Roc.No.PR4/13933/Adv.No.126/PR0/2021/Dated:10-08-2021 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in/. For further details contact phone nun 0877-2264079, 2264555, Fax No.0877-2264554.

Tins

Opposition had moved a statutory resolution asking that the Bill be sent to

and Ending Dates

10-08-2021

25-08-2021

While the resolution was defeated and the Bill passed by voice vote, there was thin attendance of the treasury benches, with "at least 20 MPs missing", according to government sources. According to those pre-

sent at the meeting, Mr. Modi said he had been left with no other way than this criticism after the absence was brought to his attention as he had raised this issue earlier as well. He asked the MPs to spread awareness about the government's initiatives to eradicate malnutrition, create awareness about the Ayushman Bharat scheme and to promote sports in their constituencies.

The meeting saw a presentation by Minister for External Affairs S. Jaishankar on the United Nations Security Council, where Mr. Modi became the first Indian PM to preside over a meeting of the Council on Monday.

Sports Minister Anurag Thakur made a presentation on India's performance in the Tokyo Olympics. Mr. Modi led the MPs in according a standing ovation to the sportspersons who participated in the Olympics.

NDA allies in Lok Sabha demand caste census

Govt. had earlier denied any such plan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The passage of the Constitution 127th Amendment Bill, 2021, saw demands for a caste-based census ring out in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday from the NDA allies Janata Dal (U) and Apna Dal, apart from regional parties, with BJP MP Sanghamitra Maurya creating a flutter by lauding the Modi government for having pushed the measure through.

This at a time when the government clarified last month in Parliament that the government had, as a matter of policy, decided not to enumerate caste-wise population in the census other than the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

Ms. Maurya, who was fielded as the first speaker on behalf of the ruling party as the Bill was moved for consideration, attacked the previous Congress governments for not ordering a caste-based census.

"The last caste-based census was in 1931." A correct



A recent RJD protest in Patna seeking caste census and reservation. • PTI

enumeration would help target welfare programmes better, she said.

NDA allies – Janata Dal (U) president Rajiv Ranjan Singh Lallan and Apna Dal leader and Union Minister Anupriya Patel – however, were clear in their demand for a caste-based census.

Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav, Telugu Desam Party MP Ram Mohan Naidu too sought caste census, while Dayanidhi Maran of the DMK demanded that data from the Socio-Economic Caste Census conducted in 2011 be released soon and said the government was refusing to do so.

'RSS a staunch supporter of reservation'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Asserting that the RSS is a "staunch supporter" of reservation, the organisation's general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale on Tuesday said it is a tool for affirmative action and should continue as long as a particular section of society "inequality".

Underlining that the history of India would be "incomplete and untrue" without the history of Dalits, Mr. Hosabale said they have been at the forefront

of social change. He was speaking at an event organised by the India Foundation for the launch of the book Makers Of Modern Dalit History.

On reservation, the RSS chief categorically said he and his organisation "are staunch supporters of reservation". "Social harmony and social justice are not political strategies for us. Both of these are articles of faith," the RSS leader said as the BJP gears up for Assembly polls in U.P.

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Government of India Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi - 110003

cation for appointment to the post of

DIRECTOR, INDIAN INSTITUTE OF FOREST MANAGEMENT, BHOPAL Indian Institute of Forest Management is an autonomous academic institution under the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Govt. of India, situated at Bhopal. It is a premier national level Institute engaged in education, training, research and consultancy in the area of natural resource management.

The MoEF&CC proposes to fill up the post of Director, Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal. Applications from eligible and willing candidates are invited for appointment to the above mentioned post. The particulars are given below: Scale of Pay: Level-16 of 7th CPC (Annual Increment @ 3%)

Eligibility: Officers/Academicians of the Governments/Universities/Other Recognized Institute/ Organizations serving on regular basis in the Pay Level-15 of 7th CPC (Annual increment @3%) or

Person with 05 years service in the Pay Level-14 of 7th CPC under Central/State Government/Public Sector Undertaking/Autonomous Bodies/Universities or equivalent grades or above. Essential Qualifications : For IFS Officers :

Master's Degree or equivalent with outstanding academic track record. 15 years of administrative/management/research/teaching experience including 10 years experience

in forestry and allied sectors. Desirable: Ph.D. in a relevant discipline.

For Academicians: Master's Degree or equivalent with outstanding academic track record.

(ii) In case of academicians applicants should have been a Professor at a reputed institution for at least 7 years and have at least 5 years of experience in administrative areas Desirable: Ph.D. in a relevant discipline.

The ideal candidate should have a mix of administrative and academic leadership in institution-building promoting education and research, and would have displayed interest in the problem of environment Age: Should not exceed 57 years as on the date of arising of vacancy. In exceptional cases relaxation

Terms and Conditions: Appointment shall be for a period not exceeding 5 years or date of superannuation

The applications of those in the government service must be sent through Proper Channel along with the records of Confidential Reports and Vigilance Clearance.

Candidates are not to approach the members of the Selection Committee or bring any type of influence or pressure for their names recommendations any attempt to do so may entail their disqualification for the post. (iii) Applications which are incomplete or not in the prescribed format or not accompanied with the details

as mentioned above shall not be entertained and would be liable to be summarily rejected. Last Date for receipt of Applications: Interested candidates may submit their applications in the prescribed format which can be downloaded at **www.iifm.ac.in/vacancies** and send to- The Chief Administrative Officer. Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), PB No. 357, Nehru Nagar, Bhopal-462003, Madhya Pradesh within 30 days from the date of advertisement (37 days for NE Region). (Please write: "Application for the post of Director, IIFM" on the envelope). M.P. Madhyam/101576/2021



KPCL, Kudithini-583152. Bellary. Mob: 94482 90592

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED

CIN: 1185110KA1970SGC001919

No. KPCL/2021-22/PS/WORK_INDENT 11135/CALL-2

Dated: 09.08.2021

Tender is invited through e-portal from eligible contractors/ agencies having experience in the field of Turbine and its auxiliaries of 210 MW and above thermal plants fo Carrying out Mechanical Maintenance works of Turbine, MS & HRH strainers HPBP, LPBP, auxiliaries like CEP, BFP's, Drive turbine, LOPs, Vaccum Pumps DMCW-SG & TG pumps, Dozing Pumps, Compressors, Heat Exchangers, Hotwe mps, CW & ACW Pumps, EOT cranes & Monorail Hoists of above system in Unit-I, II (2x500MW) & III (1x700MW) of BTPS for a period of Two years. Amount put to tender (including GST): Rs. 381.62 Lakhs. Details of tender documents may be downloaded from the GoK e-Procurement website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in Last date & time for submission of tender through e-portal: 28.08.2021 @ 17.00 Hrs. Further details can be had from the office of the Executive Engineer (TM), BTPS,

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED

Notice Inviting Bid Bids are invited from interested bidders upto 06.00 PM on 14.09.2021 for

(A) for Construction of 1 No. 400 KV 125 MVAR Bus Reactor Bay at 400 KV GSS Jodhpur & 1 No. 220 KV 25 MVAR Bus Reactor Bay at each of 400 KV GSS Jodhpur, 220 KV GSS Jodhpur & 220 KV GSS Tinwari (ON TURNKEY BASIS (BN No. -9018002104 & UBN No. VPN2122WLOB00468)
(B) for Construction of 1 No. 220 KV 25 MVAR Bus Reactor Bay at each of 400

KV GSS Barmer, 220 KV GSS Balotra, 220 KV GSS Dhorimanna, 220 KV GSS Badisid & 220 KV GSS Phalodi (ON TURNKEY BASIS) (BN No. - 9018002105 & UBN No. VPN2122WI OB00462)

(C) for Construction of 1 No. 220 KV 25 MVAR Bus Reactor Bay at each of 220 KV GSS Sanchore, 220 KV GSS Dholpur, 220 KV GSS Amarsagar, 220 KV GSS Ratangarh & 220 KV GSS Dechu (ON TURNKEY BASIS) (BN No. 9018002106 & UBN No. VPN2122WLOB00464)

Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement porta (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state; and

http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvpnl department Superintending Engineer (Contracts-I), Jaipur

SOUTHERN RAILWAY MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT **AUCTION PROGRAMME** NOTICE No: 10/2021

Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous Scrap, Non-Ferrous Scrap other Misc Scrap, condemned Wagon, Coaches & Locos, Scrap Rails and other

Date of Auction for the

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1	CMM/GSD/PER	01.09.21	13.09.21	22.09.21
2	Dy.CMM/CSSD/GOC	02.09.21	14.09.21	23.09.21
3	Dy.CMM/SSD/PTJ	03.09.21	**	23.09.21
4	Sr.DMM/MAS	06.09.21	15.09.21	24.09.2
5	Sr.DMM/SA	07.09.21	16.09.21	27.09.21
6	Sr.DMM/TVC	08.09.21	17.09.21	28.09.2
7	Sr.DMM/PGT	10.09.21	20.09.21	29.09.2
8	Sr.DMM/TPJ	09.09.21	21.09.21	30.09.2
0	Cr DAMA/TD Lifer MDLL district	00 00 21	21 00 21	20.00.0

catalogue in www.ireps.gov.ir

Materials for

The details of iter

to be sold

in e-Auction will

be available in

ADDENDUM TO AUCTION PROGRAM FOR AUGUST'21 NOTICE No: 09/2021

SI. No.	e-Auction Conducted by	Date of Auction for the Month of August 2021	Materials for Auction			
1	Dy.CMM/CSSD/GOC	27.08.21	The details of item to be sold in e-Auction will be			
2	CMM/GSD/PER	28.08.21	available in catalogue in www.ireps.gov.in website.			

All other Auctions scheduled for August'21 remains unalt For detailed terms and conditions and downloading of catalogue please visit out Website: https://www.ireps.gov.in → E-Auction → Sale → Live Auctions

Principal Chief Materials Manage Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway



scheme to Class XII

Extending the midday meal scheme up to Class XII, starting an urban employment quarantee scheme and coming up with a public distribution system (PDS) not exclusively linked to Aadhaar were among the suggestions given by experts at a meeting to discuss the Right to Food, organised by the National Human Rights Commission on Tuesday. The meeting, which was organised to discuss the status of various policies to ensure Right to Food and nutrition, was chaired by NHRC member Rajiv Jain, said a statement issued by the commission.

Stricter norms for those going to study in PoK

The J&K police on Tuesday hinted at tougher scrutiny for those who intend to study in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), as Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbagh Singh claimed 57 youth had joined militancy after travelling on valid visa documents. He said the visa procedure and security clearance would be made stricter.

Chopper crash: search for pilots in final phase

A special team of the Navy, equipped with high-end gadgets, is in the final phase of a search to locate the pilot and co-pilot of an helicopter that crashed into the Raniit Sagar Dam in Jammu on August 3, the Army said on Tuesday. "The Army is coordinating the efforts of the Indian Navy deep divers team consisting of two Officers, four JCOs and 24 other ranks," a spokesman

22 districts in Odisha record deficit rainfall

BHUBANESWAR Odisha has received insufficient monsoon rainfall. affecting the kharif crop season. The State recorded an average rainfall of 488.6 mm, which is 29% less than the normal rainfall received between June 1 and August 10. Odisha's average rainfall during this time is estimated

Priest attacked at Ghaziabad temple

An assailant attacked a priest sleeping on the premises of the Dasna Devi temple in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, early on Tuesday, the police said. Swami Nareshanand was admitted to a private hospital, where doctors described his condition to be stable. He is said to be a disciple of Swami Yati Narsinghanand Saraswati, the controversial chief priest of the temple who has been making provocative statements against Muslims and Hindu women.

No oxygen-shortage deaths reported: govt.

Joint Secretary of Health says only one State had mentioned a 'suspected' case so far

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

No State has so far said specifically that there were deaths because of oxygen shortage, said Joint Secretary of the Health Ministry Lav Agarwal on Tuesday, adding that only one State mentioned suspected death due to shortage.

"States were asked if there have been oxygen-related deaths. When the question was raised in Parliament, States were specifically asked this question," Mr. Agarwal said at a press conference. He said that according to reports the Health Ministry had received till now, only one State had referred to a suspected case. Other States have not said if there have been any deaths related to oxygen shortage, he noted.

He, however, did not give details about the State that had reported the "suspected oxygen-related death".

The Health Ministry had told Parliament during the On the rise

As many as 37 districts are reporting an increasing trend in COVID-19 cases during past two weeks. Complete list:

STATE	DISTRICT			
Kerala (11)	Malappuram, Ernakulam, Thrissur, Kozhikode, Palakkad, Kollam, Kannur, Kasaragod, Wayanad, Pathanamthitta, Idukki			
Tamil Nadu (7)	Coimbatore, Chennai, Erode, Chengal- pattu, Thiruvallur, Pudukkottai, Ariyalur			
Himachal Pradesh (6)	Hamirpur, Kangra, Bilaspur, Chamba, Mandi, Shimla			
Karnataka (5)	Kodagu, Uttara Kannada, Chamara- janagara, Dakshina Kannada, Udupi			
Andhra Pradesh (2)	Srikakulam, East Godavari			
Maharashtra (2)	Solapur, Beed			
West Bengal (2)	24 Paraganas North, Nadia			
Meghalaya (1)	West Khasi Hills			
Mizoram (1)	Saiha			

current session that "no deaths due to lack of oxygen have been specifically reported by States and Union Territories".

The Ministry at the press conference also said that it was in talks to bring in foreign vaccines that have been already approved for emergency use by the Central government.

Replying to a question, NI-TI Aayog member (Health) V.K. Paul said, "Talks are on but these things take time. There are various modalities and conditions for bringing in these vaccines. We are working at widening the vaccine basket for the general public."

He also said that National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19 has discussed the issue of booster doses and research on this is being closely watched. The World Health Organisation has also called for a moratorium on booster doses, said Dr. Paul. The global health agency's movie is to ensure better supply to countries which are unable to offer even the first jabs to their people due to shortage of vaccine.

Staying alert

Dr. Paul again cautioned that India should not lower its guard against coronavirus just yet with the Reproduction number (Rt) – how many people an infected person infects, on average continuing to show a worrying and increasing trend in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.

The Health Ministry added that 44 districts in India are reporting more than 10% weekly test positivity with an overall declining trend observed across the country since the week ending May 10. "Weekly positivity has been less than 2% for the second consecutive week," said Mr. Agarwal, adding that 51.51% of the total cases last week were reported from

Dr. Sujeet Kumar Singh, Director, National Centre for Disease Control gave details of the report presented by the Central government team that visited Kerala to monitor and assist in controlling the rising number of COVID cases. Dr. Singh said, "The current value of Rt of Kerala is 1.12 and strict public health measures such as local area lockdowns and stress on CO-VID appropriate behaviour is needed to interrupt transmis-

Twitter has 'prima facie' followed rules, says Centre

HC tells govt. to submit affidavit

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH

The Central government on Tuesday informed the Delhi High Court that Twitter had "prima facie" complied with the new Information Technology Rules, 2021, by appointing permanently a Chief Compliance Officer (COO), a Resident Grievance Officer (RGO) and a Nodal Contact Person (NCP).

Following this, the court directed the Centre to submit an affidavit highlighting the new development within two weeks. It posted the case for October 5.

During the brief hearing, senior advocate Sajan Poovayya, representing Twitter, submitted that the microblogging site had made the appointments in compliance with the new IT

Twitter had come under fire from the court for delaying the appointment of officials in India on a permanent basis. The court had



The next hearing in the Twitter case is set for October 5.

also expressed reservations over Twitter changing the status of the appointment of CCO from "interim" to "contingent" in its affidavit. It had remarked that the rules mandated the appointment of a senior employee as CCO, but Twitter, according to its affidavit, had appointed a 'contingent worker' through a third party contractor.

The court's remarks came while hearing a plea by advocate Amit Acharya seeking a direction to Twitter to appoint a permanent official.

'29% of students exposed to second-hand smoke'

Survey analyses tobacco use

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

More than 29% of students in India were exposed to second-hand smoke, said the Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS-4), India, 2019, which was released by Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Tuesday.

The National Fact Sheet said there has been a 42% decline in tobacco use 13-15-year-old among schoolchildren in the past decade. It added that use of any form of tobacco was higher among boys and tobacco use among schoolchildren was highest in Arunachal Pradesh Mizoram and lowest in Hi-Pradesh machal Karnataka.

The report also found that 38% of cigarettes, 47% of bidi smokers and 52% of smokeless tobacco users initiated the use before their 10th birthday. The median age of initiation to digarette and bidi-smoking, and smokeless tobacco use was 11.5 years, 10.5 years and 9.9 years, respectively.

Role of teachers

Releasing the report, the Health Minister emphasised the role of teachers as most crucial in creating awareness among children and their parents of the harm due to tobacco use and for shaping the attitude of children in this regard.

He said, "The more and the sooner, we create awareness among children about harms due to tobacco



The government is pressing for more awareness drives among the youth.

use, the better will be the outcomes in terms of reduction in prevalence of tobacco use among children and consequently

Harmful effects of tobacco use should be incorporated in school curricula at various levels starting right from the primary school level, he added.

The fourth round of Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS-4) was conducted in 2019 by the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).

The survey was designed to produce national estimates of tobacco use among school going children aged 13-15 years at the State level and Union Territory (UT) by sex, location of school (rural-urban), and management of school (public-private). The first three rounds of GYTS were conducted in 2003, 2006 and 2009.

A total of 97,302 students from 987 schools (public-544; private-443) participated in the survey. Of which, 80,772 students aged 13-15 years were considered for reporting.

Census activities put off due to pandemic

The first digital Census has a provision for self-enumeration, says Nityanand Rai in written reply

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Owing to the outbreak of CO-VID-19 pandemic, Census 2021 and other Census-related field activities have been postponed until further orders, the Union Home Ministry said in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. "In the Census, data is col-

lected on demographic and various socio-economic parameters like education, SC/ ST, religion, language, marriage, fertility, disability, occupation and migration of the individuals. The forthcoming Census is to be the first digital Census and there is a provision for self-enumeration," Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai said in a written reply to



Hard living: In this photo from March 2011, Census workers take a survey of the homeless in Bengaluru. • K. MURALI KUMAR

Congress leader Shashi Tharoor's question.

A mobile application for data collection and a Census portal for managing and monitoring various Censusrelated activities have been developed. The questionCensus was notified in the The individual data col-

naire for the first phase of

lected in Census under the Census Act, 1948, are not made public as per the provisions contained in the Act. The individual data are not used for the preparation of any other database, including the National Register of Citizens. Only the aggregated Census data at various administrative levels are released," it said.

Faster processing

Special emphasis was given to scientifically designing the Census questions for faster processing and early release of data, said the Minister. In response to another query

Minister said the Census Schedule was designed in consultation with various stakeholders, including State governments. The intent of the government for conducting Census 2021 was notified in the Gazette of India on March 28, 2019, but the Census activities were postponed due to the COVÎD-19 outbreak.

from MP S. Jothimani, the

"In the Census, the castes and tribes which are specifically notified as Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) as per the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order 1950 and the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, as amended from time to time, are enumerated," he said.

Home Ministry flags illegal migration

Govt. says there are reports of some Rohingya indulging in unlawful activities

DEVESH K PANDEY NEW DELHI

There are reports of some Rohingya migrants indulging in illegal activities, according to a written reply from the Ministry of Home Affairs in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

The response came on the queries of members Ranjanben Dhananjay Bhatt and Sanjay Ramchandra Patil about the current situation of Rohingya living illegally in various parts of the country.

The Ministry said the Centre had issued instructions to the State governments and Union Territory administrations, advising them to sensitise the law enforcement and intelligence agencies to take appropriate steps for prompt identification of illegal migrants.

Close tracking

They needed to be restricted to specified locations as per law, their biographic and biometric particulars captured and any fake Indian documents issued to them cancelled, the Ministry said.

Legal proceedings, including initiation of deportation process, should be launched. "Consolidated instructions to tackle the issue of overstay and illegal migration of foreign nationals have also been issued on March 30, 2021," said the written reply.

"India is not a signatory to the 1951 UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereon. All foreign nationals (including refuge seekers) are governed by the provisions contained in the Foreigners Act, 1946; the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939; the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920 and the Citizenship Act, 1955, and rules and orders made thereunder," it said.

The foreign nationals who enter the country without valid travel documents are treated as illegal migrants.

"Since illegal migrants enter into the country without valid travel documents in clandestine and surreptitious manner, accurate data regarding number of such migrants living in the country is not Centrally available," said the Ministry.

sees query on J&K real estate

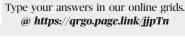
Lok Sabha

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Only two persons from outside Jammu and Kashmir have bought two properties in the Union Territory after the dilution of Article 370 in August 2019. Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai, in a written reply, said, "As per the information provided by the government of Jammu and Kashmir, two persons from outside J&K have purchased two properties in the Union Territory

since August 2019."

TH CROSSWORD + 13323



SCAN TO PLAY

16 Watch 7 going around Grand Lake (5) 17 Farm managed by church (5)

19 Firm that's into sauce-manufacturing (9) 22 Wheel, small and soft, has speed (8)

24 With enthusiasm, singer made a comeback at the beginning of last

Display keystrokes of genius.

26 Chicken roll stuffed with nothing (7)

27 Complain about a rule during conversation (7) 28 Terrible damage agents manipulated (5-7)

2 One making false promises about endless protection in a vehicle (7)

3 Marine creature ships fear at sea (9)

4 Warmth in posh eatery (4) **5** Stunning dish! Cooking without recipe (10)

6 At any time that is weird (5)

8 Afraid it's an injury – bleeding in the middle (6) **9** A fabric that's woven freely (2,4)

7 Girl suddenly in a situation (7)

17 A royal wearing pink beads (6)

14 Letter to be composed for a plant producing containers? (6,4)

16 Very poor service area? On the contrary (4,5)

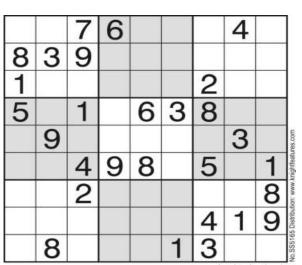
20 Vintage model - it is intricate (3-4)

21 Uttering a proverb (6) 23 Say, grabbed a short garment (5)

18 Worried sick over in North America (7)

25 Girl having a party (4)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 13322 Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

DIFFICULTY RATING:

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FAITH

Philosophical insights

While Krishna's birth had all the elements of uniqueness, we also find insights into philosophy and our duties, even at the time of His birth, said V.S. Karunakarachariar in a discourse. Krishna tells Devaki why He has appeared with four hands and with His weapons and all manner of adornment. He reminds her of her prayer to Him in a previous birth. Devaki had then been known as Prisni and Vasudeva was her husband Sutapa. The two of them had done penance and when the Lord appeared before them, Devaki said that she wanted a son just like Him. The Lord promised to grant her wish. But where can one be found who is His equal? So, He had to take birth Himself, as her son.

Krishna's narration of this, is a reminder of the Upanishadic statement, Ekam eva adviteeyam. None is His equal, or superior to Him. There is only One unique One, and that is the Lord. This does not mean that nothing else exists. Alavandar explained this beautifully. If one says there is none but the one Chola king, it does not mean he exists as a lone individual, without queens, courtiers or subjects. It means that he alone is the king. Others are not his equals, but are

Likewise, the Supreme One's status is unique, and none can lay claim to it. Krishna obeyed Devaki when she asked Him to hide His extra hands. Mothers have always been given importance in our tradition, and Apastambha has laid down rules about paying respects to one's mother when performing ritual rites. Vasudeva, delighted about Krishna's birth, mentally gave a daana of 10,000 cows. Later, when Kamsa was killed, he got back his property. He worked out how many cows would equal the number that he had given in his mind earlier and now made a real daana of cows.

ACROSS

1 Insects? It's perhaps gross when cooked (12) 10 Agree Republican's a monster (7)

11 Hill split in deluge (7) 12 Single document (6)

13 Scholarly people embraced by elite rationalists (8) **15** Awfully dirty room in building (9)

Cuomo resigns over sex abuse charges

Decision comes after New York A-G's investigation found the Governor sexually harassed 11 women

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo resigned on Tuesday over a barrage of sexual harassment allegations in a fall from grace a year after he was widely hailed nationally for his detailed daily briefings and leadership during the darkest days of COVID-19.

The three-term Governor's decision, which will take effect in two weeks, was announced as momentum built in the Legislature to remove him by impeachment. It came after New York's Attorney General released the results of an investigation that found Cuomo sexually harassed at least 11 women.

Investigators said he subjected women to unwanted kisses; groped their breasts or buttocks or otherwise touched them inappro-



Governor Andrew Cuomo in New York. • AFP/FILE

priately; made insinuating remarks about their looks and their sex lives; and created a work environment "rife with fear and intimidation".

Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul, a 62-year-old Democrat and former member of Congress from the Buffalo area, will become the State's 57th Governor and the first woman to hold the post.

The #MeToo-era scandal cut short not just a career but a dynasty: Mr. Cuomo's father, Mario Cuomo, was Governor in the 1980s and 1990s, and the younger Cuomo was often mentioned as a potential candidate for President, an office his father famously contemplated seeking. Even as the scandal mushroomed, Mr. Cuomo was planning to run for ree-Mr. Cuomo still faces the

possibility of criminal charges, with a number of prosecutors around the state moving to investigate him.

The string of accusations that spelled the Governor's downfall began to unfold in news reports last December and went on for months.

Mr. Cuomo called some of the allegations fabricated, forcefully denying touched anyone inappropriately. But he acknowledged making some aides uncomfortable with comments he said he intended as playful, and he apologised for some of his behaviour.

He portrayed some of the

encounters as misunderstandings attributable to "generational or cultural" differences, a reference in part to his upbringing in an affectionate Italian American family.

As a defiant Mr. Cuomo clung to office, State lawmakers launched an impeachment investigation, and nearly the entire Democratic establishment in New York deserted him - not only over the accusations, but also because of the discovery that his administration had concealed thousands of CO-VID-19 deaths among nursing home patients.

The harassment investigation ordered up by the Attorney General and conducted by two outside lawyers corroborated the women's accounts and added lurid new

'There should be no surprises in Indo-Sri Lanka relations'

Ties should become strategic and special, says new envoy

MEERA SRINIVASAN COLOMBO

India and Sri Lanka should maintain open and regular communication across multiple channels and ensure there are "no surprises" to either side, according to Milinda Moragoda, shortly to assume duties as Sri Lanka's High Commissioner in New

Speaking to *The Hindu* in Colombo, Mr. Moragoda, who recently submitted a 'road map' to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, outlining proposals for strengthening Indo-Lanka ties, said that while the relationship is evidently "asymmetric", the focus must be on elevating bilateral ties from the current "transactional" phase to one that is more "strategic". "It has to evolve into a special relationship, that should be our aim," said the High Commissioner-designate, who has been awarded a 'Cabinet rank' by the Sri Lankan government, effectively enabling him to report directly to President Rajapaksa.

Political solution

The road map itself came amid considerable strain in relations. In a surprise move earlier this year, Sri Lanka unilaterally dropped a 2019 plan to jointly develop the East Container Terminal at the Colombo Port with India and Japan. Citing domestic opposition to foreign investment in strategic national asset, the Rajapaksa administration reneged on the trilateral agreement signed by the predecessor government, instead offering the



Task ahead: Milinda Moragoda, Sri Lanka's High Commissioner-designate to India. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

West Container Terminal to the Adani Group in India.

Further, Mr. Moragoda's strategy paper lays out plans to enhance investment prospects, religious and cultural ties, but makes no mention of expediting a political solution to Sri Lanka's national question that has remained a cornerstone of India's en-

Observing that President Rajapaksa is leading a "diverse coalition", Mr. Moragoda said a political solution or post-war reconciliation must be "home-grown". "A political solution is not all about laws and the Constitution," he said.

Mr. Moragoda, 57, is a businessman and a former politician who has held key ministries governments. He was earlier aligned to former PM Ranil Wickremesinghe and was a prominent arbiter in the government's peace talks with the LTTE, brokered by Norway in the early 2000s. He is also the founder of the Colombo-based think tank, Pathfinder Foundation.

Mr. Moragoda has advo-

cated the abolition of provincial councils, arguing that the structure has proved "superfluous, expensive, divisive, and is fraught with inefficiency." "That is my personal view," Mr. Moragoda said, of the provincial structure envisioned in Indo-Lanka Accord of 1987.

"I believe we should look at a model where we devolve more power to the local governments instead, while keeping a Senate at the Centre, where all ethnic groups are fairly represented," he said.

Sri Lanka's nine provincial councils have remained defunct for at least two years, pending elections.

Asked about frequent calls to repeal the provincial council system, from Sinhala nationalists including those in government, Mr. Moragoda said: "As of now, the provincial council system is very much part of our Constitution, and there is no threat. However, elections to the councils will have to wait until we have a consensus on a new electoral system in

Thousands flee amid Taliban gains in north

The insurgents now have their eyes on Mazar-e-Sharif, northern Afghanistan's biggest city

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

The Taliban were in control of eight Afghan provincial capitals on Tuesday after a blitz across the north forced tens of thousands of people to flee their homes for the relative safety of Kabul and other centres.

The insurgents now have their eyes on Mazar-e-Sharif, the north's biggest city, whose fall would signal the total collapse of government control in a region that has traditionally been anti-Taliban. Government forces are also battling the hardline Islamists in Kandahar and Helmand, the southern Pashtospeaking provinces from where the Taliban draw their

The United States – due to complete a troop withdrawal at the end of the month and end its longest war - has all but left the battlefield. However, Washington's

special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad is now in Qatar to try and convince the Taliban to accept a ceasefire.

Envoys from hosts Qatar, Britain, China, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, the United Nations,

and EU were due to discuss

the situation in Afghanistan, a source told AFP.

But even with a new round of talks in the works, Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said it was down to the Afghan government and its forces to turn the tide, and there was "not much" the U.S. could do to help.

On the move

The Taliban have appeared largely indifferent to peace overtures, and seem intent on a military victory to return to power after their ouster 20 years ago in the wake of the September 11 attacks.

As fighting raged, tens of thousands of people were on the move inside the country, with families fleeing newly captured Taliban cities with tales of brutal treatment at the hands of the insurgents.

"The Taliban are beating and looting," said Rahima, now camped out with hundreds of families at a park in the capital, Kabul, after fleeing Sheberghan province. "If there is a young girl or

a widow in a family, they forcibly take them. We fled to protect our honour." "We are so exhausted,"

added Farid, an evacuee

the Taliban over the wee-

from Kunduz who did not

want to be further identified.

In the northern city of

Kunduz that was captured by kend, residents said shops had begun to reopen as insurgents focused their attention on government forces who had retreated to the airport. "People are opening their shops and businesses, but you can still see fear in their eyes," said shopkeeper Habibullah.

On Tuesday, The Taliban captured Pul-e-Khumri, capital of Baghlan province, and

ELSEWHERE



Prince Andrew sued over alleged sexual assault

longtime accusers sued Prince Andrew on Monday. taking accusations that she has repeatedly publicly lodged against him, including that he sexually assaulted her when she was 17, to a formal venue. Lawyers for the plaintiff filed the lawsuit in Manhattan federal court, where Epstein was charged criminally with sex trafficking before he killed himself in August 2019 in the prison. AFP

China demands recall of Lithuanian envov

China on Tuesday demanded that Lithuania recall its envoy to Beijing, after Vilnius allowed Taiwan to set up an office under its own name in a move seen as provocative by the Chinese government. The self-ruled island, which China considers part of its territory, last month said it was setting up a representative office in Vilnius under the name "Taiwan" as opposed to "Taipei", an act Beijing interprets as a diplomatic

'Hong Kong set to adopt China's anti-sanctions law'

Violators to face visa denial, deportation

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

China's anti-sanctions law will be implemented in some form in Hong Kong, the city's leader confirmed on Tuesday, a move that will add fresh regulatory pressure on international com panies in the finance hub.

Beijing's rubber-stamp legislature passed the law in June in response to Western penalties that were imposed following crackdowns in Hong Kong and Xinjiang.

Its powers include denying visas, deportation, or seizing assets of those who formulate or comply with sanctions against Chinese businesses or officials.

Foreign companies can be sued in Chinese courts for applying sanctions and the law can also be wielded against family members.

On Tuesday, Hong Kong's Chief Executive Carrie Lam confirmed Beijing had consulted her on adding the law to the city's mini-Constitution, known as the Basic Law.

"The purpose of the Anti-Sanctions Law is to defend our country's sovereignty, security and development



interests," reporters.

But she said Beijing could also impose the measures directly like it did with a national security law last year that snuffed out dissent.

"Some foreign forces, foreign governments and western media will definitely stir up this issue, hoping to weaken our status as a financial centre or the outside world's confidence in Hong Kong," she said.International companies face being punished by each side if they adhere to either sanc-

A bank that refuses to implement U.S. sanctions, for example, could find itself cut off from access to the dollar. But those that adhere could find themselves in hot water with Beijing.

N. Korea vows to strengthen capabilities

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un ripped South Korea for proceeding with military exercises with the ILS that she said are an inrehearsal warned on Tuesday that the North will work faster to strengthen its pre-emptive strike capabilities.

Kim Yo-jong's statement came after South Korean media reported that the allied militaries will begin four days of preliminary training on Tuesday before holding computer-simulated drills on August 16-26.

Ms. Kim said she was given authority to release the statement, implying the message came directly from her brother.

Hours after her comments were published on state media, South Korea's Defence and Unification Ministries said North Korean officials hadn't responded to their calls on Tuesday afternoon over inter-Korean hotlines, which had been disconnected for a year before North Korea agreed to reopen them in late July.

payment up to 18.08.2021 (11.59 PM).

Iranian denies part in 1988 executions

Ex-prison official being tried in Sweden over his 'role' in the killing of political dissidents

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE STOCKHOLM

Lawyers for a former Iranian prison official denied his involvement in the 1988 execution of thousands of political dissidents on Tuesday on the first day of a landmark case in Sweden likely to stoke tensions in the Islamic republic.

Hamid Noury, 60, appeared relaxed and smiling in Stockholm District Court while his defence counsel Daniel Marcus refuted the charges including "murder" and "war crimes" dating from between July 30 and August 16, 1988, when Noury

was assistant to the deputy prosecutor of Gohardasht prison in Karaj, near Tehran.

Earlier Kristina Lindhoff Carleson, for the prosecution, read out the indictment which accused Noury of "intentionally taking the life of a very large number of prisoners sympathetic to or belonging to the People's Mujahedin" (MEK).

MEK supporters were several hundred among protesters who gathered outside the court carrying photos of the dead and called for justice for the estimated 5,000 prisoners



seeking justice for political prisoners killed in Iran. • AP

across Iran, allegedly under the orders of supreme leader Ayatollah Khomeini in reprisal for attacks carried out by the MEK at the end of the Iran-Iraq war of 1980-88. The demonstrators urged

Protesters in Stockholm

lieve Tuesday's case is the first of its kind against some one accused over A verdict in the three-day

Swedish and international

justice to condemn Iran's

newly inaugurated president

Ebrahim Raisi, also accused

by rights groups of involve-

ment in the extra-judicial

Swedish court officials be-

case is expected in April

The allegations were brought to the attention of the Swedish authorities by a group of 30 complainants.

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Bids are invited from reputed and experienced Agencies for the Selection of an Agency for Stall Creation in Various Exhibitions Events (at Pan India Level)". The project requirements, technical specifications, eligibility criteria, selection process, etc. are included in the Tender document published on the website:https://www.nprocure.com and https://www.gujarattourism.com/tcgl/tender/latest-tender. The last date for submission of the Financial Bid is 30/08/2021 up to 3:00 pm. and Technical Bid is 01/09/2021 up to 3:00 pm. The Financial Bid shall be uploaded in n-procure website only.

Managing Director

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER AND DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURAL MARKETING Government of Andhra Pradesh, Guntur. <u>E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE</u> E-procurement T.No.SE(AM)/AP/GNT/Ep/16/2021-22, Dated:10-8-2021 nline Tenders are invited by the Superintending Engineer (AM) Guntur from the registered from t riginal Equipment Manufacturers/Authorized dealer by OEM/Authorized suppliers by OEM for supply ipment at different locations across the state of Andhra Pradesh

(i) Empanelment of suppliers for PTO Operated Mobile Paddy Dryers of approximate value of Rs.50.2t Crores. (ii) For supply and installation of equipment for assaying units & procurement centers o approximate value of Rs.24.38 Crores selection through reverse auction. Eprocurement site open on DI 12-8-2021 at 4.00 P.M. Any other information can be had from the www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.ir rom the office of the Superintending Engineer (AM) Guntur. Contact Nos. 9182361156, 9182361421 Superintending Engineer (AM),
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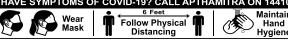
given below The Tenderers may submit tenders for any or all of the works given in the table in appropriate class registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike/CPWD/KPWD/Railways/ MES/any State or Central Govt. organisation.

110.		(Itsiii Eakiis)
1.	Development works in Ward No.84, Hagaduru under BBMP Grants 2020-21 (Package-01) 9 Works.	
2.	Development works in Ward No.54, 83, 84, 149 and 150 in BBMP Mahadevapura Division Under BBMP Grants 2020-21 (Package-02) 7 Works.	
3.	Development works in Ward No.83 and 85 in BBMP Mahadevapura Division Under BBMP Grants 2020-21 (Package-03) 5 works.	302.00

Name of the work

EMD in Rs. EMD Declaration: Calendar of Events: (1) Downloading of Tender Documents: 13-08-2021 from 4:00 p.m. (2) last Date of Submission gueries : 16-08-2021 within 3:00 (3) Last Date & time for receipt of tenders 23-08-2021 upto 4:00 p.m. (4) Date & Time for Opening Technical bid: 24-08-2021 at 4:30 p.m. Further particulars can be obtained from the above office during working hours on working days or from website: https://eproc karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-, Executive Engineer, Mahadevapura Division, BBMP. HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19? CALL APTHAMITRA ON 14410



Over 200 held in Saudi anti-corruption purge

Drive against graft began in 2017

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saudi Arabia announced the arrest of 207 employees across about a dozen Ministries in the latest sweep by an anti-corruption body empowered by Crown Prince

Mohammed bin Salman. Those detained were not named and it was unclear when the arrests were made. The kingdom's National Anti-Corruption Commission, known as "Nazaha", announced the arrests late on Monday.

The Crown Prince's anticorruption purge began in late 2017. It has helped him consolidate power and net-

in assets. Saudi nationals have long complained of rampant corruption in government and of public funds being squandered or misused by those in power.

ted the kingdom \$106 billion

The commission said more than 460 people were investigated in this latest round, and that as a result, 207 Saudi citizens and residents were detained on allegations of corruption, abuse of authority and fraud.

Those accused will be referred to prosecution. They hail from the national guard and a range of Ministries, including Defence, Interior, Health and Justice.

Banned scribe calls Imran a 'helpless' PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hamid Mir, a prominent Pakistani journalist who was taken off air indefinitely for making hard-hitting remarks against the military, has said that Imran Khan is a "helpless" Prime Minister and underlined that there is a growing "climate of fear" for media personnel in the country.

Mr. Mir, the host of the now-off air talk show 'Capital Talk' of Geo News channel, on May 28 delivered a fiery speech at a protest staged by scribes against an attack by "unknown" persons aginst journalist Asad Ali Toor in Islamabad.

KK-52

ODISHA JOINT ENTRANCE EXAMINATION-2021 (OJEE-2021) No: OJEE / 273 DATE: 10.08.2021

APPLICATION FOR B. TECH. COURSE (SPECIAL OJEE) The last date for submission of online application forms for B. Tech. Course (Special OJEE), which was earlier notified as 10.08.2021, is herebyextended up to 17.08.2021 (11.59 PM) and last date for fee

NOTICE REGARDING EXTENSION OF LAST DATE OF

During this period, the candidates, who have already submitted their applications, can log-in to the online OJEE Application Portal using their id and password, make any correction, if required in the information already filled in by them and also modify, if they want, their choice of examination centres as per their convenience.

The interested candidates may kindly note that these dates are final and there will not be any more extension of these dates. Candidates are advised to visit the official website of OJEE

(www.ojee.nic.in) regularly for updated information. Sd/-CHAIRMAN, OJEE, Odisha

OIPR-14020/11/0008/2122

MARKET WATCH

	10-08-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	54,555	0.28
US Dollar	74.43	-0.23
Gold	45,110	-0.62
Brent oil	70.91	2.53

Brent oil	70.91	2.53
NIFTY 50		
Adami Danta		CHANGI
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		
HDFC		
HDFC Bank		
HDFC Life		
Hero MotoCorp		
Hindalco		
Hind Unilever		
ICICI Bank		
IndusInd Bank		
Infosys		
Indian OilCorp		
ITC		
JSW Steel	722.15	25.20
Kotak Bank	1813.25	32.3
L&T	1588.45	9.0
M&M		
Maruti Suzuki		
Nestle India Ltd		
NTPC	114.35	2.3
ONGC	114.85	-0.1

Reliance Ind.

State Bank

Sun Pharma.

UltraTech Cement

Wipro	603.85	7.05
EXCHANGE RAT	ΓES	
Indicative direct rate except yen at 4 p.m.		
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	74.23	74.55
Euro	87.02	87.39
British Pound	.102.89	103.37
Japanese Yen (100).	67.18	67.49
Chinese Yuan	11.46	11.51
Swiss Franc	80.55	80.90
Singapore Dollar	54.65	54.89
Canadian Dollar	59.01	59.30
Malaysian Ringitt	17.55	17.64

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Indian Bank lends 330 street vendors ₹33 lakh

As part of the PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) special campaign, Indian Bank's Zonal Office (Chennai North) on Tuesday distributed cheques worth ₹33 lakh to 330 beneficiaries. The cheques were handed over by K.S. Sudhakar Rao, general manager, MSME.

HP unveils laptops for content creators

NEW DELHI Technology major HP on Tuesday unveiled the Envy portfolio of laptops targeted at content creators, priced from ₹1,04,999. The company also announced a 'HP Creators' Garage' to enable budding creators to learn from experts across India and to collaborate with other creators.

Price pressures to smoothen out in coming months: Ministry

Finance ministry concedes inflation is causing government bond yields to rise

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Finance Ministry has blamed the recent uptick in inflation on adverse supply shocks due to the pandemic and elevated international commodity prices, and said it expects price pressures to abate in the coming months.

The comments on inflation in the Department of Economic Affairs' monthly economic report for July, released on Tuesday, largely mirror the central bank's assessment. However, the ministry did concede that high inflation had pushed up government bond yields.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das last week noted that re-



Less dear: Prices should cool with the easing of restrictions and progress of the monsoon, says ministry. ■ H.S. MANJUNATH

cent inflationary pressures "evoke concerns" but added that they were seen as "transitory and largely driven by adverse supply side factors". The RBI, however, raised its projection for retail inflation

forecast in June. "Inflation has remained above the band of 6% in May and June but these pressures are likely to smoothen out over the coming months

in 2021-22 to 5.7%, from 5.1%

progress of southwest monsoon, and recent supply-side policy interventions in pulses and oilseeds market," the ministry said. "However, Gsec yield curve steepened mildly owing to inflation pressures," it added.

Retail inflation "seems to have plateaued" at 6.26% in June, from 6.30% in May, but had increased from 6.23% a year earlier, the ministry noted, with increases in major groups like 'food and beverage' and 'fuel and light'.

"Pressure of high inflation prints continued to prevail on G-Sec yields in July... 10year G-Sec yield reached 6.2% as compared to 6.05% at end-June," it noted.

Telecom sector needs 'long overdue' support: Mittal

'Industry structure, investor returns hang on govt. action'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Bharti Airtel chairman Sunil Mittal said the telecom industry required 'long overdue' government support to maintain its current '3+1' industry structure, adding that unsustainable pricing and low returns had extracted a toll on the sector.

Mr. Mittal's comments come amid concerns over the survival of Vodafone Idea – one of the three private players – in the absence of support from the Centre.

"As our sector's role in the economy becomes more pervasive, our challenges loom larger. Unsustainable pricing and low returns in a highly capital-intensive environment, coupled with lega-



Sunil Mittal

cy legal issues, have extracted their toll," Mr. Mittal said in the firm's annual report.

He added that the industry required government support for players to earn respectable returns on their investments. "I am hopeful that the government and the regulators will step in to ensure there is adequate balance in the industry and it remains a viable place for continued investments."

He also noted that the company's India mobile business is now at a lifetimehigh revenue market share along with industry-leading metrics such as in average revenue per user and data usage. He pointed out that the non-mobile businesses in India had also gathered significant momentum.

"As the Indian economy digitises further, there are large opportunities ahead in areas such as data centres, submarine cable deployment, cloud services and cybersecurity. We will look to scale up our investments in these areas in the coming fiscal," he said.

MFIs urge RBI to drop urban, rural difference for borrowers

Fix income limit at ₹2 lakh p.a., revise periodically: Sa-Dhan

VIKAS DHOOT

Microfinance lenders have urged the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to drop the distinction between urban and rural households in its proposed new definition of eligible borrowers and allow the use of ration cards to identify households.

Currently, a microfinance borrower is identified by annual household income not exceeding ₹1.25 lakh for rural areas and ₹2 lakh for urban and semi-urban areas.

As per fresh norms drafted for the sector in June, the RBI proposed retaining thresholds while Household definition may not work for migrant workers. Use ration

card as an identifier

tweaking the definition of households in line with that used by the National Sample Survey Office – a group of persons normally living together and taking food from a common kitchen.

Sa-Dhan, a self-regulatory body representing microfinance institutions (MFIs), has suggested that the central bank peg the annual income limit at ₹2 lakh for both urban and rural households, and revise the threshold based on inflation, perhaps once in 2-3 years.

Stressing that the household definition may not work for migrant labourers, Sa-dhan said that using the ration card as an identifier should help. "While they won't be living together and using the common kitchen, migrant labour contribute in the household income.

"Therefore, exclusion of these members will give an improper household income assessment," it noted, adding that around 19% of the rural population and 33% of the urban population, however, do not possess any ration card.

Auto sector seeks clarity on digital levy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The automobile industry sought clarity from the Centre on the scope of the proposed 2% equalisation levy on payments made to foreign beneficiaries for digital services provided.

The Society of Indian **Automobile Manufacturers** said on Tuesday it was concerned over the impact of amendments proposed under the Finance Bill 2021 on digital transactions in the sector. Director general Rajesh Menon added: "Actual commercial decisions are offline... The internal digital system for supplychain management should not fall within the provisions of equalisation levy."

RIL arm to invest \$50 mn in U.S. energy storage firm

It will acquire 42.3 mn shares of Ambri

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Reliance New Energy Solar Ltd. (RNESL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL), has announced it will invest \$50 million to acquire 42.3 million shares of preferred stock in Ambri Inc., an energy storage company based in Massachusetts, U.S.A.

This is part of a \$144-million investment that RNESL, strategic investors Paulson & Co., Bill Gates, and a few other investors have committed to make in Ambri, the company said. "The investment will

help the company commercialise and grow its long-duration energy storage sys-



tems business globally," RIL said in a statement.

"Based on patented technology and designed to last between 4-24 hours, Ambri's long-duration energy storage systems will break through the cost, longevity and safety barriers associated with lithium-ion batteries used in grid-scale stationary storage applications," the

Manali Petro turned ₹76 cr. net profit in Q1

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

Manali Petrochemicals Ltd. (MPL) reported standalone net profit for the first quarter was ₹76 crore.

The firm had registered a loss of ₹1 crore in the year-earlier period.

Revenue from operations more than quadrupled to ₹270 crore, MPL said in a statement, adding the operations were badly affected on account of the pandemic. The team's constant efforts to focus on efficient and profitabilityoriented growth despite external challenges are critical strengths that should continue in the coming times, said chairman Ashwin Muthiah.

'India Inc's deal activity rose to \$13.2 bn in July'

'Highest ever for any month since 2005'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

India Inc witnessed a 3% rise in deal activity to \$13.2 billion across 181 transactions in July, according to a report on Tuesday.

Going by the number of deals, the volumes showed a 66% increase to 181 transactions, thus indicating a dip in average ticket sizes, the data by the consultancy firm Grant Thornton Bharat said.

When compared with the preceding June, the deal volumes were 6% higher, while the deal values were 33% up because of a higher number of big-ticket transactions, the firm added. "This surge in deal activity was primarily due to companies conti-



nuing to borrow economically and spending their cash reserves on transformative deals to reposition themselves for the post-CO-VID-19 world," its partner Shanthi Vijetha said. She said the firm hopes the deal trend will remain positive in the coming months as well.

According to the report, the \$13.2 billion of investments is the highest ever for any month since 2005. Mergers and acquisitions activity witnessed 36 deals worth \$5.6 billion in July.

Smartphone shipments rise

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The April-June quarter started on a low note for the Indian smartphone market amid the second wave, but quickly recovered, clocking 86% yearon-year growth to reach about 34 million units, research firm IDC said.

Xiaomi led the market with 29.2% market share, followed by Samsung (16.3%),Vivo (14.8%), Realme (14.5%) and Oppo (11.6%) in the June 2021 quarter, IDC said. The second quarter witnessed accelerated growth of the online channel, led by e-tailers, resulting in a record share of 51% with 113% year-over-year growth.

86% in Q2: IDC

Banking, financial, insurance sector to hire 3 lakh this fiscal'

'Broking firms expected to recruit 35,000 people in metros'

MINI TEJASWI

The Indian Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BSFI) sector is quite bullish on the outlook and would be hiring at least three lakh people in the current fiscal in contrast to the 'bare minimum' recruitment it witnessed in the previous year, industry observers said.

Boom in activity

Interestingly, financial activities among the general public have seen a dramatic increase in the last 15 months. For instance, 1.44 crore new demat accounts were added in FY21, as against 0.48 crore



in FY20, according to Motilal

metros in FY22," he added. "The BSFI sector, in gen-

Oswal Financial Services.

"Many new jobs are being created in the space," said Sudhir Dhar, head, HR at Motilal Oswal. "Broking firms alone are expected to hire over 35,000 people in hire at least more than 3 lakh people this fiscal," said B.S. Murthy, CEO, Leadership Capital, a CXO hiring firm. Motilal Oswal said it

eral, seems to be very bullish

on hiring and is expected to

would hire 3,500 broking agents, financial advisors, analysts, sales and marketing staff in this fiscal to take its people's strength to close to 12,000. "We are hiring 3,500 graduates, MBAs and techies," Mr. Dhar said.

"This will also include more than 600 people for our housing finance business as collection officers, relationship managers and sales staff," he added.

Zomato loss widens on rise in expenses

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Online food delivery platform Zomato on Tuesday reported that its net loss widened to ₹360.7 crore for the quarter ended June 30, mainly on account of an increase in expenses.

The company had posted a net loss of ₹99.8 crore a year earlier, Zomato Ltd.

said in a regulatory filing. Consolidated revenue from operations rose to ₹844.4 crore from ₹266 crore. Total expenses climbed to ₹1,259.7 crorefrom ₹383.3 crore. Zomato made its debut on the

bourses on July 23. On Tuesday, its shares dropped 4.22% to ₹124.95

How cricket helped a writer come to terms with grief



BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

Cricket didn't talk back to me and it didn't offer advice. It didn't tell me what to do nor how to feel. Like a best friend, it was just there for me, willing to embrace me and allow me just to be, whatever mood I was in." This is Ian Ridley on coping with the loss of his wife, Vikki Orvice, in The Breath of Sad-

Ridley is a football writer and author of a dozen books; his wife, who succumbed to cancer at 56 was an athletics and football writer for *The Sun*, which was exceptional in an all-male field. Reading The Breath of Sadness feels a bit like peeping through the curtains into another man's pain, but it is equally an assertion of the power of sport, cricket in particular, to make sense of grief, and help to come to terms with it.

Where the writer is unflinching in describing his feelings and his relationship, the reader might sometimes flinch at the rawness of it

all. Ridley writes with feeling on mourning a loved one in a book that finds companionship with two similar ones written by the surviving spouse: A Grief Observed by C.S. Lewis and the more recent The Year of Magical Thinking by Joan Didion. That word 'magical' is used by Didion as a synonym for 'insanity', where one believes (without any reason) that a particular action can lead to a wished-for result, however crazy that might sound to an

In the postscript, Ridley writes about his recovery not from grief, but from the insanity of grief.

The county game

It was a remarkable year for English cricket, 2019, when they won the World Cup. It was also the year Ridley lost his wife. There had always been a thought at the back of his mind that in his old age he would spend a summer watching county cricket.

Following the tragedy, his therapist recommended that he do exactly that now. So while the crowds sat through the World Cup and the Ashes series, Ridley spent his time at county grounds with the proverbial three spectators and a dog.

Why county cricket? "You can't really think about ideas as essential and deep as all of that at a football match," writes Ridley, "es-

pecially with somebody berating the referee in your ear. In fact, the game probably exists to get away from it all. But at county cricket, with its less frenetic unfolding, a person could connect with what really mattered."

There is too, as he says, the appeal that he could "explore and experience as reflection of the 'action', the rhythm and cadences of my grief." This is an unusual reading of a First Class match even if its pace and denouement allow a spectator to take from it what best suits him.

Memorable times

The exploration into the best and worst of himself and his relationship with Vikki is dealt with candidly; sometimes the past cheers him, sometimes, as with certain discoveries, it makes him intensely jealous. Some of the early visits for the cricket were to places Ridley and his wife had spent memorable times in - Hove (Sussex v Leicester), Isle of Wight (Hampshire v Notts), and Scarborough, Lord's and The Oval...

Watching Middlesex v Sussex at Lord's following a therapy session marks a turning point of sorts, "a shift," as he says, "a staging

At another point, during another match, he writes, "Suddenly, in the afternoon lull, the utter so-whattery of it all consumed me." So-whattery can be a comfort without being an intrusion.

Some people avoid him, others avoid the topic altogether, but such behaviour is to be expected. In A Grief Observed, Lewis wrote, "An odd by-product of my loss is that I'm aware of being an embarrassment to everyone I meet ... Some funk it altogether. R. has been avoiding me for a week ... Perhaps the bereaved ought to be isolated in special settlements like lepers."

No easy answers There are no easy answers, of course. A season of county cricket didn't magically make Ridley a different person or push his feelings into the background. Nor did it prepare him totally for another inevitability - he himself is undergoing treatment for cancer and thinks

he has five years left. But cricket served to give Ridley "a destination and an activity, a peaceful place where I could grieve in solitude with humanity still at hand. If I wanted I could be distracted by the game, by its subtleties unfolding, or I could retreat into my pain, to feel it, experience it, and work my way through it. Cricket rewarded sticking with it."

That last line is a marvellous reminder for all of us, whether grieving or not, or merely hoping to play the game at the highest level.

WFI 'temporarily suspends' Vinesh

Indiscipline in Tokyo cited as reason

WRESTLING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) on Tuesday "temporarily suspended" Vinesh Phogat for indiscipline during her forgettable Tokyo Olympics campaign and also issued notice to So-

nam Malik for misconduct. It has been learnt that Vinesh, who lost in the quarterfinals, has been given time till August 16 to reply to the notice that mentioned indiscipline on counts. Vinesh had refused to stay at the Games Village and train with other Indian team members.

She also did not wear the name of the official sponsors of the Indian contingent, Shiv Naresh, and



chose to wear a Nike singlet

during her bouts. "This is gross indisci-

pline. She has been suspended temporarily and barred from all wrestling activities. She can't compete in any national or other domestic event until she files a reply and WFI takes a final decision," a WFI source said.

M ND-NDE

Tokyo 2020: a stirring triumph of human spirit over adversity

Athletes, support staff, officials and volunteers played their roles in a life-affirming story at the pandemic-affected Games

ASHWIN ACHAL

The COVID-19 pandemic I could have consigned the 2020 Tokyo Olympics to the fate of the three cancelled editions (1916, 1940, 1944) hit by the World Wars. That the mega games - with thousands in attendance, including athletes, support staff, officials and volunteers passed without incident in such trying times is a huge credit to the organisers.

On the field of play, every possible script - tales of inspiration, the underdog defying sporting logic, or just exceptional athletic prowess was written.

Sprinter Allyson Felix led the way, winning the women's 400m relay gold to overtake Carl Lewis as the most decorated U.S. track and field athlete of all time. Only three years ago, she had an emergency C-section at 32 weeks to deliver her daughter

The 35-year-old proved

that motherhood was no barrier to realising grand

Fellow American and gymnast Simone Biles inspired as well. She made a brave statement when she withdrew from five of the six final rounds she qualified for, citing a mental block. She made it clear that it was all right to prioritise overall well-being over everything else.

Who says kids can do no more than play hooky and obsess over gaming consoles? At 12, Japan's Kokona Hiraki became the youngest Olympic medallist in 85 years with a silver in women's park skateboarding.

Britain's Sky Brown, just a couple of months her senior, took bronze in the same

At the other end of the spectrum, equestrian Andrew Hoy became Australia's oldest Olympic medallist at 62. His teammate Mary Hanna, the oldest competitor at Tokyo, is going strong at 66. The duo dispelled all stereotypes associated with lonely senior citizens' watching the world go by.

With two record performances, the 400m hurdles laid claim to being the marquee track event. Norway's Karsten Warholm and American Sydney McLaughlin both ran near perfect races to smash their own men's and women's world records. That both silver medallists - Rai Benjamin (son of former West Indies pacer Winston Benjamin) and 2016 Olympic champion Dalilah Muhammad – returned faster times than the previous world records showed the incredible quality in the fields.

Showing courage

Kimia Alizadeh jumped over higher obstacles in life to finish fourth in the women's taekwondo tournament. Kimia, who at the 2016 Rio Games became the first Irapic medal, fled the country

last year. Citing severe oppression from the Iran regime, she chose to compete for the Refugee Olympic Team at Tokyo, and nearly won a maiden medal for the courageous group of displaced athletes.

Just an hour after finishing a dismaying fifth in the 200m freestyle swimming event, Katie Ledecky returned to the pool to dominate the first-ever 1,500m event for

With the 800m freestyle event also in the bag, her six individual gold medals across Games were the most for any female swimmer, and second only to all-time leader Michael Phelps (13 golds).

Caeleb Dressel, meanwhile, became just the fourth male in history to win five golds at a single Olympics. Dressel may dislike comparisons with the legend Phelps, but he has earned his spot among the greats.

Over to Paris 2024, and more indelible memories.







Inspiring tales: Biles, Felix, Ledecky and Alizadeh showed that it was possible to overcome the obstacles in life and shine on the world's biggest stage. • REUTERS/GETTY IMAGES

'We feel we have won a significant Olympic medal'

KAMESH SRINIVASAN NEW DELHI

The Indian men's hockey team gave an Olympic medal to the nation, while the women's squad missed it by a whisker. But both felt the "love and respect" of the fans when they landed home from the Tokyo Games.

"In my career spanning 12 to 13 years, I have never felt like this. Even after we lost, people are giving us so much love and respect. Now we definitely feel that we have done something good," said Rani Rampal, captain of the women's team.

The skipper of the men's squad, Manpreet Singh, said he could feel the fans' joy after his side won the country's first hockey Olympic medal after the gold in Moscow in 1980. "When we land-



Talking point: Manpreet and Rani's teams, through their Tokyo heroics, have brought Indian hockey back into the limelight. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

ed here, there was so much love and respect for us. We do feel that we have won a significant Olympic medal," said Manpreet.

He said that the boys were

able to bounce back from the 1-7 defeat to Australia in its second league match as they had faith in their abilities and felt that they could win a medal. "It was a bad loss

against Australia. We told ourselves that we should regain confidence. We could beat any team as we had done it in the past. The players were determined to not let go this opportunity," recalled Manpreet.

Even as she appreciated the whole team, Rani gave a lot of credit to goalkeeper Savita Punia for taking the team to the bronze medal playoff, calling her "the Wall of India.

Staying sharp

India has had to endure heartbreaks in the final minutes during important matches over the last few years, but Manpreet said the current outfit was keen to stay sharp till the final whistle.

"In the last 15 minutes of the bronze playoff, we reminded ourselves about our aim. We told ourselves that if we put all our energy in those 15 minutes, we can be happy all our life," he said.

Aug. 7 will be National Javelin Day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

August 7, the day Neeraj Chopra scripted history by winning the Olympic gold, will be celebrated as 'National Javelin Day' by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI).

"To encourage javelin throw pan-India, from next year our affiliated units will hold javelin competitions in their respective States,' AFI's planning commission chairman Lalit Bhanot said during a felicitation function of athletes, including Neeraj.

Neeraj's father Satish and mother Saroj Devi were also present at the felicitation. Asked about the 'mischievous' Neerai in his childhood days, Satish dedication). said "woh sahi hey magar Neeraj jo bhi kam karta

hey, man laga ke karta hey" (That is correct but when Neeraj does something he does with

"Humko kya jane woh ek din aisa karega, desh ko roshan karega (How were we to know that one day he will make the country's name proud)."



Saroj Devi at the AFI event on Tuesday. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

BCCI calls for applicants to NCA Head of Cricket post

AMOL KARHADKAR

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has sought applications for appointment as Head of Cricket at the National Cricket Academy, a post held by former India captain Rahul Dravid for two years.

In an advertisement on its website, the BCCI has specified that those who have played at least 25 Tests and coached for at least five years at international level or at India-A, India Under-19. India Women or the Indian Premier League are eligible. Applications may be sent in before August 15.

The age limit of 60 years remains intact.

The Hindu understands that the advertisement has been issued since Dravid's



two-year stint that began in July 2019 has come to an

The timing of the advertisement, however, has

raised a few eyebrows

among the State associa-

Since the tenure of head coach Ravi Shastri will come to an end after the T20 World Cup in November and he will turn 60 next year - a section of the BCCI hierarchy is trying to convince Dravid to take over the mantle of the men's team.

Some of the BCCI affiliates hope that Dravid, who was the coach in Sri Lanka for last month's limited-overs series that clashed with the England tour, agrees to take

However, sources at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru, where Dravid has been based, indicated that he was keen on continuing his role in creating a strong feeder line for Indian cricket.

ICC to push for cricket's Olympic return

Plans campaign for inclusion in the Los Angeles Games in 2028

AMOL KARHADKAR

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has formed a working group to push for cricket's inclusion in the Olympics in the Los Angeles edition in 2028.

The move is the first indication of the ICC's seriousness in pushing for cricket which was an Olympic sport in 1900 - to expand its horizon.

According to an ICC statement, England and Wales Cricket Board Chair Ian Watmore will chair the ICC Olympic Working Group. Indra Nooyi, ICC Independent Director, Zimbabwe Cricket chief Tavengwa Mukuhlani, ICC Associate Member Director Mahinda Vallipuram and USA Cricket chairman Paraag Marathe will be part of



Let's play! Cricket's entry into the Olympics is likely to boost its popularity. ■ GETTY IMAGES

the five-member group.

"We believe cricket would be a great addition to the Olympic Games, but we know it won't be easy to secure our inclusion as there are so many other great sports out there wanting to

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

do the same," ICC chairman Greg Barclay said in the statement. "But we feel now is the time to put our best foot forward and show what a great partnership cricket and the Olympics could be."

It is understood that with

Set to sign an initial two-year deal with PSG; unveiling likely today

the 2028 and 2032 Olympics to be played in Los Angeles and Brisbane, respectively, the ICC hopes that riding on these two editions, it can get cricket included as a permanent Olympic discipline.

Despite no BCCI representative being a part of the working group, it is understood that the BCCI is firmly in support of cricket joining the Olympic movement. With the Government of India's recent thrust on winning more Olympic medals, the BCCI hierarchy is understood to have been supporting cricket as a prospective Olympic sport.

The working group is set to propose a roadmap to the ICC with the detailed structure – number of teams and format – that would be presented to the IOC.

recalled for second Test

Moeen Ali

England has recalled Moeen Ali for the second Test against India beginning on Thursday.

The 34-year-old all-rounder has played only one Test in the last two years against India in Chennai almost six months ago – but will link up with the team at Lord's.

England was outplayed for most of the drawn opener at Trent Bridge last week and is looking to rebalance the side in the absence of all-rounders Ben Stokes and Chris Woakes.

Moeen has played only white-ball cricket since his last Test appearance when he took eight wickets and hit a second-innings 43.

Ex-Kiwi all-rounder Cairns on life support

Suffers medical emergency in Canberra

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Former New Zealand allrounder Chris Cairns is on life support at a hospital in Canberra after suddenly collapsing due to a major health issue.

According to a report in the New Zealand Herald on Tuesday, Cairns "suffered a major medical emergency an aortic dissection - in Canberra last week" and "will be transferred to a specialist hospital in Sydney soon."

Aortic dissection is a serious condition in which a tear happens in the inner layer of the body's main artery.

"He has reportedly undergone several operations while in hospital, but has not responded to treatment



as hoped," the report said. One of the best all-rounders of his time, Cairns played 62 Tests, 215 ODIs and two T20Is for New Zea-

land from 1989 to 2006. His father Lance Cairns played for New Zealand.

The 51-year-old, however, later faced allegations of match-fixing.





Preparation mode: The Indian players warm up for the Lord's Test which begins on Thursday. • TWITTER/BCCI

NZC clears players for IPL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Zealand Cricket on Tuesday cleared its players' participation in the Indian Premier League (IPL) from September 19.

NZC also announced dif-

ferent squads for the sub-

continent tour and T20

kload management in pan-Most of the New Zealand

players picked for the T20 World Cup will get to play in the preceding IPL. The IPL and T20 World

Cup have been moved out of

India due to COVID-19.

French capital in the afternoon and was greeted by hundreds of PSG supporters who had gathered hoping to catch a glimpse of their new

World Cup as part of its worcrowds while sporting a Paris t-shirt, was then expected to undergo a medical before his signing could be made official by the Qatar-backed club.

signing.

club Barcelona

Messi's father Jorge, who is also his agent, earlier confirmed the inevitable as he arrived at Barcelona's El Prat



Messi lands in Paris to rapturous welcome

Paris calling: Lionel Messi waves to PSG fans after his arrival in the French capital. • REUTERS

airport to board a flight to French club, he replied:

Asked by reporters if his

PSG is set to unveil Messi son would sign for the at a press conference at its

Parc des Princes stadium on Wednesday. He is expected to sign an initial two-year PSG's move for Messi had

although reports in Spain on Monday night talked of a "final offer" by Barcelona to try to keep the player. Instead, the six-time Bal-

been an open secret for days,

lon d'Or winner will join a PSG attack already featuring Neymar and Kylian Mbappe. PSG sees Messi as the missing piece in its jigsaw as it

League, the trophy it wants more than anything else. "Back together," Neymar, who played with Messi at Barcelona before moving to PSG

chases the Champions

Messi, who flew in to Paris with his wife and three children, is now preparing for a new life in Paris and in Ligue

in 2017, posted on Twitter.

TV PICKS

TNPL 2021: Eliminator, Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m. Super Cup 2021: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 12.30 a.m. (Thursday).

IN BRIEF



Djokovic withdraws from **Cincinnati Masters**

Novak Djokovic withdrew from the ATP Cincinnati Masters on Monday, saying he needed more recovery time after the Tokyo Olympics. Djokovic, 34, lost at Tokyo to Alexander Zverev in the semifinals and Pablo Carreno Busta in the bronze

Murray in U.S. Open main draw after Wawrinka's withdrawal

Former champion Andy Murray has been added to the main draw of the U.S. Open following the withdrawal of another former winner Stan Wawrinka of Switzerland, tournament organisers said on Monday.

Nagal goes down fighting to Vera

Eighth seed Sumit Nagal was beaten 5-7, 6-4, 3-6 by Marcelo Tomas Barrios Vera of Chile in the first round of the €44,820 Challenger tennis tournament in Meerbusch (Germany). Other result:

\$100.000 ITF women. Landisville, US: Qualifying singles (first round): Ankita Raina bt Lousa Chirico (US) 2-6, 6-1, [10-7]

JK Tyre names Narain as brand ambassador

JK Tyre & Industries Ltd. on Tuesday announced that Padma Shri Awardee and India's first Formula One driver Narain Karthikeyan will be its brand ambassador

State govt. tells BTC to suspend racing activities

BENGALURU The Government of Karnataka has in a letter informed the Bangalore Turf Club authorities not to conduct racing activities till further orders from the government, according to a press note from the club.



Stones to stay at Man City until 2026

John Stones has signed a four-year contract extension that will keep him tied to Manchester City till 2026. Stones joined the club from Everton in a £47.5million deal in 2016. The 27-year-old formed a formidable partnership with Ruben Dias as Pep Guardiola's men cruised to a third league title in four years and reached the Champions League final last season. AFP

Vijayveer tops open event

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Vijayveer Sidhu topped the 25-metre standard pistol open event for men and women, with a score of 576, in the shooting National selection trials at the Dr. Karni Singh Range, Tughlakabad, on Tuesday.

Rhythm Sangwan shot the second best score of 568, but Harsh Gupta pipped her to the second place with a better score of inner-10s 16 to 10.

It was a commendable fare from the 17-year-old Rhythm as she finished ahead of very good shooters like Udhayveer Sidhu, Amanpreet Singh and An-Bhanwala among others.

The results:

25m standard pistol: Open: 1. Vijayveer Sidhu 576; 2. Harsh Gupta 568; 3. Rhythm Sangwan 568.

'Bumrah has got amazing skills for all formats'

Jonny Bairstow says his approach against Indian pacers would depend on the pitches

CRICKET

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

England batsman Jonny Bairstow on Tuesday lavished praised on Jasprit Bumrah, saying the India pacer possesses "amazing skills" for all three formats.

"Well, I can't tell you all the discussions (about Bumrah), look we know that Bumrah has got amazing skills, doesn't he?" Bairstow said in a con-call arranged by broadcaster Sony ahead of the second Test.

Strong comeback

Bumrah, who remained wicket-less in the World Test championship final against New Zealand which India lost, made a strong comeback in the first Test with nine wickets.

"With his action, he varies on the crease as to where his delivery points are, and we all know he (is) slightly different in his action with his run-up and action in general," said Bairstow.

"We also got to give him credit, he is a world class bowler, isn't it, we have seen that in the IPL, we have seen that in white-ball cricket for India and also in red-ball cricket."

Approach

According to the 31-year-old wicketkeeper batsman, his approach of the against the Indian pacers would depend on the pitches.

"It depends on the pitch, if it is sunny or cloudy. We saw in that first Test when conditions changed with overheads and when the floodlights came or when it



High regard: Jonny Bairstow, left, feels Jasprit Bumrah is one Indian bowler to reckon with. • AP

was sunny, they changed "I can't see too much

change in my approach from the last game. I have not played a lot of red ball cricket

recently due to the scheduling and everything like that. If continue the process I did in the first Test, then that is the kind of approach I want to go with," sad Bairstow.

Bairstow maintained that adaptability was the key in Test cricket. "It is quite an open-ended question. The strengths of the Indian bowling attack, whether or not you play in England, or in India, you look at a different type of ball.

"When playing in India compared to England, you have different types of pitches, and need different skillsets. So, look adaptability is the key when it comes to Test cricket in general in conditions and being adaptable is more important."

Bairstow also said that he expects a "fascinating battle" throughout the series between seasoned pacer James Anderson and Indian skipper Virat Kohli.

PL introduces new measures

REUTERS

The Premier League has introduced new measures to tackle discrimination in the game ahead of the new season, including permanent stadium bans for supporters, it said on Tuesday.

All 20 clubs have agreed to enforce league-wide punishments, including bans, for individuals found to have behaved in an abusive manner towards any club employee, player, match official, steward or fan attending a game.

The new measures will also cover online abuse, with the League saying it is continuing to work with clubs to challenge social media companies and authorities to take more preventative measures.

The league has also said players will continue to take the knee at games.

Indian women to assemble for training camp

Players will have to undergo a 14-day quarantine upon arrival in Australia



Though the squads for the Australia tour are yet to announced, around 30 cricketers have been asked to reach Bengaluru. • REUTERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Members of the Indian women's cricket team have started assembling in Bengaluru for the training camp ahead of the Australia tour in September-October.

Though the squads for the full-fledged tour are yet to announced, around 30 cricketers have been asked to reach Bengaluru. The players will start training after a six-day quarantine.

The players currently competing in the Hundred -Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana, Jemimah Rodrigues, Deepti Sharma, and Shafali Verma – have been asked to join the national team in Bengaluru no later than August 22 as they too will have to undergo a sixPlayers currently competing in the Hundred have been asked to join the team in Bengaluru no later than August 22

day quarantine before the squad leaves for Australia at the end of the month.

The players will have to undergo a 14-day quarantine upon arrival in Australia before they take on the hosts in first ODI scheduled in Sydney. In total, India play three ODIs, a day night Test and three T20s Down Under.

"The first week in Australia will be hard quarantine. After that, the team is likely to be given permission to train for the next seven days as they complete their quarantine," a BCCI official said.

The Super King is here!



Set to go: Chennai Super Kings skipper M.S. Dhoni, who is in Chennai, along with other Indian team members is set to depart for the UAE on August 13. • TWITTER/CHENNAIIPI

players association VP

Instead of defending

players' rights and interests

he said the AFI "does not res-

pond to their needs and ex-

pectations". Former nation-

al skipper Drogba had been widely expected to head the

West African country's foot-

ball association FIF but last

vear saw his candidacy

snubbed as the AFI alleged

he has not been sufficiently

involved with the players' re-

to win a November election

He still hopes nonetheless

presentative organisation.

to that post.

Indian cadet archers set

New high: Priya, Parneet, and Ridhu scored 22 points more

than the previous mark. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SPORTS BUREAU

on Tuesday

Indian compound cadet

archers broke two world re-

cords in the World youth ar-

chery championships here

The women's team, com-

prising Priya Gurjar, Par-

neet Kaur and Ridhu Sethil-

kumar, gathered 2067

points to score 22 points

more than the previous

mark in the ranking round.

India accumulated 44 points

more than second-placed

Turkey. The USA was third

combined to collect 1401

Priya and Kushal Dalal

with 2027 points.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Former Ivory Coast star

striker Didier Drogba on

Tuesday said he was step-

ping down as vice-president

of his country's Footballers

Association (AFI) accusing it

of "inaction" on defending

decided to resign from my

post as vice-president of the

AFI and from its executive

committee," the former

Chelsea attacker said in an

open letter to the media.

"I hereby announce I have

player interests.

TTFI yet to serve show-cause on Manika Drogba resigns as Ivorian

Says delay is due to administrative issues and that it will be despatched soon

TABLE TENNIS

AMOL KARHADKAR

Almost a week since announcing its decision to seek a formal explanation from paddler Manika Batra for her "serious act of indiscipline" during the Tokyo Olympics, the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) is yet to despatch the show-cause notice.

A senior TTFI official on Tuesday confirmed the same, saying it was due to "administrative issues and will be despatched in a day or two". Manika remained unavailable for comment.

On August 4, the TTFI Ex-

ecutive Committee had unanimously decided to act against Manika for her refusal to let National coach Soumyadeep Roy advice her during her singles matches in Olympic.

"The Board members felt that if at all Manika wanted to show her displeasure, rejecting the services of the National coach for her singles matches was no way to do it," TTFI secretary general Arun Kumar Banjerjee had told The Hindu then.

The TTFI was expected to email the notice the next

Having exited in the round of 32, the most successful Olympic campaign

for an Indian female paddler, Manika was unhappy that her personal coach, Sanmay Paranjape, was not allowed field of play access for indivi-

After her campaign came to an end, Manika had told *The* Hindu that she and Roy didn't have a fall-out when she asked the Arjuna Award recipient to not sit for her singles matches.

"He sat for our mixed doubles match. Later, he asked me and I told him I would play alone. He was fine with it," she had told this publica-10th seed Sofia Polcanova.



tion minutes after losing to Misdemeanour: Manika Batra refusal to let National coach Soumyadeep Roy advice her has raised TTFI's hackles. • PTI

Chirag-Satwik duo keen to bounce back

Pair admits it was difficult to come to terms with the early exit from the Olympics

BADMINTON

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Top Indian men's doubles player Chirag Shetty on Tuesday admitted it was difficult to come to terms with the early exit from the Tokyo Games but said he and his partner would look to utilise the Olympic experience to win medals at the upcoming events, especially the World Championships December.

Chirag and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, ranked World no. 10, won two of their three group matches but failed to qualify for the knockout stage after games won by each pair were considered to decide the two qualifiers following a threeway tie.

"It was kind of good and sad experience for us as we had to go out early," said Chirag, who is the Event Ambassador of Mumbai Ultra Run to be held on Aug. 15, during a virtual press conference.

"I thought we would go to quarterfinals after the win on the first day but unfortunately three pairs, including us, won two matches each and it was decided by games won, so it was unfortunate but overall it was a good experience."

The 24-year-old from Mumbai is now targeting the upcoming major events such as Sudirman Cup (September 26-October 03), Thomas Cup (October 9-17) and World Championships (December 12-19). "There are a lot of posi-

tives to take from the Olympics, we played well gamewise and there are a lot of tournaments coming up like the Sudirman Cup, Thomas Cup and World Championship in December. "So we will look to do well

in these events and hopefully we can come back with a



Looking ahead: Chiraq Shetty and Satwiksai aim to better their performance at World Championships after a disappointing Olympic campaign • PHOTO: AP

South Africa women to tour West Indies

CAPE TOWN

Cricket South Africa on

will take place in Antigua with the Sir Viv Richards Cricket Ground the host venue for the T20 segment of the tour as well as the final two ODIs. Three ODIs will take place at the Coolidge

This important outbound tour will serve as vital preparation for the Proteas Women in the lead-up to next year's Women's Cricket World Cup in New

Pakistan counterparts.

two world records

Tuesday announced that the women's team will tour West Indies for three T20Is and five ODIs, beginning August 31. Both the T20I and ODIs

Cricket Ground.

Vital preparation

Zealand.

The Proteas have enjoyed great success in recent times and will be hoping to continue their rich form against a formidable West Indies side that has just come from a comfortable series win against their

teams scored more than the previous world record of 1387. The cadet men's team totalled 2088 to be placed third after USA (2107) and

points to push Turkey (1396)

and USA (1390) to second

and third spots. All three

Turkey (2097). Kushal (705) was third in the individual men's category. Sahil Chaudhary (697) and Mihir Apar (686) were

ninth and 20th respectively. In the women's individual category, Priya (696) took the No.1 position, while Par-

neet (689) and Ridhu (682) placed third and fourth.