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100

Percentile



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5 YR. CLASSROOM

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4 YR. CLASSROOM

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 100 PERCENTILE	 100 PERCENTILE	 100 PERCENTILE	 99.99 PERCENTILE	 99.99 PERCENTILE	 99.99 PERCENTILE	 99.99 PERCENTILE
PRAVAR KATARIA 5 YR. CLASSROOM	ANMOL ARICHWAL 4 YR. CLASSROOM	PAL AGGARWAL 1 YR. DISTANCE	CHAITANYA AGGARWAL 2 YR. DISTANCE	PARTH PATEL 2 YR. DISTANCE	VAIBHAV BAJAJ 5 YR. CLASSROOM	SREEHARI C 2 YR. CLASSROOM

SUBJECT-WISE
100 PERCENTILE SCORERS

PHYSICS 51	CHEMISTRY 16	MATHS 15
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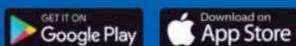
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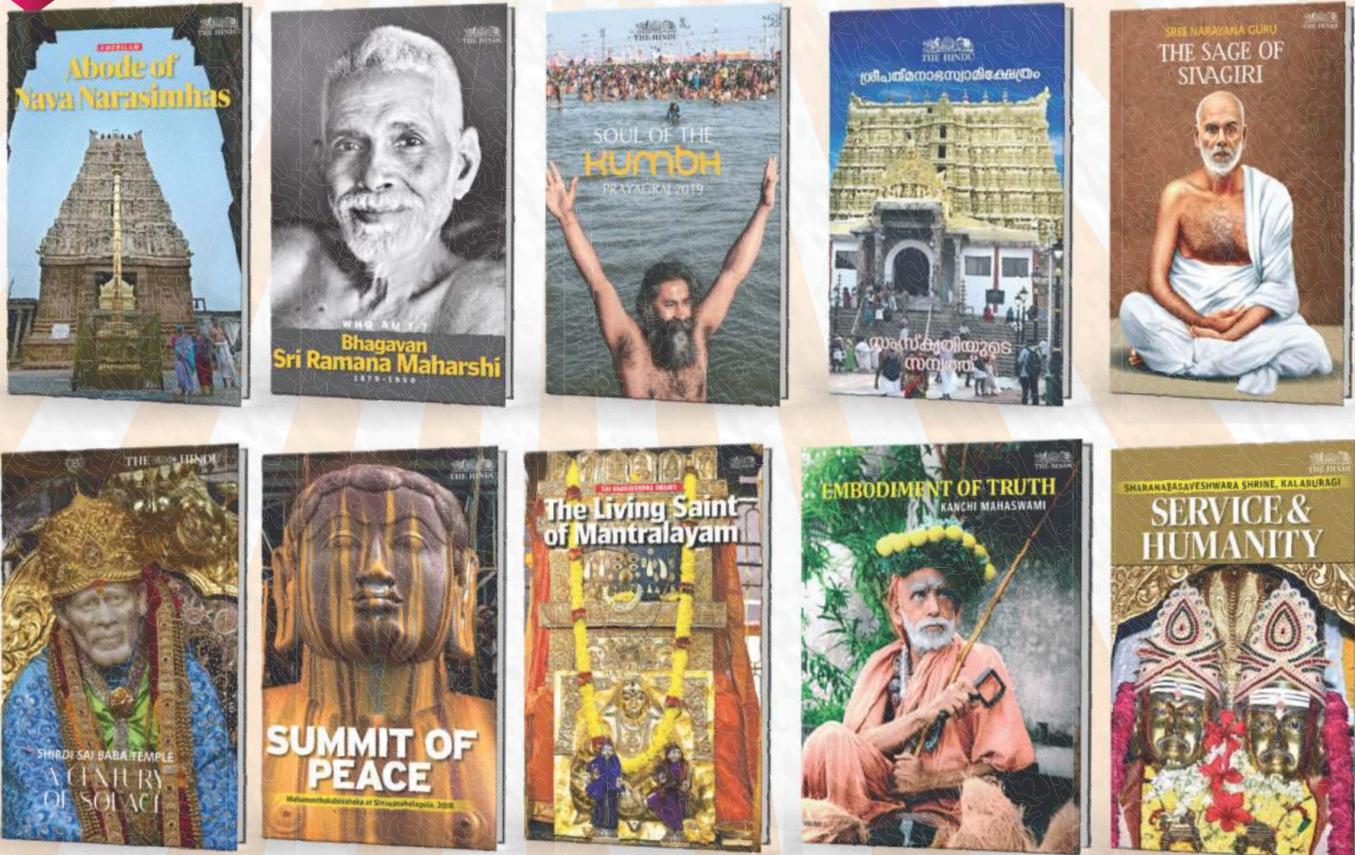




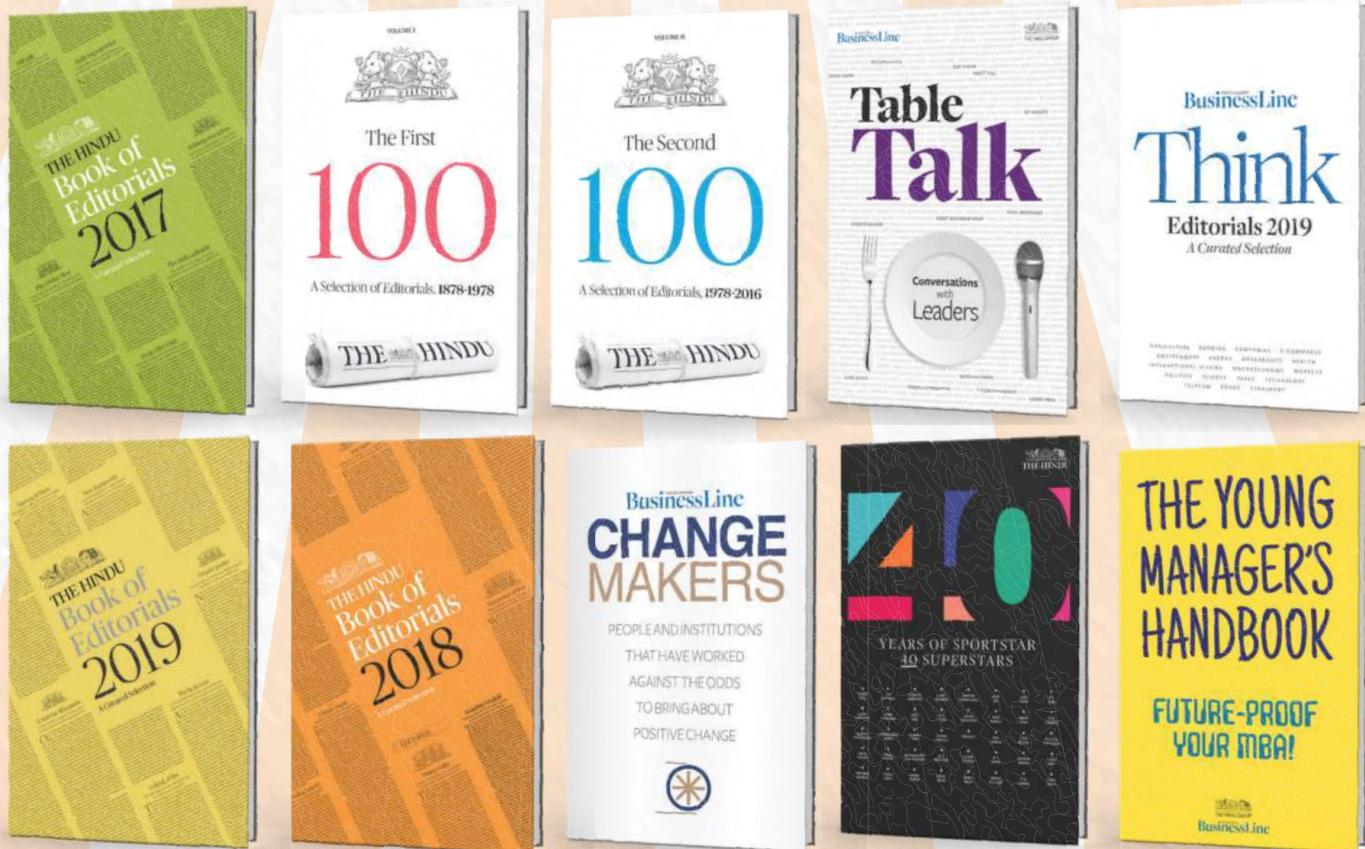
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Rahul's offending tweet removed, Twitter tells Delhi High Court

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Rajya Sabha clears Insurance Bill amid protests by Opposition

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Taliban could take over Kabul in 90 days, say U.S. defence officials

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India takes on England in second Test at Lord's from today

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NEARBY



Amarinder meets Modi, seeks repeal of farm laws

NEW DELHI
Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday and urged him to repeal the farm reform laws and amend the relevant law to make farmers eligible for free legal aid. The CM argued that the agitation was not only impacting economic activities in Punjab but also had the potential to affect the social fabric.

NORTH & EAST | PAGE 4

Govt. schools to get world-class education

NEW DELHI
The newly formed Delhi Board of School Education on Wednesday signed an agreement with the International Baccalaureate to adopt global practices in the field of curriculum, pedagogy and assessment at 30 government schools during the session 2021-22. The Delhi government said that students will be able to access the highest international standards of education.

CITY | PAGE 2

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'Backchannel talk was on before Balakot'

Two foreign journalists were involved in India-Pakistan messaging, says new book

SUHASINI HAIDAR
VIJAYTA SINGH
NEW DELHI

National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval and the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) exchanged messages with top Pakistani Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) officials as part of a unique backchannel connection between the two countries that involved two foreign journalists, Adrian Levy and Cathy Scott-Clark, in 2018-19, even after the Pulwama attack, according to a new book by the journalists that quotes the NSA and other senior intelligence officials.

According to the authors, the ISI officials disclaimed all

knowledge of the Jaish-e-Mohammad attack in Pulwama within hours of the incident, which was apparently planned in Helmand in Afghanistan, and not Pakistan. Mr. Doval and Deputy NSA Rajinder Khanna disbelieved the Pakistani messages, however, and carried out the Balakot strikes to "humiliate the Pakistani military", the book says.

Pathankot attack

In another disclosure, the authors say that Indian investigators found that "corrupt local police officers" had helped four Jaish terrorists sneak into the Pathankot airbase to carry out an at-

Key revelations

A look at some of the claims made in an upcoming book on the intelligence agencies of India and Pakistan

- IC 814 hijack was a "diplomatic failure", said NSA Ajit Doval

- NSA disbelieved ISI claims that it was not responsible for the Pulwama attack and launched the Balakot strikes to punish the Pak. military

- Kulbhusan Jadhav was an "asset" not an "officer", didn't have training in intelligence

- ISI set a trap for Jadhav, lured him to Pakistan

- Corrupt police officials helped Jaish terrorists attack the Pathankot airbase

Source: *Spy Stories: Inside the Secret World of The R.A.W. and I.S.I* by Adrian Levy and Cathy Scott-Clark

tack, in which seven security personnel were killed.

In a surprise move, the Narendra Modi government had invited a team of Pakistani investigators to Pathankot to jointly investigate the terror attack, but relations

broke down between the two countries shortly after, and the joint investigation plan went nowhere.

The NIA chargesheet filed the same year against Jaish does not mention that the terrorists were helped by un-

informed men.

The authors also conclude that Kulbhusan Jadhav, the former naval commander accused of planning terror attacks and awaiting an appeal on a death sentence in Pakistan, was an "asset" but not an "officer" of the Indian intelligence agencies. He had been "trapped" by the ISI.

India has flatly denied those charges, and said that Mr. Jadhav retired from service in 2001 and was kidnapped by Pakistani agencies in Iran. However, the book says many Indian intelligence agencies had shown interest in recruiting Mr. Jadhav due to his access from Iran to Pakistan, and that he was lured by the ISI to Karachi to meet a Baloch contact.

CONTINUED ON | PAGE 8

10 killed, 60 missing in Himachal landslip

Bus feared to have rolled down gorge



On the job: Rescue workers searching for victims in Nigulsari, Himachal Pradesh, on Wednesday. ■ V.V. KRISHNAN

VIKAS VASUDEVA
NINGULSARI

At least 10 persons were killed after some vehicles, including a Himachal Road Transport Corporation bus with at least 28 passengers on board, were hit by boulders and mud following a major landslide on National Highway 5 at Nigulsari in Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh on Wednesday.

The landslide occurred around 12.30 p.m., close to Nigulsari village. The bus is feared to have rolled several feet down the gorge towards Sutlej river. The bus was on its way from Reckong Peo in Kinnaur to Haridwar in Uttarakhand, according to officials.

"We have recovered one damaged car, but no one

was found inside it. The HRTC bus and a sports utility vehicle and their passengers have not been found under the debris. They are still untraceable. It is possible that both vehicles rolled down with the debris," Suresh Kumar Mokhta, Director, State Disaster Management Force, told *The Hindu*.

13 rescued

The State government, in a statement, said 10 bodies, including that of a child and five women, had been recovered. Thirteen persons had been rescued, and about 60 are feared to be buried under the debris, it added.

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RELATED REPORT ON | PAGE 8

India Inc should increase its appetite for risk: Modi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Calling on India Inc to strengthen its partnership with the government to build "Brand India", Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday asked industry to increase its risk-taking appetite and step up investments, especially in research and development.

"A vehicle cannot run on one wheel... industry needs to increase its natu-

ral tendency to take risks," Mr. Modi said, addressing the annual session of the Confederation of Indian Industry.

"To achieve Atmanirbhar Bharat, we need to adopt new and difficult routes. The country has lots of expectations from industry to increase the rate of investment and employment."

STRONG BRAND INDIA | PAGE 10

Centre admits to oxygen deaths

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry has for the first time admitted that some patients who were on ventilator support died while undergoing treatment for COVID-19 due to inadequate oxygen supply.

Without specifying the exact number, Minister of State for Health Bharati Pravin Pawar said in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday that in May, Andhra Pradesh had reported that some patients died after a drop in oxygen pressure at

a hospital, as per the preliminary inquiry. The Ministry had maintained that "no State has so far specifically told the Ministry about deaths due to oxygen shortage", and that only one State noted suspected deaths due to inadequate oxygen supply.

The Minister said that as per a communication, dated August 9, 2021, by Andhra Pradesh, on May 10, some patients who were on ventilator support died while undergoing treatment for COVID-19 at Sri Venkateswara Ramnarain

Ruia Hospital.

"As per the preliminary inquiry incident report, it appears that the interval between the levelling out of the 10 KL oxygen tank and the switching on of the backup manifold system of this hospital resulted in the drop in pressure in the oxygen lines. This led to insufficient oxygen being available for the patients mainly on ventilator support," Ms. Pawar noted.

NOT TAKEN LIGHTLY | PAGE 10
GOVT. TAKES BACK CLAIM | PAGE 3

CS assault case: court discharges Kejriwal, Dy. CM, 9 AAP leaders

Charges to be framed against 2 MLAs

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Wednesday discharged Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, his deputy Manish Sisodia and nine other Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders in a case of assault on the then Chief Secretary, Anshu Prakash, during a meeting on February 19, 2018.

The court, however, ordered framing of charges against AAP MLAs Amanatullah Khan and Prakash Jarwal for offences including assault or use of criminal force to deter a public servant from discharge of his duty.

Mr. Kejriwal, Mr. Sisodia and the nine leaders - Rajesh Rishi, Nitin Tyagi, Praveen Kumar, Ajay Dutt, Sanjeev Jha, Rituraj Govind, Rajesh Gupta, Madan Lal and Dinesh Mohaniya - were named in the present case on the basis of Mr. Prakash's complaint that the meeting was called at midnight by the Chief Minister under a "pre-planned conspiracy".

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Sachin Gupta said, "From the conduct of A-3 (Mr. Kejriwal) and the surrounding circumstances, it cannot be inferred even remotely that he was part of any such conspiracy, much less to draw any inference of his complicity in the commission of offence."

Star witness

The court relied on the statement given by star witness V.K. Jain, the then adviser to the Chief Minister, that Mr. Kejriwal asked the two MLAs - Mr. Khan and Mr. Jarwal - to refrain from any unruly behaviour.

"Once the Chief Minister did so, there was no occasion for the Deputy Chief Minister and the other MLAs present there to do the same," the court said.



Former Delhi Chief Secretary Anshu Prakash. ■ FILE PHOTO

The court further rejected Mr. Prakash's allegation that specific MLAs were chosen by the Chief Minister and the Deputy CM for the purpose of the meeting at midnight.

Terminating the allegation as "without any merits", the court said, "... They had gathered there as per the directions of the Chief Minister to attend a meeting."

Mr. Jain, in his initial statement to police, had said that during the meeting he went to the washroom and could not say as to what happened during that time. However, he changed his stance while recording his statement before the magistrate. He said when he came back from the washroom, he saw Mr. Khan and Mr. Jarwal, by way of physically touching and pushing the Chief Secretary, were asking Mr. Prakash as to why he was not performing his duties. During that incident, Mr. Prakash's spectacles fell down, he said.

"Allegations levelled by the complainant against Amanatullah Khan and Prakash Jarwal find corroboration from the statement of star witness Mr. V. K. Jain recorded under Section 164 of CrPC, which is sufficient at this stage to prima facie show their complicity in the commission of the offence," the court said.

'JUSTICE HAS WON' | PAGE 3

Kaziranga guards get satellite phones

It is the first national park in India to do so, say officials

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Kaziranga has become the first national park in India to have been equipped with satellite phones, officials said on Wednesday.

The decision to provide satellite phones for boosting anti-poaching measures was taken at a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on May 27. The State's Chief Secretary, Jishnu Barua, handed over 10 phones to the Kaziranga forest personnel. The satellite phones will be used in pock-



The Kaziranga park under water during the monsoon.

ets of the park's six ranges with no wireless or mobile connectivity.

"Kaziranga has become the first in the country to use satellite phones, which are generally used by the law-en-

forcing agencies. The satellite phones will give an edge to the forest personnel over the poachers and also during emergencies like floods," Forest Minister Parimal Suklabaidya said.

The public is barred from using satellite phones in India. The Assam State Disaster Management Authority had procured the 10 satellite phones for Kaziranga at an estimated cost of ₹16 lakh. The park authorities will bear the monthly expenses for the service provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.

BJD demands caste-based Census

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
BHUBANESWAR

The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) on Wednesday demanded a caste-based Census be conducted for identifying and enumerating Socially and Educationally Backward Communities and Other

Backward Classes, and increasing reservation beyond the 50% ceiling by enacting a Central legislation.

A BJD delegation of MPs from both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha led by Pinaki Mishra met Home Minister Amit Shah at his Par-

liament chamber and apprised him of the need for a caste-based Census.

Two BJP allies, the Janata Dal (United) and Apni Dal, have also raised similar demands in the recent past.

DETAILS ON | PAGE 4

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- Geography** by Alok Ranjan Sir (Founder, Digmani Education) 18th Oct, 2021 (Online & Offline classes)
- Mathematics** by Maneesh Singh Sir 17th Aug, 2021 (Live-Online classes)
- Philosophy** by Dharmendra Sir (Founder, Patanjali IAS) 18th Oct, 2021 (Offline classes)

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IN BRIEF

DUAC nod for erecting entry gate at Tikri border
NEW DELHI
The Delhi Urban Arts Commission (DUAC) has given approval to a proposal to erect an entry gate at the Tikri border and beautify a 200-metre stretch at the entry point, government officials said on Wednesday. The proposal was prepared in December 2018 by the Tourism Department and later was announced in the 2018-19 budget presentations by the government. PTI

DU holds virtual open day for law aspirants
NEW DELHI
Delhi University on Wednesday conducted a virtual open day for aspirants seeking admissions to law courses in the varsity. Senior DU officials reiterated that data, including bank details, documents and other details, once entered into the system, cannot be modified later.

Body parts of Nangal Dalit victim cremated
NEW DELHI
The cremation of the remaining human tissue and feet of the Dalit girl, who was allegedly raped and killed in south-west Delhi's Old Nangal, was conducted on Wednesday by her parents, the police said. The girl died under suspicious circumstances on August 1. Her parents alleged that she was raped and forcibly cremated by a crematorium's priest. PTI

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Govt. schools to get world-class education

International Baccalaureate inks deal to become knowledge partner of Delhi Board of School Education

JAIDEEP DEO BHANJ
NEW DELHI

The newly formed Delhi Board of School Education on Wednesday signed an agreement with the International Baccalaureate (IB) to adopt global practices in the field of curriculum, pedagogy and assessment at 30 schools of Delhi government during the 2021-22 session. The Delhi government said that students studying at 10 Sarvodaya schools (Classes Nursery-8) and 20 Schools of Specialised Excellence, SoSE (Classes 9-12) that are affiliated to the DBSE will now be able to access the highest international standards of education.

Highest standards
Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal after announcing the tie-up, said that people used to undermine the Delhi government's vision for education in the Capital. They thought that the DBSE was started just for the sake of it but

Partnership at a glance

The collaboration between the Delhi Board of School Education (DBSE) and the International Baccalaureate (IB) will see direct intervention in 30 DBSE-affiliated government schools during the 2021-22 session. Twenty of them are Schools of Specialised Excellence (SoSE)

BENEFITS OF THE COLLABORATION:

- Approaches to teaching and learning through IB's globally acclaimed educational programmes
- Through IB professional development, educators are to undertake the workshops to help in their own professional goals and development
- With access to IB programme resource centre, teachers will gain assessments' best practices across IB programmes
- School programme readiness to be achieved through consultancy, verification and evaluation visits. Participation in IB seminars and conferences and programme-network meetings to share knowledge and gain positive experiences

through this collaboration, pedagogy of the highest standards will be inculcated in the curriculum of the DBSE schools in collaboration with the IB.

"The biggest schools of the world and the country where the richest of rich children go to study dream of getting an affiliation of the IB, as their pedagogy is of the

highest international standards. Across the world, the IB has collaborated with about 5,500 schools in 159 countries. They have collaborated with the governments of America, Canada, Spain, Japan and South Korea among other developed countries," Mr. Kejriwal said.

He said that in the last six years, the Delhi government

has invested very heavily, both in terms of commitment and financial resources, that has led to a complete transformation of education in government schools. "We were standing at a juncture where we had to improve what is being taught, how it is being taught and we had to prepare our children for the international standards. When it succeeds, it will be a great model for the rest of our country and show that we can provide the best quality of education to the most underprivileged of the people," Mr. Kejriwal said.

Through the agreement, the IB will become a knowledge partner with a government board. This will translate into experts from foreign countries coming here to train the schools under the DBSE and improve their quality to international standards, the government said. Under the guidance of the IB, schools will be inspected, verified, and certi-

fied and they will tell what the school lacks and how it can be improved, the government said paving the way for more schools to get affiliated to the DBSE.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, also DBSE president, said that the government's aim was to ensure that students from Delhi become global leaders.

Development workshops
Stefanie Leong, Head of Development and Recognition, Asia-Pacific, IB, who is based in Singapore said that the partnership entails that IB development workshops provide opportunities to engage in rich learning experiences for the school leaders and educators, and serve as a tool to help schools meet professional requirements of the highest quality. "IB education is designed to develop knowledgeable and caring young people who are dedicated to creating a better world," she said.

HC seeks Ramani stand on Akbar's plea

"Trial court erroneously acquitted scribe"

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday sought response from journalist Priya Ramani on former Union Minister M.J. Akbar's appeal against a trial court order acquitting her in the criminal defamation case filed by him her tweets accusing him of sexual harassment.

Justice Mukta Gupta posted the case for further hearing on January 13.

Defamatory charges

Senior advocates Rajiv Nayar and Geeta Luthra, appearing for Mr. Akbar, argued that the trial court "erroneously" acquitted Ms. Ramani despite concluding that her allegations were defamatory in nature.

Mr. Akbar, in his appeal, stated that the trial court's judgment "suffers from non-application of mind, which has led to crucial errors".

"On one hand, while the impugned judgment itself states that the article written by the accused [Ms. Ramani], which was subsequently linked to the complainant [Mr. Akbar], was defamatory, and simultaneously rejects the defence of the accused that only part of the article applied to the complainant and the remainder did not, it ultimately acquits the accused," the plea said.

"It would follow that the accused, once her argument is rejected and her publication is held to be defamatory, would be convicted. However, the trial court, even after holding as above, has acquitted the accused, without providing adequate reasons for such acquittal," it added.

At the height of the #MeToo movement in 2018, Ms. Ramani had accused Mr. Akbar of sexual harassment.

Former BJP leader gets bail in hate slogans case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Wednesday granted bail to former BJP spokesperson Ashwini Upadhyay, arrested in connection with the communal slogans allegedly raised during a protest at Jantar Mantar on August 8.

Metropolitan Magistrate Udbhav Kumar Jain granted relief to Mr. Upadhyay on a bond of ₹50,000.

The accused, an advocate, was sent to judicial custody on Tuesday, considering that his bail application was pending.

A video showing anti-Muslim slogans being raised

during a protest at Jantar Mantar was widely circulated on social media, following which Delhi Police registered a case in connection with the matter on Monday. Hundreds of people had attended the protest organised by 'Bharat Jodo Aandolan' on August 8.

Shipra Srivastava, media in-charge of Bharat Jodo Aandolan, had said the protest was held under the leadership of Mr. Upadhyay. However, she denied any links to those who raised anti-Muslim slogans.

Mr. Upadhyay too denied any involvement in slogan shouting incident.

Govt. resource centre for children with special needs

Over 30 such centres will be launched

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Wednesday inaugurated a resource centre at R K Puram which will provide medical facilities like physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and behaviour modification to children with special needs studying in government schools.

The Delhi government said that 31 such resource centres will be launched by in all the education zones of the city. In the first phase, 14 resource centres will be

launched while in the second phase we will see the launch of 17 resource centres. At least 12,705 children with special needs studying in government schools will benefit from these 17 resource centres.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said that the Delhi government is fully committed to providing inclusive education to children with special needs.

"These resource centres will be run in partnership with organisations working in the field of disability rehabilitation," Mr. Sisodia said.

'Earmark more space for children, creches, diaper-changing stations'

Child rights body sends suggestions on MPD-2041 to DDA

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) has submitted its suggestions on the Master Plan 2041 to the Delhi Development Authority including, earmarking more spaces for children, more creches to enable women to join the workforce, reconsider land norms for educational institutes, and diaper-changing stations in men's toilets.

The recommendations made by DCPCR chairper-

son Anurag Kundu said that the government should build infrastructure, which would facilitate change in people's mindset in terms of gender roles.

"Toilets in some public places should have diaper changing facilities but not in women's toilets only. It is time men change their children's diapers. Master plan must account for it," one of the suggestions read.

Another recommendation was greater space for children to meet growing demands especially for chil-

dren homes, hostels, pediatric wards, and colleges.

"Facilities such as creches are key enablers for women to join the workforce. Similarly, availability of sanitary pads and robust disposal systems at public utility places is a key area of focus that the Commission recommends for the Authority," read another recommendation.

"The DDA should consider these changes and revise its Master Plan to make it a genuinely friendly city for children," Mr. Kundu said.



INDEPENDENCE DAY 2021



Invites to the Independence Day 2021 function at the Red Fort are requested not to bring the following prohibited items:
आमंत्रित अतिथियों से अनुरोध है कि लाल किले पर स्वतंत्रता दिवस 2021 के समारोह में निम्नलिखित प्रतिबंधित वस्तुएं साथ में न लाएं:

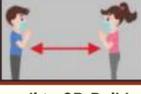
Entry strictly through invitation card/ticket only
प्रवेश सिर्फ आमंत्रण पत्र/टिकट के द्वारा ही होगा

Prohibited Items	वर्जित वस्तुएं
Photo/फोटो Particulars / विवरण	Photo/फोटो Particulars / विवरण
 Eatables खाने-पीने की चीजें	 Cigarettes, Bidi, Lighter सिगरेट, बीड़ी, लाईटर
 Bag, Briefcase थैला, ब्रीफकेस	 Alcohol, Perfumes, Spray शराब, इत्र, स्प्रे
 Radio, Transistor, Tape Recorder, CD, DVD, MP3 Players रेडियो, ट्रांजिस्टर, टेपरिकॉर्डर, सीडी, डीवीडी, एमपी3 प्लेयर	 Dagger, Sword, Cutting Material, Sharp/Pointed Edged Material, Screw Drivers नुकीला हथियार, चाकू, पेंचकस
 Camera, Binocular, Handycam कैमरा, दूरबीन, हैंडिकैम	 Umbrella, Replica Fire Arms, Toy Gun or Toys छाता, आग्नेयास्त्र, खिलौना पिस्तौल और खिलौने
 Thermos Flasks, Water Bottles, Cans थर्मस, पानी की बोतल, कैन	 Knives, Scissors, Razors, Blades, Wire, Pluckers चाकू, कैंची, रेज़र, ब्लेड, तार, प्लकर
 Inflammable Items, Match Boxes ज्वलनशील पदार्थ, दियासलाई	 Arms & Ammunition, Fireworks, Crackers Explosive etc. हथियार और गोला बारूद, पटाखे आदि
 Various Electronic Gadgets, Devices e. g. I-Pad, I-Pod, Palm Top/Laptop, Computer, Tablets, Power Bank etc. विभिन्न इलेक्ट्रॉनिक उपकरणों जैसे आई-पैड, आई-पोड, पाम टॉप/लैपटॉप, कम्प्यूटर, टैब्लेट, पावर बैंक इत्यादि	 Avoid keeping Mobile Phones, Remote Controlled Car Keys as it may delay your entry due to checking मोबाइल फोन, रिमोट कंट्रोल कार चाबी रखने से बचें क्योंकि इससे जांच के दौरान आपके प्रवेश में देरी हो सकती है

Any unidentified object, if noticed, may be brought to the notice of the nearest Security Personnel
यदि कोई लावारिस वस्तु दिखाई दे, तो निकटतम सुरक्षाकर्मी के नोटिस में लाएं

Please co-operate with Police for searching/frisking
कृपया तलाशी देने में पुलिस के साथ सहयोग करें

Please be alert to your surroundings
कृपया अपने आस पास नज़र रखें



Maintain Covid Appropriate Behaviour/Protocol

कोविड अनुरूप व्यवहार/शिष्टाचार बनाए रखें



E-mail to CP, Delhi at: cp.rakeshasthana@delhipolice.gov.in | Write to: CP, Delhi at P.O. Box. No. 171, GPO, New Delhi

FOR IMMEDIATE POLICE HELP CALL 112

TO SHARE INFORMATION CALL 1090



PUBLIC NOTICE



PROHIBITION OF FLYING UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) / Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UASs), para gliders, para motors, hang-gliders, micro light aircrafts, remotely piloted aircrafts, hot air balloons, small size powered aircrafts, quadcopters have been prohibited to fly **till 16.08.2021** vide prohibitory order issued specifically in this regard.

Any person contravening this order will be liable for criminal prosecution.

All general public, shopkeepers, stockists, amateurs & professionals are requested to abide by the prohibitory order.

FOR IMMEDIATE POLICE HELP CALL 112

TO SHARE INFORMATION CALL 1090

Timings DELHI

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

SATURDAY, AUG. 14
RISE 05:50 SET 19:02
RISE 11:21 SET 22:53

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	36	26
Safdarjang	36	26
Palam	36	28

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

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
36°C Day will be very warm with partly cloudy sky and gentle winds. Very light rain or thunder clouds development possible.

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THE HINDU
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Justice has won; PM's conspiracy exposed'

Sisodia says fake FIR lodged in Anshu Prakash assault case

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Wednesday said the case regarding 'assault' on former Chief Secretary Anshu Prakash was a "conspiracy" hatched by the Prime Minister.

"Today is a day of victory of justice and truth in Delhi. Now, it has become clear that this conspiracy to obstruct the government elected by the people of Delhi is on the behest of PM Narendra Modi, the Centre and the BJP, and it has been exposed now. Considering the truth is in front of everyone, The Centre and the BJP should apologise to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and the people of Delhi who chose him," he said.

Mr. Sisodia said false and fabricated conspiracies were being hatched from day one to obstruct the Delhi government, and that Mr.



Manish Sisodia

Kejriwal was treated like a "terrorist".

'Attempt to topple govt.'
"This would be the first instance of Independent India when a Prime Minister hatched a conspiracy to topple a State government, fearing the increasing popularity of the Chief Minister elected by the people. Officers were forcibly stopped from working for the public good for six months," Mr. Sisodia said.

He said that the PM was

chosen by the people to run the country and not for making "false cases" or to bring down State governments.

"Today, the Centre has become so busy in all this that the country's systems are failing. This failure of the Centre can also be seen in the mismanagement of the COVID-19 crisis," the senior AAP leader said.

He claimed that the BJP is scared of Mr. Kejriwal's popularity, so a fake FIR was made against him using the Delhi Police, and his house and office were raided.

"He was treated like a terrorist. This is the first incident after Independence when such a raid was conducted in the house and office of a sitting CM. Police entered Mr. Kejriwal's bedroom. He was treated like a terrorist. The police interrogated him for six hours continuously," he said.

Govt. takes back claim, says Centre did request data on oxygen-scarcity deaths

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A day after Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia claimed that the Centre had never asked for any data on oxygen-scarcity deaths in the city during the second COVID-19 wave, the Delhi government on Wednesday reversed its claim.

'Not enough time'

The Delhi government has now stated it was asked to submit the data, but added

that the Centre gave only "12-14 hours" to file a report on the issue.

"The Centre has not sought any report from the Delhi on deaths due to lack of oxygen... Till now no information or letter has been sent... The centre is spreading the lie that States are not giving information, whereas they themselves have not asked for any information from the States," Mr. Sisodia had said on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, however,

he said: "In the communication received by the Delhi government on July 26, the Centre gave time till noon of next day to file the data, a mere 12-14 hours. It was never mentioned that the data can be submitted by August 13. If there is any such letter that says so then it must be shown by the Centre."

He also reiterated that the Delhi government will submit a report to the Centre on the oxygen-scarcity deaths.

Chief Secretary bats for strict vigilance

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Secretary Vijay Kumar Dev on Wednesday held a meeting with top officials of the Vigilance Department and the Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) regarding a soon-to-be-launched anti-corruption drive.

Citywide surveillance and vigilance of all important departments will be part of the campaign, which seeks to

identify field officers who are indulging in malpractices, patronising touts and harassing the public.

According to the Delhi government, Mr. Dev said only those officers who have an "excellent track record" and have never been accused of corruption should be conducting the drive.

"All departmental officers should install CCTVs in their offices so that visitors can be

closely monitored. Officers and employees found involved in corruption cases will be charged under various sections of the Indian Penal Code," the government stated.

Mr. Dev also directed the Divisional Commissioner, the appointing authority of sub-registrars, to give such posts to officials who have impeccable service records and integrity.

BJP asks CM to apologise to Anshu Prakash, dismiss two MLAs

Cong. says police made a weak case at Centre's behest

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Delhi BJP on Wednesday demanded that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal apologise to former Chief Secretary Anshu Prakash after a city court ordered framing of charges against two AAP MLAs in relation to his alleged assault at the Chief Minister's residence in 2018.

Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta expressed surprise over Deputy CM Manish Sisodia

"praising" AAP MLAs Amantullah Khan and Prakash Jarwal against whom the court ordered the framing of charges. "The charges against these MLAs have been framed under Sections 186, 353 of the IPC. It is shocking that Mr. Sisodia, rather than dismissing them from the party, is defending and praising such elements who indulge in acts of violence against the senior-most IAS officer," Mr. Gupta said.

"Propriety demands that these two MLAs should be immediately dismissed from the party, especially now that charges have been

framed against them. The fact that all this happened at the CM's residence and in his presence also points a finger at him," he added.

Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said the framing of charges against the two AAP MLAs "proved" that the Chief Secretary was actually beaten.

"Mr. Kejriwal and some MLAs may have been given a clean chit due to lack of sustainable evidence but fixing of charges against the two MLAs shows that a beating took place in the CM's presence and thus the CM is morally responsible. He should

apologise to Mr. Prakash," Mr. Kapoor said.

The Delhi Congress said the framing of charges against the MLAs was proof enough that there was a strong case for Mr. Prakash to approach a higher court to appeal against the discharge of Mr. Kejriwal and others.

'CM should resign'

The party called for the suspension of the two MLAs and demanded the resignation of Mr. Kejriwal on moral grounds as the 'assault' occurred at the CM's residence.

Delhi Congress chief. Ch. Anil Kumar said, "The very

fact that the incident happened in the presence of Mr. Kejriwal and Mr. Sisodia at the CM's official residence should automatically make out a case against the CM for instigating his MLAs to assault Mr. Prakash, which is an equally serious offence."

"The fact that the police filed a very weak case against Mr. Kejriwal and his party MLAs shows that the BJP is keen to bail them out in return for Mr. Kejriwal's silence on the Pegasus case and support for the Centre's anti-farmer laws, one of which was validated in the Delhi Assembly," he added.

No new COVID-19 death

Test positivity rate now at 0.06%

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The city reported only 37 new COVID-19 cases in the past 24 hours, taking the total cases to 14,36,889, as per a bulletin released by the Delhi government on Wednesday. There was no death reported and the toll stood at 25,068.

A total of 66,886 tests were done in a day and the test positivity rate (TPR) was 0.06%. Of the total cases, 14,11,327 people have recovered and there are only 494 active cases in the city.

In early May, the active cases were as high as 99,361.

Vaccine stock

The COVID-19 vaccine stock of the city on Wednesday morning would last for three days and there were 3,26,720 doses of Covishield and 3,07,940 doses of Covaxin, as per another bulletin by the government.

A total of 1,40,843 vaccinations were done on Tuesday and till now, 1,09,77,134 doses of vaccines have been administered in the city, the bulletin said.

Kejriwal 'locks' transport office, launches online services

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Termining it a gift for Delhiites ahead of the 75th Independence Day, the city government on Wednesday launched 'faceless services' related to the transport department.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal inaugurated the initiative by putting a lock on the premises of the IP Estate Zone RTO.

According to the government, the programme will initially cover 33 major transport-related services — covering almost 95% of the applications usually received by the department — with more services to be added soon. Only driving test and vehicle-fitness test will be done in person.

Faceless services will provide "freedom from long queues, brokers and middlemen at the RTO office", the government said, adding that people can now access "all the work of the transport department" while sitting at home.

"People would go, stand in lines every time and then someone would keep making objections in their application again and again. Eventually you'd get tired and get an agent to do it," Mr. Kejriwal said.

"All services of the transport department are now digital, no need to collect documents and stand in lines, no need to take a holiday, no need to hire a middleman or agent. Just turn the computer on and do it," he added.

Four RTOs were closed on Wednesday: IP Depot, Vasant Vihar, Sarai Kale Khan and Janakpuri. Helpdesk services will be available at these offices to ensure a smooth transition.

DELHI POLICE
SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

TRAFFIC ADVISORY

Independence Day Celebrations

FULL DRESS REHEARSAL ON 13 AUGUST 2021

PROHIBITED AREA
ALLOWED ONLY FOR LABELLED VEHICLES AND BONAFIDE RESIDENTS (DURING 0400 Hrs. TO 1000 Hrs.)

ROAD CLOSED FOR GENERAL TRAFFIC (0400 Hrs. TO 1000 Hrs.)

ROAD CLOSED FOR CITY BUSES (0000 Hrs. TO 1100 Hrs.)

DIVERTED BUS ROUTES

SUGGESTED ACCESS TO OLD DELHI RLY. STATION

SUGGESTED ACCESS TO KASTURBA GANDHI HOSPITAL

SUGGESTED CORRIDORS FOR GENERAL TRAFFIC

METRO STATIONS

TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS AROUND RED FORT

The following roads will be closed for general traffic from **4.00 AM to 10.00 AM** and only labeled vehicles will be permitted:-

- Netaji Subhash Marg from Delhi Gate to Chhatta Rail Chowk.
- Lothian Road from GPO Delhi to Chhatta Rail Chowk.
- S.P. Mukherjee Marg from H.C.Sen Marg to Yamuna Bazar Chowk.
- Chandni Chowk Road from Fountain Chowk to Red Fort.
- Nishad Raj Marg from Ring Road to Netaji Subhash Marg.
- Esplanade Road and its Link Road to Netaji Subhash Marg.
- Ring Road from Rajghat to ISBT.
- Outer Ring Road from ISBT to IP Flyover i.e. Salimgarh Bypass (As & when required).

ROADS THAT MAY BE AVOIDED FROM 0400 Hrs to 1000 Hrs :

Those vehicles which do not have parking labels for the rehearsal may avoid C- Hexagon India Gate, Copernicus Marg, Mandi House, Sikandra Road, W Point, A point Tilak Marg, Mathura Road, BSZ Marg, Subhash Marg, J.L. Nehru Marg and Ring Road between Nizamuddin Bridge and ISBT Bridge and Outer Ring Road from IP Flyover through Salimgarh Bypass to ISBT and take the route as advised.

NORTH-SOUTH ACCESS

Alternative-1 Aurobindo Marg-Safdarjang Road-Mother Teresa Crescent-Park Street-Mandir Marg-Panchkuian Road - Rani Jhansi Road and reach their destinations in North Delhi and vice-versa.

Alternative-2 Reach Connaught Place-Minto Road-Bhavbhuti Marg-Ajmeri Gate -Shradhanand Marg-Lahori Gate Chowk-Naya Bazar-Peeeli Kothi-S.P. Mukherjee Marg up to ODRS and reach their destination in North Delhi and vice versa.

Alternative-3 Reach Nizamuddin Bridge to cross Yamuna -Pushpa Road-G.T. Road and cross Yudhishtar Setu to ISBT and reach their destination in North Delhi and vice versa.

EAST WEST CORRIDOR

- DND-NH24 (NH9)-Vikas Marg-Shahdara Bridge and Wazirabad Bridge will remain open to reach Ring Road.
- Vikas Marg-DDU Marg-Bhavbhuti Marg-DBG Road Boulevard Road-Barf Khana-Rani Jhansi flyover-DBG Road -Panchkuian Road will remain open.
- Geeta Colony Bridge will be closed towards Shantivan-** Similarly, Traffic would not be permitted on lower Ring Road from ISBT Kashmir Gate towards Shantivan and from IP flyover towards Rajghat.

People are advised to reach early to avoid last minute rush & inconvenience.

SIGNAGES

Adequate informative signages will be displayed for the guidance of vehicular traffic destined for the Red Fort at all important traffic junctions.

RESTRICTIONS ON MOVEMENT OF COMMERCIAL TRANSPORT AND INTERSTATE BUSES:

- Goods vehicles will not be permitted between Nizamuddin Bridge and Wazirabad Bridge from the **00:00 midnight to 11:00 AM on 13.08.2021.**
- INTERSTATE BUSES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED BETWEEN MAHARANA PRATAP ISBT AND SARAI KALE KHAN ISBT **FROM 00.00 midnight TO 11.00 AM on 13.08.2021.**

RESTRICTIONS ON MOVEMENT OF CITY BUSES APART FROM RESTRICTED ROADS

Local city buses including DTC will not move on Ring Road from 0000 midnight to **11 AM on 13.08.2021** between ISBT and Ring Road-NH-24(NH-9)/NH 'T' point (Nizamuddin Khatta) and take alternative route available.

Buses ordinarily terminating at Red Fort, Jama Masjid and Delhi Main Railway Station will be curtailed/diverted as below:-

- Opposite Ramlila Ground on J.L.N. Marg for buses approaching from South and West Delhi. Pedestrians can approach Red Fort via Nukkar Faiz Bazar and Subhash Marg.
- At Mori Gate and Tis Hazari for buses coming from North, North West and East Delhi via ISBT Bridge. Pedestrians can reach Red Fort via Pul Dufferin and S.P. Mukherjee Marg.
- At Boulevard Road opp. Maharaja Agrasen Park for buses coming from North Delhi side from Ring Road. Pedestrians can reach Red Fort via Lothian Road-Chhatta Rail-S.P. Mukherjee Marg-Chandni Chowk-Esplanade Road.

Normal bus service will be restored after 10:00 AM

How to Approach/Reach Important places

1) Old Delhi Railway Station:

- From West and South Delhi:** Mother Teresa Crescent-Park Street- Mandir Marg-Panchkuian Road-Rani Jhansi Flyover-Azad Market- Boulevard Road-Mori Gate-Pul Dufferin-S.P. Mukherjee Marg to reach the Railway Station.
- From North:** Mori Gate-Pul Dufferin-S.P. Mukherjee Marg to reach the Railway Station.

2) New Delhi Rly. Station: There is no restriction.

3) ISBT Kashmir Gate

- From New Delhi and South Delhi:** Mother Teresa Crescent-Park Street-Mandir Marg-Panchkuian Road-Rani Jhansi Road and Rani Jhansi Flyover-Boulevard Road.
- From North Delhi:** There is no restriction.

4) J.P.N. Hospital: There is no restriction.

5) Kasturba Hospital: Ajmeri Gate-Ajmeri Bazar-Chowk Hauz Quazi- Chawri Bazar-Chowk Barshabullah-Urdu Bazar.

★ No HGV / MG / LGV & Inter state Buses Allowed on Ring Road (Between Loop ISBT Bridge Ring Road to 'T' Point Nizamuddin Fly-Over) from Midnight 12-08-2021 to 1100 hrs on 13-08-2021

7 labourers feared dead in Rajasthan mine collapse

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT JAIPUR

Seven labourers, including three women, were feared dead when an illegal quartz mine in Rajasthan's Bhilwara district, where they were working, caved in on Wednesday. Two bodies were pulled out while five were buried deep under the rubble till late evening.

three months ago, the owners restarted the operations after their release from jail last week.

Efforts were underway to rescue the remaining workers or retrieve bodies, while officials feared that they could be buried at a depth of 50 to 80 feet from ground.

Villagers stage protest

The villagers staged a protest after the accident, alleging that the administration had failed to take timely action to stop illegal mining despite being informed about the resumption of activities at the mining site.

Amarinder meets Modi, seeks repeal of farm laws

'Ongoing farmers' stir has implications for national security'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday and urged him to repeal the farm laws and amend the relevant law to make farmers eligible for free legal aid.

A statement from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said Capt Singh had cautioned the Prime Minister that the farmers' agitation had "the potential of posing security threat to Punjab and the country with Pak-backed anti-India forces looking to exploit the farmers who are disgruntled with the government".

He called for immediate review and revocation of the



CM Amarinder Singh

farm laws as they have triggered widespread resentment among farmers of Punjab and other States, who have been protesting at the Delhi's borders since last November 26.

Urging the Prime Minister's intervention in finding a solution, the Chief Minister argued that the continued ag-

itation was not only impacting economic activities in Punjab but also had the potential to affect the social fabric, especially when political parties and groups take strong positions.

Paddy straw issue

The Chief Minister also underlined the need to compensate farmers for the management of paddy straw at ₹100 per quintal and also to address the fears of DAP shortage that could aggravate the "crisis triggered by the three laws".

Earlier in the day, Capt. Singh also called on Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya to ask for increased allocation of vaccine supplies.

BJD demands caste-based enumeration in new Census

Party seeks database for accurate reservation policies

SATYASUNDAR BARIK BHUBANESWAR:

The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) on Wednesday demanded a caste-based Census be conducted for identifying and enumerating Socially and Educationally Backward Communities (SEBC) and Other Backward Classes (OBC), and increasing reservation beyond the 50% ceiling by enacting a Central legislation. Two BJP allies, the Janata Dal (United) and Apna Dal, have also raised similar demands in the recent past.

A BJD delegation of MPs from both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha led by Pinaki Mishra met Home Minister Amit Shah at his Parliament chamber and apprised him of the need for a caste-based

Census.

They said it was necessary to insert appropriate columns in the format of the 2021 Census to get a clear picture of the socio-economic and educational statuses of the SEBC, OBC and other classes in order to formulate appropriate policies for their benefit.

In the proposed formats for the General Census 2021, there is no provision to capture details of the SEBC and OBC.

"A detailed scientific database is very much required with regards to the SEBC and OBC category for the formulation of accurate reservation policies for holistic development, welfare and upliftment of these categories of the

population," Mr. Mishra said.

The memorandum submitted by the BJD MPs says no formal Census including caste details has been carried out since 1931.

'Huge challenge'

The MPs observed in the memorandum: "Unavailability of reliable and authentic data about the exact numbers of the SEBC and OBCs, geographical area of their spread and density has been a huge challenge in ensuring focused and outcome specific planning."

"For a welfare government, it is a constitutional obligation and abiding commitment for inclusive growth of the weaker sections of the society," they emphasised.

AMARAVATI METROPOLITAN REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
LENN CENTER, GOVERNORPET, VIJAYAWADA-520002(A.P.)
E Procurement Tender Notice
Tender cum Reverse Auctioning or Reverse Tendering
NIT: 10/2021/MAU61-USIOHB(BG)/19/2021-HB dated: 11.08.2021
Name of Work: "Construction of G+3 Floors building for accommodating 14 court halls, chambers with approximate BUA of 76,000 Sqft with foundation of G+5 Stories with RC column frame structure, Architectural Finishes, MEP services, Lifts and other ancillary works including Two Years Defect Liability Period at AP High Court premises, Nelapadu, Andhra Pradesh." - Tender cum reverse Auction/Reverse Tendering ECV - Rs.29.40 Crores.
The bid can be downloaded on AP e-procurement portal from 16.08.2021 to 01.09.2021 up to 14.00 Hrs. Due date for submission of Bid 01.09.2021 up to 15.00 Hrs, Pre-Qualification stage opening 01.09.2021 @16.00Hrs. For further details please refer to www.approcurement.gov.in and <https://crda.ap.gov.in/>
Sd/- Metropolitan Commissioner, AMRDA, Vijayawada.

Appeal for Identification



General public is hereby informed that one person Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: Approx. 60 Yrs., Height: 5'2", Sex: Male, Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Thin, Face: Long, Hair: White, ID Marks: Mole on Right Hand, Wearing: Light Green Lungi only, Place of Recovery: Found on 07.08.2021 in unconscious condition from near Metro Pillar No. 03, Nehru Chowk, PK Road, New Delhi and admitted in LHMC Hospital vide MLC No. 1519/2021 where doctor declared him brought dead on 07.08.2021

In this regard DD No. 97A, Dated 07.08.2021 has been lodged at Police Station, Mandir Marg, New Delhi. Any clue come to notice please inform undersign.

SHO P.S. Mandir Marg, New Delhi Ph.: 011-23364100, 23366730 DP/309/NDD/2021

OFFICE OF THE SPL. DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE(COMMN) ASSAM
ULUBARI, GUWAHATI - 781007
No. RE/456(COMPUTER)/2020-21/33
APPENDUM

With Reference to the NIT no. RE/456(COMPUTER) /2020-21/23 DTD. 17/07/2021 for "SUPPLY OF 1 KVA UPS (Offline) for APRO, the following information has been incorporated with the Clause 29. SL (iii) and (iv):

The Locations where UPS will be used and bidder should provide Onsite Service/Repairing/Replacement Warranty are- Hon'ble CM's office/Residence, Chief Secretary's Office, Home Deptt., Assam Police HQ, All HQ of various Police Organization, Guwahati Police Commissionerate, All SP Offices, MCC Dispur, Police Training College, Dergaon, APRO Training School Jalukbari, All Police range HQ/SDPO Office/ CI Office/PS of Assam

The details of each location will be provided during the award of contact. All the other terms and conditions of the tender do remain unchanged.

Supdt. of Police(Commn.), Assam Ulubari, Guwahati-07 Janasanyog /C/4281/12

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Withdrawal Notice (Advt. PR No. 5 of 2021)
It is notified for information of all concerned that advertisement No. PR - 08 of 2018, PR- 28 of 2018, PR - 34 of 2018 and PR-43 of 2018 which were published in the various newspapers and also available on MDU Website i.e. www.mdu.ac.in vide which online application forms were invited for various teaching posts, are hereby withdrawn due to the administrative reason.
REGISTRAR
PRDH 1235/11/11/2022/4142/1997

Modern Coach Factory, Raebareilly
Open tender based on Two packet system i.e. Technical Bid & Financial Bid, Tender Notice No.-MCF/RBL/Tender/offloading/Mech /2021-22/C-484 Date, 06.08.2021 is invited by Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/SMS & Housekeeping, MCF/RBL through IREPS portal www.ireps.gov.in for and on behalf of president of India for the following work:- Description of Work: Offloading of manpower (CNC operator/Assistance) for various machines in SMS including press, shear, folding and drill operations as per scope of work. Approx. Value (₹) 2.41, 82,298.00 Cost of Tender document (₹) - Zero EMD Firm has to submit the Bid Security Declaration at the time of E-Bid submission in lieu of requisite Earnest Money Deposit. Quantity of Work- 300 working days. Completion period of Work-300 working days. Date & time of closing of Tender-31.08.2021 up to 15.00 hrs. Detailed Tender Notice, Eligibility criteria, Terms & conditions are available at IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in in tender document.
Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/SMS & House Keeping

On behalf of the President of India, Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/FP&Paint, Modern Coach Factory, Raebareilly is inviting open e-Tender (Tender Notice No.-M-200/ Cutting of Floor Board/2021-22, Date:-06.08.2021) based on single packet system online through Indian Railway portal www.ireps.gov.in for following work:- Description of work Works contract for the work of cutting of floor board, doorway board & gangway board for LHB type coaches as per scope of work. Approx. Value(Rs.): Rs. 57,87,574.16 Quantity of work- 1771 Coach set. Work completion period- 12 Months or earlier. E-Tender submitted through online up to 15.00 hrs. on 31.08.2021. Manual offer will not be considered. E-Tender shall be opened on 31.08.2021 after 15.00 hrs through online on <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. Detailed Tender E-Notice and Terms & conditions are available at Indian Railway IREPS website- <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. Dy. Chief Mech. Engr./FP&Paint

On behalf of the President of India, Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/FP&Paint, Modern Coach Factory, Raebareilly is inviting open e-Tender (E-Tender Notice No.-M-200/ Coach Shunting/2021-22, Date:07.08.2021) based on single packet system online through Indian Railway portal www.ireps.gov.in for following work:- Description of work Works contract for the work of Internal and External Shunting of LHB coaches in Shell shop, Blasting Shop, Paint Shop, Furnishing Shop & yard shunting with help of Traverser & Tractor shunter as per scope of work. Approx Value of work (Rs.): Rs. 46,50,807.84 Quantity of work- 300 Working Days. Work completion period- 12 Months or earlier. E-Tender submitted through online up to 15.00 hrs. on 31.08.2021 which will be opened after 15.00 hrs. through online on <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. Manual offer will not be considered. Detailed Tender E-Notice and Terms & conditions are available at Indian Railway IREPS website- <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. Dy. Chief Mech. Engr./FP&Paint

SN	Tender No.	Short Description	Qty.	Due Date
01	04211070	Pipe 42x2 in Length of 6000 MM	21688 MTR	07.09.2021
02	07211061	Tapping Tool for OP-10 Machine	232 Nos	10.09.2021
03	07211182	Solid Cutter for Machining of Bolster 'L' Type metal Stoppers	60 Nos	13.09.2021
04	07211063	Milling Insert for Milling in Bolster Pin Brackets Surface	1950 Nos	13.09.2021
05	05211182	70 AH, 110 V, VRLA Maintenance Free Monoblock Battery	1371 Set	07.09.2021
			674 Set	

Corrigendum

01	21/ET/2021-22 Dated: 23.07.2021	Tender No. 06215004	Due date may be read as 03.09.2021 instead of 26.08.2021
02	20/ET/2021-22 Dated: 20.07.2021	Tender No. 03211323	Due date may be read as 16.08.2021 instead of 09.08.2021

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Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration & Research
No.1-10-153-156, AMD Complex, Begumpet, Hyd-500016

BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

The Director, (AMD), Begumpet, Hyderabad invites for and on behalf of the President of India, sealed tenders in two parts (TECHNICAL and COMMERCIAL) from eligible Core Drilling contractors, for the following works in the parts of Rajasthan and Jharkhand.

Item No.	NIT No., TENDER NO. & SCOPE OF WORK	Estimated job value (in Lakhs INR)	Earnest Money (in INR)	Last Date and time of availability of Tender Documents for download	Last Date and time of Submission of online Tender	Date and Time of Opening of Part I	Period of completion in months
1.	NIT No. AMD/CD/WR/CORE/2021-22/T-212, Date: 30.07.2021 TENDER NO. AMD/CD/WR/CHKR/CORE/2021-22/T-212 3,000 metre core drilling in Chhota Udaipur - Kachariya areas in Ajmer District, Rajasthan with borehole depth varying from 200 to 300 metre.	99.63	NIL *	25-08-2021 at 15:00 hrs.	30-08-2021 at 17:00 hrs.	31-08-2021 at 15:00 hrs.	8 (EIGHT)
2.	NIT No. AMD/CD/WR/CORE/2021-22/T-213, Date: 02.08.2021 TENDER NO. AMD/CD/WR/GKD-LKB/CORE/2021-22/T-213 10,000 m core drilling in Geratiyon Ki Dhani - Kundala-Ladi-Ka-Bas North area, Sikar District, Rajasthan with borehole depth varying from 250 to 500 metre.	319.90	NIL *	25-08-2021 at 15:00 hrs.	30-08-2021 at 17:00 hrs.	31-08-2021 at 15:30 hrs.	12 (TWELVE)
3.	NIT No. AMD/CD/ER/CORE/2021-22/T-214, Date: 03.08.2021 TENDER NO. AMD/CD/ER/KNLK/CORE/2021-22/T-214 10,000 m core drilling in Kanyaluka area, East Singhbhum District, Jharkhand with borehole depth varying from 175 to 850 m.	353.90	NIL *	25-08-2021 at 15:00 hrs.	30-08-2021 at 17:00 hrs.	31-08-2021 at 16:00 hrs.	14 (FOUR TEEN)
4.	NIT No. AMD/CD/ER/CORE/2021-22/T-215, Date: 04.08.2021 TENDER NO. AMD/CD/ER/KDA(D)/CORE/2021-22/T-215 10,000 m core drilling in Kudada deep block, East Singhbhum District, Jharkhand with borehole depth varying from 850 to 1150 m.	421.70	NIL *	25-08-2021 at 15:00 hrs.	30-08-2021 at 17:00 hrs.	31-08-2021 at 16:30 hrs.	15 (FIF TEEN)

* The Bidder including MSE registered firms shall submit the Bid Security Declaration in lieu of Earnest Money Deposit. Without Bid Security Declaration, the bid will not be considered. It is mandatory for the bidders to upload the Bid Security Declaration in Website www.tenderwizard.com/DAE along with the Tender document. Detailed tender notice along with other documents are available on website: www.tenderwizard.com/DAE. Detailed NIT is also available on website www.amd.gov.in for view only. For further clarification, please contact on: 040-27776342/27776335/27776387.

'Save RTI applicants threatened by NSCN (I-M)

Manipur rights group writes to Home Minister seeking protection for them

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI

A Manipur-based rights group has appealed to Home Minister Amit Shah to save and secure the lives of four Right to Information (RTI) applicants who have been "repeatedly threatened and intimidated" by members of an extremist group.

The Movement for People's Rights Forum, Manipur (MPRFM), said a local unit of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak-Muivah)

had been issuing death threats to the RTI users of Senapati district, forcing them to go into hiding since March 2020.

'House arrest'

The four are Kh. Inoch of Phaibung village, P. Johnson Samo of Taphou Phymai village, S.P. Benjamin of Ngari Raidulomai village and P.R. Amose of Khabung Khunou village. The last three have been lying low in Manipur capital Imphal, about 60

km from their villages, while Mr. Inoch has been under "house arrest" in his village.

The four apparently irked the local leaders of the NSCN (I-M) by seeking to know how funds received by the Phaibung, Phuba and Karong Autonomous District Councils under the 13th and 14th Finance Commissions since 2015 had been spent.

The RTI applications had been submitted following reports that the funds were being misused by the district

councils in collusion with certain agents without the projects being executed on the ground.

Information declined

While the information officers declined to provide the information, leaders of the NSCN (I-M)'s Shepoumarath Region (encompassing the areas covered by the district councils) ordered them to withdraw their application or face stern action.

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TENDER NOTICE Shine India Goods And Infra Pvt. Ltd. Invites proposals for Engineering Consultancy with Supervision for Construction of 4 Cold Storages & 4 Central Stores in the state of Punjab & Delhi. For details, Contact: 8555825773, 18005723349. Visit: www.sigipl.com/tender

For Sale / Auction : Wet Damaged Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) Fertiliser - 418 MT approx (final qty as per actual lifting) Lying At Gujarat Pipavav Port Ltd., APM Terminals - Pipavav Rajula, Dist: Amreli, Gujarat Contact Person For Inspection: Mr. Vishnuvardhan Rao - 97237 09819 Last Date For Inspection & EMD Deposit - 24.08.2021 & Date Of E-auction- 25.08.2021 (3 PM), Auctioneer: Meeenakshi - 9625137014 / M F Islam - 09911003339 (Insurance Claim Material Will Be Sold On As Is Where Is, 'Whatever There Is' And 'No Complaint' Basis).
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IN BRIEF



Kerala announces ₹2 cr. cash award for Sreejesh

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
The Kerala government has announced a cash award of ₹2 crore for Indian hockey goalkeeper P.R. Sreejesh, who was part of the bronze medal-winning team in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. This is the highest award given by the State government for a sportsman.

Y.V. Subba Reddy sworn in as TTD Chairman

TIRUMALA
Y.V. Subba Reddy was sworn in as Chairman of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Trust Board for the second time on Wednesday. During a brief ceremony held at the Bangaru Vakili, TTD Executive Officer K.S. Jawahar Reddy administered Mr. Subba Reddy the oath of office.

Kerala HC rejects State's stand, stays panel probe against ED

'Parallel investigations will derail diplomatic channel gold smuggling case'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court has stayed the functioning of the V.K. Mohan Commission appointed by the State government to probe whether any conspiracy was hatched or deliberate attempts were made to implicate Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and other senior functionaries in the diplomatic channel gold smuggling case.

The interim order was passed by Justice P.B. Sureshkumar on Wednesday on a writ petition filed by P. Radhakrishnan, Deputy Director of the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

In its order, the court noted that the question of conspiracy was to be examined by the Special Court supervising the investigation un-



Parallel investigations will ultimately benefit the accused, the HC said.

der the Prevention of Money Laundering (PML) Act and proved by the ED.

The court held that parallel investigations and inquiries would impede and derail the probe and would ultimately go to the benefit of the accused, defeating the

object of the legislation under which the accused were booked.

The court noted that the inquiry was ordered into the question whether the contents of a voice clip and a letter stated to have been issued by the accused persons in the gold smuggling case, investigated by the various Central agencies including the ED, would reveal any conspiracy to falsely implicate the leaders of the political front of the State.

ED's argument

Appearing for the ED, Thushar Metha, Solicitor General, argued that the notification appointing the commission was issued with the oblique motive to put pressure on the investigation officers and to derail the inves-

tigation into the money laundering committed by highly influential persons in the State.

Rejecting the arguments of the State government, which challenged the locus standi of the Deputy Director of the ED to file a writ petition, the court held that he was a statutory authority under the PML Act and could file the petition.

One of the terms of reference of the commission was to inquire into the facts and circumstances leading to a letter written by Sandeep Nair, an accused in the diplomatic channel gold smuggling case, revealing an attempt to falsely implicate State Ministers, the Chief Minister and the Assembly Speaker in serious criminal cases.

HC 'shocked' at uncovering of statue on Bengaluru lake

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court on Wednesday termed 'shocking' the incident of removal of the cover of a statue of Lord Siva, installed on an artificial island constructed on the Begur lake by the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), by a group of persons in violation of the court's 2019 orders.

The court also directed the City Police Commissioner to examine the allegations made about violation of its order as narrated in a statement filed by the Environment Support Group (ESG).

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka and Justice M. Nagaprasanna issued the direction while hearing PIL petitions through which the court is monitoring steps taken to restore and rejuvenate lakes.

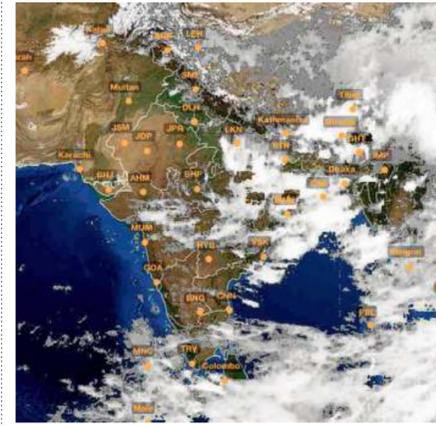
"If what has been stated in the memo is true then the practice of defying the court's order must be deprecated by all ..." the Bench observed while directing the Police Commissioner to keep a vigil of the lake area where the statue is installed.

It was alleged in the statement, quoting social media posts by certain persons, that a group of persons unveiled the statue by removing the cover and have put saffron flags by making communal allegations against Leo Saldanha of the Environment Support Group, who had approached the High Court on encroachment of lakes, specifically on the illegality of construction of artificial islands in the Begur lake.

The Bench adjourned the hearing to August 18.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places over Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu; heavy rainfall at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, east Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Odisha, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	3	34.3	27.2	Kozhikode	22	30.2	24.8
Ahmedabad	0.8	33.9	26.2	Kurnool	...	35.7	26.8
Aizawl	...	28.5	23.6	Lucknow	37	31.6	24.4
Allahabad	114.2	27.5	25	Madurai	...	35.7	26.2
Bengaluru	...	28.2	20.8	Mangaluru	13	28.4	24
Bhopal	2.5	28.7	23	Mumbai	...	31.5	26
Bhubaneswar	45.6	34.6	25.4	Mysuru	...	31.1	21.4
Chandigarh	...	36	26.6	New Delhi	...	34.9	26.4
Chennai	...	36.2	28.5	Patna	10	26.6	34.2
Coimbatore	...	32.3	22.8	Port Blair	36	23.9	29.7
Dehradun	0.1	32.8	24	Puduchery	...	37.6	24.6
Gangtok	...	23.6	18.9	Pune	0.2	29.8	21
Goa	...	31	25.1	Raipur	...	33.4	25.5
Guwahati	...	33	27.4	Ranchi	9	33.7	23.3
Hubballi	...	28	22	Shillong	5	25	18.6
Hyderabad	5	34.1	24.4	Shimla	...	28	19.3
Imphal	...	29.4	23	Srinagar	...	32.2	18.6
Jaipur	...	34	26	Thiruvananthapuram	...	30.4	24.8
Kochi	0.2	29	24.6	Tiruchi	...	35	26
Kohima	1	26.6	18	Vijayawada	...	38.8	27.6
Kolkata	7	35	28.1	Visakhapatnam	...	38.8	27.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

CITY	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	3	53	125	137
Bengaluru	5	36	30	94
Chennai	12	16	91	49
Delhi	10	67	88	214	286	...
Hyderabad	32	26	11	58	88	...
Kolkata	12	26	19	71	84	...
Lucknow	14	15	86	80	107	...
Mumbai	8	78	13	40	120	...
Pune	...	25	49	106	89	...
Visakhapatnam	20	49	33	71	104	...

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Udupi, Karnataka recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 188 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 22

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO₂: 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 and monuments.
NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.
CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.
PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Central team pinpoints flaws in Kerala's COVID-19 protocol

'Inadequacies in home care, contact tracing are main factors'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The multi-disciplinary team deputed by the Centre to study Kerala's COVID-19 situation has pinpointed inadequacies in home care and isolation of positive patients, poor contact tracing efforts and lack of active surveillance to be the primary reasons for the rise in cases in the State over the past one month.

The team also reported that the ABCD classification based on test positivity rate (TPR) had limited impact on disease transmission.

One observation of the team was that there was no active disease surveillance in the community and that case detection was mostly by testing those reporting in hospitals with influenza-like illnesses.

It also pointed out that contact tracing was "abysmally low", with no more than two contacts per case being traced.

In districts such as Malappuram and Kozhikode, where the family size is huge and joint families are the norm, transmission was spreading within families

leading to a high TPR.

It was noted that 85% to 90% of those who tested positive are in home isolation and that there seemed to be low acceptance of isolation facilities created by the government.

But home isolation did not seem to be working well and quarantine norms were being violated, leading to increased transmission within homes and formation of case clusters.

The Central team has recommended better and close monitoring of patients in home isolation.

T.N. moves SC against NGT order on Mekedatu

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Tamil Nadu government has moved the Supreme Court against a National Green Tribunal (NGT) decision to close proceedings against the Mekedatu dam project.

The tribunal had in June expressed its satisfaction over the Karnataka government's submissions that requisite environmental clearances were pending consideration before the statutory authorities concerned.

The Tamil Nadu government submitted in the Supreme Court that the case had been closed by the NGT without giving it (Tamil Na-

du) an opportunity to present its side of the case.

Tamil Nadu said, "The NGT failed to consider that the pending adjudication relates to the challenge to the preparation of Detailed Project Report for Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir Cum Drinking Water Project while the issue raised in the original application was with regard to taking up road laying work without taking any forest and environment clearances under the Forest Conservation Act, 2003, and Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, and the impact on the nearby reserve forests and wildlife sanctuaries."

WEST

Maratha agitation forced Centre to introduce amendment: Raut

He says it will be 'half-baked' unless Centre lifts 50% quota cap

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

While crediting the tenacity of the Maratha quota agitation in Maharashtra for compelling the Centre to introduce the Constitution (127th Amendment) Bill 2021, which seeks to restore the power of State governments to identify and specify socially and economically backward classes, Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut expressed concern that the amendment would remain 'half-baked' unless the Union go-

vernment lifted the cap on 50% reservation.

Speaking in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday, Mr. Raut targeted the Narendra Modi-led BJP government over the 102nd Amendment in 2018 for vesting all powers in the National Commission for Backward Classes for determining the backwardness of particular communities in States.

"If this Bill [127th Amendment] is historic and revolutionary, then the credit must go to the sustained Maratha

agitation which compelled the Centre to introduce it in the first place. Lakhs of Maratha community youth took to the streets for their rights, but in a disciplined fashion without causing any law and order problem ... no one was harmed during these agitations nor was property damaged," said Mr. Raut.

However, he said he did not think that the path to Maratha reservation would be cleared even after the Constitution (127th Amendment) Bill was passed.

The Hindu In School to conduct eco-Ganpati making workshops

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

The Hindu In School, in collaboration with a Mumbai-based NGO, Parisar Asha, is conducting mega eco-Ganpati making online workshops to sensitise families to the environmental contamination caused by the immersion of POP Ganesh idols.

The workshops aim to teach the participants and their family members the technique of making Ganpati idols using fire clay (shadu) or other easily available eco-friendly material and conserve the environment.

The efforts are directed towards creating a ripple effect where the trained participants can further pass the knowledge to their community members.

The workshops will be held on August 14, 15, 21 and 22, and September 4 and 5. Two batches will be conducted on each day at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m..

Children can choose the dates and batch to attend the



sessions by paying a nominal fee of ₹299. To register, call at 9820955057/8828233442/9821083540 or email at info@parisarasha.com/ajit.balan@thehindu.co.in

This initiative is being presented by Union Bank of India, and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation of India is the energy partner.

The best work will be selected at the end of each session and all the winners will be awarded after the event.

Teen detained for mother's murder

RAINA ASSAINAR
NAVI MUMBAI

The Rabale police in Navi Mumbai on Wednesday detained a teenager for allegedly killing her 41-year-old mother and then trying to pass it off as a suicide. She was sent to a juvenile home in Bhiwandi.

Suresh Mengade, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Zone I, said, "After clearing Class X exam, the teenager's parents wanted her to become a doctor and enrolled her for classes for NEET exam. The mother and the daughter used to fight over her studies for NEET classes." On July 30, during one such fight, the mother threatened her with a knife. But the girl pushed her mother who banged her head against the corner of a cot. The mother tried to grab a karate belt lying nearby but the teenager snatched it and strangled her to death.

DELHI POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE

(DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT)

4th FLOOR, ISBT BUILDING, KASHMERE GATE, DELHI-110006

Visit us at: <http://dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in>

PUBLIC NOTICE - BATTERY WASTE MANAGEMENT

Battery (Management & Handling) Rules, 2001 came into force w.e.f 16th May, 2001. These rules mandate various responsibilities on manufacturers, importers, assemblers, re-conditioners, dealers, recyclers, consumers, bulk consumers and auctioneers. Major responsibilities of each of these stakeholders are listed as under.

Manufacturers/Importers

- Shall ensure that the new batteries be sold only to the registered dealers and the used batteries are collected back as per the schedule against new batteries sold excluding those sold to original equipment manufacturer and bulk consumer(s).
- Shall file a half-yearly return of their sales and buy-back to the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) in **Form-I** latest by 30th June (for Oct-Mar) and 31st December (for Apr-Sept) of every year.
- Set up collection centres either individually or jointly at various places for collection of used batteries from consumers or dealers and shall ensure that the collected batteries are sent only to the registered recyclers.
- Shall ensure that necessary arrangements are made with dealers for safe transportation from collection centres to the premises of registered recyclers and shall ensure that no damage to the environment occurs during the transportation.
- Create public awareness through advertisement, publications, posters or by other means with regards to (a) hazard of lead (b) responsibility of consumers to return their used batteries only to the dealer or deliver at designated collection centre and (c) address of the dealer and designated collection centres.
- Buy recycled lead only from registered recyclers.
- Bring to the notice of the DPCC or the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India for any violation by the dealers.
- Importers shall apply for registration as per **Form II** and **Form III** on the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) online portal for a period of five years (link: <http://cpcbbrms.nic.in/>).

Assemblers/Re-conditioners

- Shall ensure that the used batteries collected back are of similar type and specifications as that of the new batteries sold and shall ensure that used batteries collected are sent only to registered recyclers.

- Create public awareness through advertisement, publications, posters or by other means with regard to hazards of lead.

Dealers

- Apply for registration by submitting online application in **Form-IV** available on DPCC website by creating user ID and password for the period of five years.
- Shall ensure that the used batteries are collected back as per the schedule against new batteries sold.
- Shall ensure safe transportation of collected batteries to the designated collection centres or to registered recyclers.
- Shall file a half-yearly return of their sales



and buy-back of old batteries to the DPCC and manufacturer in **Form-V** latest by 31st May (for Oct-Mar) and 30th November (for Apr-Sept) of every year.

Recyclers

- Shall apply for registration to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change or an agency designated by it (if not applied already), by submitting information in **Form VI**.
- Shall submit half-yearly returns as per **Form-VII** to the DPCC latest by 30th June (for Oct-Mar) and 31st December (for Apr-Sept) of every year.
- Shall make available all records relating to receipt of used batteries, sources, quantities and metal yield to be submitted to the DPCC.
- Create public awareness through advertisement, publications, posters or by other

means with regards to (a) hazard of lead, and (b) obligation of consumers to return used batteries only to the registered dealers or deliver at the designated collection centres.

Consumers/Bulk Consumers

- Shall ensure that used batteries are not disposed off in any manner other than by depositing with the dealer/ manufacturer/ registered recycler/ importer/ re-conditioner or at the designated collection centres.
- Bulk consumers shall file half-yearly return latest by 30th June (for Oct-Mar) and 31st December (for Apr-Sept) in **Form-I** to DPCC.
- Bulk consumers to their user units may auction used batteries to registered recyclers only.

Auctioneers

- Shall ensure that used batteries are auctioned to the registered recyclers only.
- Shall maintain records relating to receipt of used batteries, sources, quantities and metal yield and submit to DPCC.
- Shall file half-yearly returns of their auctions latest by 30th June and 31st December to DPCC in **Form-IX**.

Note:- As per Batteries (Management and Handling) Amendment Rules, 2010, every dealer of Lead Acid Battery shall obtain registration from DPCC, within 30 days of this Notice and in case of failure legal action including prosecution shall be initiated.

Member Secretary



Safe at school

Students should be able to return to campus without fear if protocols are strict

Almost every child got left behind for more than a year in India, as COVID-19 shuttered schools and forced pupils to study online at home, if they could. This long period of learning loss is a major setback in itself, affecting the physical and mental health of many students and depriving them of a year of vital skill development. It is understandable, therefore, that at least 14 States and Union Territories have tempered caution with calculated risk and opted to reopen campuses, mostly for secondary and higher secondary students. These governments are not alone in looking for the golden mean to manage the pandemic. In several countries, leaders are exploring ways to reduce the risk of coronavirus infection among pupils who are not yet eligible for vaccination, while getting them back on campus. At the end of the second wave, in July, Haryana and Nagaland went back to in-person teaching for higher classes, while Punjab, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Puducherry and Lakshadweep are doing so this month. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha are to follow. As schools reopen, there are positive indicators available from countries experimenting with back-to-school decisions, and red flags, in the wake of the Delta variant's wildfire spread.

One study of a million students and staff members who returned to school this year in the United States, where children must be 12 years old to get a vaccine, showed that in spite of the resultant exposure to 7,000 COVID-19-positive children and adults, only 363 other children and adults acquired the infection. This is attributed to a universal mask mandate. In India, with a school student population of over 250 million, resumption of in-person schooling is advocated by some public health professionals based on the understanding that younger children are less at risk, as they do not have well-developed ACE-2 receptors in the lungs that enable the virus to enter. This must, of course, be considered along with the impact of the Delta variant on children who do get infected, sometimes severely, even though their numbers may be small. In Ludhiana, 20 students in two schools tested positive eight days after reopening on August 2, underscoring the need for strict protocols, testing and quarantining. Maharashtra has followed the textbook in setting up committees headed by Collectors and civic officials to decide on reopening, with optional student attendance. Such a decentralised effort is welcome, as it enables closures only in areas with high incidence. It is important to note that after 18 months of the pandemic, there is consensus on ventilation and distancing norms as low-cost interventions with efficacy next only to vaccination. In the Indian context, this should favour outdoor classes under natural or built shade, wherever possible. It is disappointing that teachers and staff have not been universally vaccinated yet, a lacuna that must be urgently filled.

Building consent

A consensus on the Postgraduate Medical Education Regulations 2021 is a must

The Indian Medical Association (IMA), the largest organisation of doctors in India, has demanded that the National Medical Commission (NMC) withdraw the draft Postgraduate Medical Education Regulations 2021. In its current form, it notes that there shall be common counselling for admission in all medical educational institutions to all Post-graduate 'Broad-Specialty' courses (Diploma/MD/MS) on the basis of the merit list of the National Exit Test. Currently, admissions to such programmes are based on the post-graduate NEET. Half the seats to the various courses are based on the all-India quota and the rest are admitted by the State governments, which comply with reservation norms. The IMA contends that the draft regulations leave States with no power or discretion to manage admissions to State medical colleges, which rely on State funds. If States did not have the freedom to decide on student intake, they would find it hard to provide quality medical services to the local population. The proposed regulations follow from the provisions of the National Medical Commission Act, 2019, that itself replaced the Medical Council Act of India and was a subject of extreme friction between medical professionals and the Centre. In both instances, the heart of the objection is States' discomfort with ceding powers to the Centre. The familiar argument of the States is that health care is a State subject. Through the decades, while the Centre plays the critical role of funding and conceiving targeted programmes to ameliorate disease and improve overall health-care standards, the matter of implementation has always been left to the States.

The Centre has an important role in setting standards and amplifying best practices so that minimum – but ever improving – standards of health care are delivered across all States. Much like cadres of the IAS are deputed to States based on centralised examinations, there is, in principle, no reason for such a system not to be effective, but the Centre needs to be extremely responsive to States' views on the same. The very real problem, laid bare during the pandemic, is the shortage and extremely uneven availability of quality health care. Through the years, attempts are being made to improve this by trying to bridge alternative systems of medicines with modern medicine, but these have always been marred by political and religious overtones, and a convergence seems unlikely in the near future. The import of the proposals should not be made hostage to a Centre-States power struggle. Efforts must be made to build more consensus involving stakeholders, such as the IMA, State medical councils and representatives of health-care groups.

A healthy 'White Paper' beginning

Tamil Nadu's analysis of its financial situation is erudite and honest and could help steer the State back on track



PRAVEEN CHAKRAVARTY

The Finance Minister of Tamil Nadu, Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, on Monday, unveiled a 112-page 'White Paper' (<https://bit.ly/2Uen5oY>) on the fiscal situation of the State. It is perhaps a first in recent times that a State government in India has published an erudite and honest analysis of its economic and financial situation, which is laudable.

The lowdown

But for citizens of the State, it was not good news. The report essentially said that the State is deep in debt, with falling revenues, rising expenditure and declining investment. The average family in the State pays roughly ₹1 lakh in all taxes every year to the State and the Union government and receives ₹1.6 lakh worth of subsidies and services (health care, transport, education, water, power, etc.) every year. The gap between revenues and expenditure is funded through loans and the State carries a consolidated debt of ₹2.6 lakh per family.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has an onerous responsibility to pull the State out of this dire financial situation that has been made even worse by the COVID-19 pandemic. As the White Paper surmises, the only solution is for the State government to raise more revenues and be more efficient in expenditure. But that is easier said than done.

Any State government raises revenues through tax and non-tax sources, with typically more than three-quarters coming from direct and indirect taxes. But after the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), elected State governments in India do not have the powers to raise income or sales tax revenues on their own and are beholden to the Union government. These constitute the bulk of tax revenues.

Under State control

Taxes on property, fuel and alcohol are the only remaining domains that are under the direct control of the State government. But the Narendra Modi government has already burdened the average Tamilian with ₹32-₹33 of cess on petrol and diesel, which it collects for itself and does not share with the State government. It is thus virtually impossible for any State government to levy any more fuel taxes on people. So, realistically, the only immediate option available for Mr. Stalin to raise additional revenues is through property taxes, which is what the White Paper justifiably alludes to.

Property taxes are progressive and fair since they do not impact the poor as much as the rich. The White Paper argues that there is gross under-collection of property taxes by the urban local bodies due to non-revision of property tax rates, improper assessments and under-valuation. The 2016-17 Economic Survey of India authored by the then Chief Economic Advisor to the Modi government and a current member of Stalin's economic advisory council, Arvind Subramanian, had a detailed chapter on property taxes that



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used innovative techniques of satellite imaging of built-up areas of buildings in a city and estimated that in urban cities such as Chennai, there is a potential to collect four to seven times more in property taxes than is being collected today. The White Paper acknowledges such 'a large untapped potential of property tax collection' vociferously, that it repeats this phrase multiple times.

Focus on local bodies

More encouragingly, the White Paper also highlights the importance of the devolution of powers to local bodies. The 'Kerala model' of efficient social welfare and disaster handling is much touted by policy economists. Much of it is owed to the robust local body governance infrastructure of Kerala. As the White Paper illustrates, it is no coincidence that Kerala has the highest allocation of expenditure for local body councils among all the States of India. Tamil Nadu ranks second and enabling local governments to garner additional resources through more property taxes will further strengthen local body administration in Tamil Nadu. Beyond improving property tax collections, there is not much else that the Tamil Nadu govern-

ment can do to raise revenues on its own in a GST regime, save for some disinvestments over the longer run.

COVID-19 has dented economic growth severely in Tamil Nadu and the rest of the country. Such crises typically call for an expansion of government spending to propel an economic recovery through what economists call a 'Keynesian multiplier' effect. Surprisingly, growth in Tamil Nadu's revenue expenditure has been declining over the last five years while capital expenditure has been reasonably steady.

Issue of subsidies, GST spoke

The White paper raises concern over the large amount of subsidies incurred in power, water and transportation. While there may be some room for efficiency gains in subsidy expenditure through better targeting, it may perhaps be a bit risky to cut subsidies or expenditure drastically during a pandemic-induced economic crisis. COVID-19 has not only ravaged most economies across the world but also sharply exacerbated inequalities between the rich and the poor, within countries and across. Poor people have suffered far more than the well-to-do and it is the poor that benefit the most from subsidies.

If any, most economists argue for greater capital expenditure by the government to tide over the current precarious economic situation. Higher public investment in infrastructure has been the time-tested economic cure for such crises. Expenditure management will call for a deft balancing act by Mr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan to improve expenditure efficiency without sacrificing the positive 'multiplier' impact of government

expenditure.

The real bugbear in India's fiscal federalism has been GST. It is now safe to conclude that GST has been a political, economic and administrative disaster, with none of the touted economic benefits coming to fruition and fracturing Union-State relations in the process. The White Paper is absolutely correct in questioning the future of GST and raising genuine concerns over its viability. The only case for GST to continue now seems to be similar to the Churchillian case for democracy – it is the worst except for all other forms'. Ironically, it was Mr. Stalin's father, M. Karunanidhi, as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in 2009 who objected to the introduction of GST and warned of a 'daring leap of faith about its potential' in a letter to then Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh.

Since the time of Chief Minister Kamaraj in the 1960s, Tamil Nadu has been the torchbearer of inclusive economic development in the country, with its unique model of generous State welfare, copious private investment and efficient public services. The White Paper clearly articulates how the last few years have been an aberration, causing Tamil Nadu to veer off that track. Chief Minister Stalin and his government have an enormous and an arduous responsibility to steer the State back on track. They are off to a sincere start, and hopefully, Mr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan will be able to release a 'Pink Paper' in 2025 to showcase Tamil Nadu in the 'pink of economic health'.

Praveen Chakravarty is a political economist and Chairman of Data Analytics of the Congress party

The importance of the booster dose to plan ahead

The execution of such a vaccination campaign is what will help get India out of COVID-19's stranglehold



T. JACOB JOHN & M.S. SESHADRI

The COVID-19 vaccination is relatively new to the world, but the history of vaccination goes back a few centuries. The Expanded Programme on Immunisation was launched by the World Health Organization in 1974 and since then all countries of the world have gained considerable experience in rolling out several vaccines for children and pregnant women.

The immune response

Broadly speaking, vaccines may be classified as replicating live infectious vaccines, and, non-replicating non-infectious vaccines. Currently used live virus vaccines inoculated by injection include measles, rubella, mumps and chickenpox vaccines. The inoculum dose contains a few thousands of live but attenuated viruses – they replicate in body tissues without producing overt disease. The final effective dose that stimulates the immune system may be billions or trillions of viruses and the stimulus sustained for days to weeks as the injected viruses continue to multiply within the human body. Therefore, immune responses to replicating live virus vaccines – both antibody and T-cell immunity – are robust and long-lasting.

The non-replicating injected

vaccines include nearly all others – the most common being diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus, hepatitis B, Haemophilus influenzae b, pneumococcal, human papilloma virus, inactivated poliovirus, inactivated hepatitis A vaccines. For them, the dose confronted by the immune system is what is injected. What is injected is a tiny amount of antigen, measured in micrograms, plus stabilisers and preservatives in some, and adjuvants in a few, all chemicals and salts in minute quantities.

Why go in for a booster dose

In order to get robust and long-lasting immunity with non-replicating vaccines, we need to give multiple doses – the initial one, two or three doses given in quick succession, at intervals of one or two months, are "priming doses" – meant to prime the immune system to the antigens in the vaccine. The immune system responds well, but with relatively low levels of antibody and subdued T-cell immunity. Over time, in a few months to one year, the antibody levels wane in almost all vaccinated individuals. To reach and maintain high and protective levels of antibody, we need one or more injected "booster dose(s)".

Every non-replicating vaccine requires priming and boosting. Influenza vaccine boosters are recommended annually; tetanus vaccine once in five to 10 years. For others such as human papilloma and hepatitis A and B vaccines, one booster dose may suffice for decades of protection.

All current COVID-19 vaccines



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fall in the non-replicating category and for robust and long-lasting immunity, they require, quite predictably, priming doses to induce early immunity, and booster dose(s) to sustain, long-term, high antibody titres, overcoming waning immunity.

The current schedules

The current COVID-19 vaccination schedules are only priming doses – the immunity induced by one dose (Johnson & Johnson vaccine), Pfizer vaccine (two doses three weeks apart), all others (two doses at four weeks or more inter-dose interval) are expected to wane, as experience with all previous non-replicating vaccines have taught us. The usual interval between priming and boosting is six months to one year, because protective levels of antibodies will be present for at least that duration, when the priming doses include two or three injections.

Limited experience with antibody titres after natural infection or after vaccination against COVID-19 informs us that the antibody titres decline such that a proportion does not have even detectable virus neutralising antibody levels after six months. There is further

evidence that those who are elderly, men particularly, and those with organ transplants, cancer treatment or co-morbidity, have weaker primary antibody responses than their younger/normal counterparts. This implies that they may remain vulnerable to severe disease and death; they are in urgent need for booster dose(s) to ensure and sustain protective immunity.

The initial expectation that the COVID-19 pandemic would be a short-lived one is proven wrong. It is now 20 months from the first case and numerous variants have emerged, and chains of transmission continue even in countries which have achieved wide vaccination coverage such as Israel and the United Kingdom. It seems inevitable the pandemic will evolve into a permanent 'pan-endemic' state and vaccination is here to stay for years to come, until we manage to eradicate the virus altogether using vaccines.

It is apparently this realisation, that immunity wanes and the pandemic is evolving into endemic long-term prevalence, that prompted Pfizer Company to seek approval for a booster dose in the United States, and Israel's Ministry of Health to start booster doses to all above 60 years of age.

The strategy ahead

In India, we have an ethical dilemma – as long as there is inadequate vaccine supply, everyone deserves priming doses before even the highly vulnerable early vaccine recipients are offered booster doses. The solution is to accelerate vaccine procurement without count-

ing the cost.

For every country planning vaccine roll-out, the science of vaccinology demands that all those getting priming doses should receive at least one booster dose – at a well-chosen interval. The science of immunology teaches us that a booster dose delivered at an interval of at least four, preferably six to 12, months after the last priming dose, will stimulate the production of 'long-lived' antibody secreting cells, as well as 'long lived (virtually life-long) memory cells'. Those who get a third dose one month after the second dose should count it as three-dose priming instead of a true booster which requires four months to one year of wait.

India will do well to plan a vaccination strategy for completing two priming doses in all adults and children, third dose to the special category described above, and one booster dose to everyone one year later. Meticulous planning and the execution of such a vaccination campaign is what will get the country out of the stranglehold of this virus and its variants that have emerged and any that might emerge with higher transmission efficiency than even the Delta.

Dr. T. Jacob John is a retired professor of Clinical Virology, Christian Medical College, Vellore, Tamil Nadu, and a former President of the Indian Academy of Pediatrics. Dr. M.S. Seshadri is a retired professor of Medicine and Clinical Endocrinology, Christian Medical College, Vellore, and currently Medical Director, Thirumalai Mission Hospital, Ranipet, Tamil Nadu

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

The clock is ticking

In a democracy where money and muscle power are the *sine qua non* for winning elections, it remains to be seen what political parties will now do in the backdrop of the Supreme Court of India's directive and warning (Page 1, "Parties get 48 hours to publish candidates' criminal records", August 11). Suppose the criminal record of a contesting candidate is made public. Will voters be stumped and have little choice? What if all the fielded candidates are in the same league? For any political party to scout around for a candidate with an unblemished record is like searching for a needle in a haystack.

DEEPAK SINGHAL,
Noida, Uttar Pradesh

One cannot help wondering whether merely providing information on criminality or corruption will still play any significant role in the electoral process in India. It is apparent, going by the antecedents of a majority of lawmakers, that it is almost a non issue, where caste, communal or emotional issues play the deciding factor in the ultimate success of candidates in most of the cases. Under such circumstances, such data would remain a cosmetic exercise. Candidates are seldom scared of these negative factors, as courts across India take decades to nail defaulters. Unless the judiciary fast-tracks criminal or corruption cases and brings them to a logical

conclusion, candidates and parties would continue to take shelter under the pretext that 'no one is guilty unless proved so'. Moreover, our rural population, which outnumbers urban elites in casting votes, is not that techno-savvy to research the credentials of candidates.

V. SUBRAMANIAN,
Chennai

The Supreme Court's exasperation over the failure of political parties to weed out criminals from electoral politics is only natural. Winnability seems to be the clinching factor in the selection of contestants. It is time that parties stopped delivering sermons from the rooftops about democracy and morality in politics. The onus is on the key political parties not to touch

criminals trying to enter politics, and to lead by example. Now that the Court has set the stopwatch, can we hope that political parties will not try to find ways and means to circumvent this direction? When will it be possible for India to prevent 'lawbreakers' from becoming lawmakers? The electorate needs to play a proactive role in this matter.

C.G. KURIAKOSE,
Malppara, Kothamangalam, Kerala

States and ranking

No State, whether it is Uttar Pradesh or Kerala, can score a perfect 10 on the governance scorecard (Editorial page, "The construct behind the 'Shining U.P.' card", August 11). There is no such thing as a 'number one State' in the absolute sense. Varied

metrics underpin the composite record of governance. For historical, cultural, and socio-political reasons, States perform differently under the metrics. Kerala scored high on human development but its economy is not self-sufficient to provide jobs to its people, forcing job-seekers to migrate to other States and countries.

Uttar Pradesh has a long way to go in ensuring social development. At the same time, the Yogi Adityanath government has succeeded in curbing the State's chronic lawlessness. Preserving communal peace and initiating job-oriented and massive infrastructural development are other achievements. Discrediting the election-oriented

'Shining U.P.' campaign is no reason why we should ignore the positives.

V.N. MUKUNDARAJAN,
Thiruvananthapuram

Most of the claims about Uttar Pradesh fall under one of the following categories: myth, fiction, fabrication and propaganda. Readers can make their choice. The fact is that in the State there has been a suppression of COVID-19 death numbers, journalists have been harassed for doing their job, and that women are unsafe is not something to be proud of. Finally, the visuals of many bodies floating down the Ganga are an indelible mark.

MATTHEW ADUKANIL,
Tirupattur, Tamil Nadu

To read more letters online, scan the QR code



Odisha's part in India's hockey success

CM Naveen Patnaik's interest and investment have paid great dividends for the State and the country



RAJIV SETH

As the curtains came down on the Tokyo Olympics, the world of sports had many reasons to smile. Notwithstanding the challenges posed by COVID-19, the worst pandemic in a century, the planet's biggest sporting event concluded rather successfully. Credit is due as much to Japan as it is to the global sporting community for its resilience.

India, too, had reasons to cheer. It won seven medals, including one gold in field and track, which is a first for the country. This was the highest medal haul for India. The medal tally of seven, critics would say, dwarfs in comparison to what many countries with much smaller populations and economic resources have won. Nevertheless, coming as it did five years after a lacklustre performance at the Rio Olympics, the show in Tokyo surely brings some hope for India.

A sport where India saw great zeal and success was hockey. An Olympic medal in hockey had eluded India for 41 years. The last time India won a medal was in 1980 (gold in men's hockey). The wait has been rather painful given that India won as many as eight gold medals in hockey through the first eight decades of its participation in the Olympics.

Breaking the jinx

So, how did India finally break the jinx? The men's team won a bronze medal and the women's team put up a spirited show, missing a medal by a whisker. Was it good luck at play? Or was it something else? That's where Odisha comes into the picture.

Indian hockey's slide at the Olympics coincided with a switch to a new format, from dirt to AstroTurf. Indian players found playing on AstroTurf challenging because there weren't many such turfs available for practice at home. Sports authorities didn't do enough to solve this problem. It was only in 2017 that a serious attempt was made when the Naveen Patnaik government became the principal sponsor of the Indian national hockey teams. The teams were earlier sponsored by Sahara In-



Indian hockey players (L-R) Deep Grace Ekka, Birendra Lakra, Namita Toppo and Amit Rohidas pose with Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at the Kalinga Hockey stadium in Bhubaneswar after their return from Tokyo.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

dia and the deal ended prematurely. This was the first time a State government was sponsoring a national team. The move gave not only a new lease of life to hockey but a patron too, who could give it what it deserved.

Mr. Patnaik, an avid lover of the sport, had already got his government to undertake a massive renovation of the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, to host the 2018 Men's Hockey World Cup. In fact, Odisha had been preparing the ground since 2013, when it began promoting the Hockey India League and founded a team called the Kalinga Lancers. It has hosted a number of national and international tournaments. Having decided to bankroll the Indian hockey team, Mr. Patnaik's next task was to ensure that the Hockey World Cup was held on a scale grand enough to capture the nation's imagination.

It was just a matter of time before Bhubaneswar became a sporting hub. The city today boasts of 10 High Performance Centres for sports ranging from hockey and football to athletics, shooting, weightlifting, badminton, etc. Each High Performance Centre is equipped with world-class

coaches and state-of-the-art training facilities and is a public-private partnership involving the Odisha government, a corporate sponsor, and an academy manager. In the case of hockey and athletics, the corporate sponsors - the Tata Group and Reliance Industries, respectively - also double up as managers of the training academies.

Moment of reckoning

The successful hosting of the Men's Hockey World Cup in 2018 not only brought a moment of reckoning for sports in Odisha but also marked the beginning of a new era for Indian hockey. On August 13, 2019, the Odisha Naval Tata Hockey Academy, the first High Performance Centre of its kind in the State, was launched as an initiative by the Odisha government in partnership with the Tata Group (Tata Steel and Tata Trusts). The Tata Group has always supported the development of sports in the country. The Odisha Naval Tata Hockey Academy has a technical tie-up with legendary Dutch drag flicker Floris Jan Bovelander. It caters to the best of talent (both boys and girls) under the age of 18 years from across the State.

A small number of trainees is also drafted in from other parts of the country.

The High Performance Centre, which is housed inside the sprawling Kalinga Stadium, offers excellent infrastructure including a gymnasium, a target performance centre and a swimming complex - everything that a modern-day athlete needs. Most importantly, through its Athlete Management System, it provides exposure to the different ways in which technology can be used. Top coaches, strength trainers, video analysts, mental trainers, nutritionists and educationists all work in tandem to ensure that the sporting talent get the best of grooming. The High Performance Centre also runs 12 grass-root centres across four districts - Sundargarh, Sambalpur, Deogarh and Dhenkanal - catering to more than 2,600 trainees. The first Odisha Naval Tata Hockey Grassroot League was held this year. Its aim is to hone and promote talent at the regional development centres before the players walk into the High Performance Centre in Bhubaneswar.

The district of Sundargarh remains the epicentre, having produced the bulk of hockey players from Odisha including great players like former Indian hockey captain Dilip Tirkey and four members of the teams that went to Tokyo: Birendra Lakra, Amit Rohidas, Deep Grace Ekka and Namita Toppo. Plans are afoot to provide AstroTurfs in each of the 17 blocks of Sundargarh. A new state-of-the-art hockey stadium with a capacity to seat 20,000 is getting ready in Rourkela, Sundargarh's main city, to co-host the Men's Hockey World Cup 2023 alongside the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar. None of these would have been possible without the steadfast support and encouragement of Mr. Patnaik, who in 2017 took a bet that few were willing to take - to be a patron to Indian hockey. Five years on, that bet seems to be paying off handsomely - not just for Odisha, but for the nation as well.

Odisha's experience is quite instructive for the rest of the country. If other States follow suit, each adopting a particular sport or more in the same manner, India could very soon be scripting a new story on the global sporting stage.

Rajiv Seth is Project Director, Odisha Naval Tata Hockey High Performance Centre

An urban jobs safety net

It is time to formulate a wage employment-based national urban livelihood scheme similar to MGNREGS



RAJNEESH

During the pandemic, we have again and again faced the difficult choice of saving lives versus protecting livelihoods. According to the World Economic Outlook report of April, 2021 of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), almost all countries, except China, experienced economic contraction last year. The global GDP shrunk by 3.3%. The contraction in the U.S., Brazil, Japan, Canada and Euro Area was in the range of 3.5%-7%. India's GDP plummeted by 8%. China, on the contrary, posted a growth of 2.3%. The report stated that 95 million people have fallen into the ranks of the extreme poor category. The unemployment rate in the Euro Area, the U.S. and Canada shot up to 7.1%, 8.1% and 9.6%, respectively. Spain, Greece, Turkey, the Philippines, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, and Peru among others are grappling with unemployment rates in double digits. As per the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy's estimates, the unemployment rate in India peaked to 23.5% in April 2020 before falling to 6.9% in February 2021.

Rural-urban livelihood divide

In the wake of economic deceleration, the challenge is to minimise livelihood losses. Traditionally, governments have addressed this issue from a sectoral viewpoint. Given the contemporary realities, the need is to approach this from a rural-urban perspective for two reasons. First, when there is an economic shock, it is essential to provide people with formal access to a livelihood safety net. Second, the livelihood safety net must have comprehensive coverage. Such a net, provided by the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), exists only in rural areas. Urban India does not have any such cushion. Though the Indian government operates the National Urban Livelihoods Mission, which is focused on self-employment through skill up-gradation and credit linkages through banks, the scheme does not have guaranteed wage employment provisions akin to what MGNREGS provides. During the lockdown last year, we saw migrant labour moving in large numbers from the urban to rural areas, which is symptomatic of the rural-urban livelihood security divide. This divide needs to be bridged if the livelihood loss is to be minimised. Policy experts have considered migration in India to be essentially a rural to ur-

ban phenomenon. This pandemic has demolished that myth. MGNREGS, designed to check such migration, provides a livelihood safety net in rural India. Last year's migration tragedy and the economic slowdown have highlighted the need for a similar livelihood safety net in urban India.

Insights from Himachal Pradesh

A few States have experimented with a wage employment-based urban livelihood scheme. Himachal Pradesh (H.P.) launched the Mukhya Mantri Shahri Ajeevika Guarantee Yojana (MMSAGY) last year with the objective of enhancing livelihood security in urban areas by providing 120 days of guaranteed wage employment to every household at minimum wages in FY 2020-21. Any adult member of a household, less than 65 years of age, residing in the jurisdiction of the urban local body (ULB) and willing to engage in unskilled work at projects being executed or in sanitation services being provided by the municipality can register under the scheme. A job card is issued to the beneficiary within seven days of registration and employment is provided within a fortnight. Otherwise, the beneficiary is eligible to be compensated at a rate of ₹75 per day. Initially, when the scheme was conceived, there was scepticism due to lack of fiscal space during the pandemic to launch a new scheme. The government then decided to fund the wage component from the grants already available to ULBs under the State and Central Finance Commissions. In a year of its operation, a quarter million man-days, benefiting about 3% of the total urban households in H.P., were generated. If the scope of MMSAGY is broadened to include muster-roll based works, other municipal services, etc., it could enhance livelihood opportunities.

H.P.'s experience has provided some crucial insights. One, an urban livelihood scheme can be launched within the existing fiscal space. If not, the Union and States can provide resources together. Two, separate minimum wages for rural and urban areas do not cause migration to urban areas since the higher cost of living in urban areas has an offsetting effect. Three, the focus must shift from asset creation to service delivery. Restricting it to asset creation or wage-material ratios may be sub-optimal in urban settings. The focus should be on enhancing the quality of municipal services. Four, such a scheme is like an 'economic vaccine' and will protect people against unemployment. It should be administered at the national level rather than at the State level.

Rajneesh is a Principal Secretary, Urban Development, Government of Himachal Pradesh. Views are personal

Highest honour for a hockey icon

The Bharat Ratna should be given to Major Dhyan Chand who was a great sportsperson and patriot

M.P. NATHANAEL

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced on August 6 that the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award will be renamed as the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award as a tribute to the legendary hockey player. The Indian men's hockey team clinched the bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics and the Indian women's hockey team finished fourth after a spirited fight. This was apparently the reason for the renaming exercise.

The Prime Minister tweeted, "I have been getting many requests from citizens across India to name the Khel Ratna Award after Major Dhyan Chand. I thank them for their views. Respecting their sentiment, the Khel Ratna Award will hereby be called the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award! Jai Hind!" He chose not to tweet the full name of the Khel Ratna Award, which led to some criticism.

Two awards, one name

Given that there already exists an award known as the Major Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime Achievement in Sports and Games, the renaming is quite absurd. Now we have two prestigious awards named after the same sportsperson being given on the same day, August 29, which is Dhyan Chand's birthday and also the National Sports Day. If the objective behind the renaming, as some believe, was to spite the Congress party or the Gandhi family, mere removal of Rajiv Gandhi's name would have sufficed, and the award could have been known as Khel Ratna. Now that this decision has been taken, the government should consider renaming the Major Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime Achievement in Sports and Games after the 'Flying Sikh', Milkha Singh, who passed away this year due to COVID-19-related complications.

It was Singh's dream that an Indian athlete get a gold medal at the Olympics and the national anthem be played in the stadium. Singh missed the bronze by one-tenth of a second during the 1960 Olympics in Rome in the 400 metres final. Sadly, he did not survive to see Neeraj Chopra bag the Olympics gold with a mighty hurl

of the javelin to the 87.58 metre-mark in Tokyo. In a befitting tribute, Chopra dedicated the medal to Singh.

Until 2011, when cricketer Sachin Tendulkar was conferred the Bharat Ratna, sportspersons were never considered for the highest civilian award. Soon after Tendulkar's name was announced, many people appealed to the government to award the Bharat Ratna posthumously to Major Dhyan Chand. In fact, Singh, though happy that Tendulkar received the award, believed that the honour should have first gone to Major Dhyan Chand. Major Dhyan Chand was not only revered in our country but was also acknowledged as an international icon.

With our Prime Minister choosing to respect the sentiments of our countrymen, it would be a great tribute to the hockey wizard if he awards the Bharat Ratna to Major Dhyan Chand on Independence Day this year. Thanking the Prime Minister for renaming the Khel Ratna Award after his grandfather, Major Dhyan Chand's grandson Vishal Singh said that the hockey great deserved the Bharat Ratna. He added that Major Dhyan Chand's patriotism and love for India could be gauged from the fact that he turned down the job he was offered in the German Army as well as German citizenship, to continue to play for India.

Encouraging sports

With an individual athletics gold added to our kitty of Olympic medals, there is now enormous interest amongst youngsters in various sports. We need to build up the tempo by encouraging them to take to sports seriously. While the Sports Ministry is playing its part, the Education Ministry too has to jump on to the bandwagon by including legendary sports figures such as Major Dhyan Chand, Sachin Tendulkar, Milkha Singh, Gurbachan Singh Randhawa, P.T. Usha and Hari Chand in the textbooks. The National Council of Educational Research and Training could play a pivotal role in this direction.

M.P. Nathanael is Inspector General of Police (Retd), CRPF

DATA POINT

Behind the medals

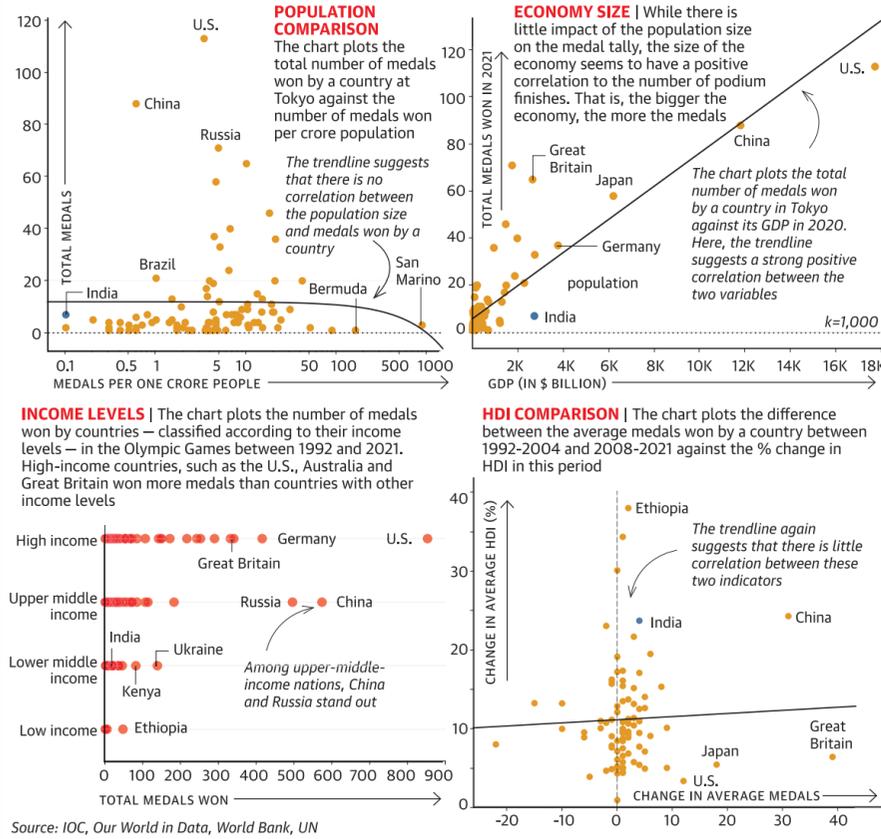
The size of the economy is strongly linked to a country's performance at the Olympic Games. In general, the bigger the size of a country's economy, the more the medals, with very few exceptions such as Kenya, Ethiopia and Ukraine. At the Tokyo Olympics, the top 10 countries in the medals tally won 54% of all the medals. Eight of them are high-income countries. On the other hand, factors such as the population size and the Human Development Index have little bearing on a nation's performance in the Olympics. By Sumant Sen and Jasmin Nihalani



■ The top three countries in terms of the GDP size in 2020 - the U.S., China and Japan - feature as the top three countries in the Tokyo medal tally in that order

■ Between 1992 and 2021, 65% each of high-income and upper-middle-income countries, 27% of lower-middle-income countries and 37% of low-income countries have won at least one Olympic medal

■ With 21 medals between 1992 and 2021, India stands 55th among the 93 countries with at least one Olympic medal



The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 12, 1971

Message to Thant to save Mujib's life

India has sent an urgent message to the United Nations Secretary General, U Thant, to use his influence on Pakistan and save the life of the Awami League leader, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, now faced with a military trial. This was stated in the Rajya Sabha to-day [New Delhi, August 11] by the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Swaran Singh, while replying to a question from Mr. Man Singh Verma. The Minister said he had sent the message to Mr. Thant yesterday. Asked whether this issue was discussed with the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. Gromyko, Mr. Swaran Singh said Mr. Gromyko was strongly in favour of persuading Pakistan not to go ahead with this "type of sham trial." He also told the House that the Government was greatly concerned at the threat held out by Pakistani President Yahya Khan about Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, "We have taken up the matter in the important world capitals. We have urged other Governments to use their influence and prevent such a tragedy (the Sheikh's death from taking place)," the Minister said.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 12, 1921

Visitors to Museum and Library.

The decrease in the total number of visitors to the Government Museum and Connemara Public Library, as mentioned in the annual report for the year 1920-21, issued by the Superintendent of the Museum, is not satisfactorily explained. The Superintendent observes that the decrease is partly due to the fall in the number of visitors on Kanunpangal and Dwadasi festivals. Even after excluding the festival occasions referred to, the average number of visitors in the year under report to the two buildings was 242,447 against 292,787 in the preceding year... The educative value of Museums and Libraries is too well known to demand special pleading and it is hoped that the authorities will carefully diagnose the real causes for the decrease in the number of visitors and try to adopt remedial and constructive methods to increase the popularity of the institutions. The report states that the question of adequate protection of buildings against fire was also taken up during the year, and the Museum and Library buildings have now been furnished with a number of additional fire appliances, and sanction has been obtained for the extension of the telephone to the Superintendent's office, where it will be available for use in case of fire occurring at night.

FROM PAGE ONE

'Backchannel talk was on before Balakot'

"According to some of those we interviewed in IB [Intelligence Bureau], R&AW and Indian Navy as well as ISI and military intelligence in Pakistan, many agencies were suddenly interested in a man like [Jadhav] who had the wherewithal to travel with cover... There was already plenty of R&AW investment in terms of assets and officers in Iranian Baluchistan and at Chabahar, but to have Jadhav, who could travel widely, and even to get down to Karachi, would make him exceptional," Mr. Levy said in an interview. "Not as an officer, trained, deployed and backed up by an institution – but as an asset, we were told, a person who reported back to handlers and supervisors, with [his] insights," he added.

In the book, the authors, who had rare and unprecedented access to India's national security establishment, refer to themselves as a "Gavrilov channel", akin to a telephone hotline set up between the U.S. and Russian spy agencies, the CIA and the KGB respectively, during the Cold War.

While Indian officials were hesitant to provide access at first, the authors said they yielded to the possibility of receiving near real-time information from Pakistani intelligence, given the almost frozen lines of communication at the time.

'Doval called us back'

"Doval called us back," write the authors about gaining clearance for the project, quoting the NSA as saying, "There is no detail that is too small when it comes to the ISI. I need to study every scintilla. They are our forever enemy and we can never, ever know enough."

On the Pakistani side, the authors say they got similar clearances from unnamed military and intelligence officials.

The book, *Spy Stories: Inside the Secret World of The R.A.W. (R&AW) and I.S.I.*, which is releasing this week, traces the career of Mr. Doval through the past few decades, especially from the 1999 Indian Airlines' flight IC 814 hijack, which the NSA describes as a "diplomatic failure", to the 2000 Parliament attack, and more recent events in Kashmir, including the 2016 Pathankot and 2019 Pulwama attacks in which 40 personnel were killed, as well as the retaliatory Balakot strikes by the Indian Air Force.

Mr. Levy and Ms. Scott-Clark quote from interviews given by Mr. Doval, Mr. Khanna, as well as former Defence Intelligence chief Lt. Gen Vinod Khandare and former IB chief Asif Ibrahim, who were members of the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS).

The *Hindu* attempted to reach each of the officials named, but none of them agreed to comment. This is the first such book to have been released after the government's new civil service rules amendment was

passed in June this year that gags officials from speaking or writing about their operations, without the publications being cleared. When asked, Mr. Levy said "nothing" had been cleared by the government however, and the book contains details from taped conversations with the senior officials as well as access to intelligence and analysis reports in both countries.

Travel involved

In particular, Mr. Levy and Ms. Scott-Clark describe their travels between Rawalpindi and Delhi in the immediate aftermath of the Pulwama bombing on February 14, 2019. Within a few hours of the bombing, they were contacted by former ISI counterterrorism wing (C-wing) chief Lt. Gen. Nusrat Naem, who wanted to distance Pakistani agencies from the attack, believed to be carried out by Jaish bombers connected closely to Masood Azhar.

The authors say Pakistani officials said they were worried about Financial Action Task Force (FATF) sanctions, and delicate negotiations between the U.S. and the Taliban, and would not have risked a conflagration with India at that point. The authors also said that reports by the military, the Border Security Force, the Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA) and the R&AW had concluded that the Pulwama attacks had been organised by Jaish in order to provoke a "regional war", and that Jaish leaders had planned the attack from their "new base" in Helmand, Afghanistan, and not Pakistan.

"The data was not what Delhi projected, after Pulwama, instead preferring to humiliate the Pakistan military," the book says, adding that in response to the Pakistani messages, Mr. Doval had said that a soon-to-be released report on Pulwama would "lay bare the ISI's involvement", with the justification for the Balakot strikes.

On another occasion, the authors describe Mr. Doval meeting a Saudi delegation in his office on a bilateral visit, adding that the "Saudis continued their role as intermediary, bringing news from Rawalpindi". India's official policy has been that India-Pakistan issues can only be resolved bilaterally, and there is no role for "third parties" in talks.

The authors travelled between Rawalpindi and Delhi on the same day on occasion, collecting and disseminating information on both sides, the book says.

They describe being ushered in to a "darkened situation room" in Mr. Doval's offices in Sardar Patel Bhawan, to pitch their idea of writing a book that pits the working styles of the R&AW against the ISI, drawing parallels to books and films brought out in the U.S. and Israel that offer some insight into the world of spying and intelligence.

It all happened in a split second, survivors say

As they were watching, rocks and debris started to fall suddenly, leading to deaths and destruction at Nigulsari

VIKAS VASUDEVA
NIGULSARI

His clothes mud-stained and leg slightly bruised, Prashant, 28, is in a state of shock and disbelief after he and one of his friends, Varun, narrowly escaped being buried under the debris triggered by a major landslide near Nigulsari in Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh on Wednesday.

It's around 3.30 p.m. The landslide took place close to noon. Sitting by the side of the road, both men say that they have been praying for the well-being of their missing friend and co-traveller. Boulders and loose soil fell upon the car in which the three were travelling.

"All three of us were on our way home in Una district after a holiday in Sangla. As soon as we reached here, we stopped the car as some stones were falling. A bus and a utility vehicle were in front of us while a truck was coming from the other side. We stepped out of the car to assess the situation. As we



On a precipice: Onlookers and rescue workers at the site of a major landslide at Nigulsari in Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh on Wednesday; and vehicles buried under the debris on the Reckong Peo-Shimla highway. •V.V. KRISHNAN & PTI

were watching, suddenly, rocks and a huge chunk of mud started to fall. It happened in a split second. Varun and I ran to one side, our friend Balram ran towards the other side of the vehicle," Mr. Prashant told *The Hindu*.

"While both of us are safe, we are trying to talk to Balram. His phone is ringing but he's not picking it up. We are just praying that he is all right," he added.

Visibly jolted, Mr. Varun was short of words about the

incident. "I can't talk right now as I am not in any state of mind beyond [thinking about] my friend," he said.

As the Army, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) reached



On a precipice: Onlookers and rescue workers at the site of a major landslide at Nigulsari in Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh on Wednesday; and vehicles buried under the debris on the Reckong Peo-Shimla highway. •V.V. KRISHNAN & PTI

the incident site for rescue operations, hundreds of people gathered at the spot, many of them relatives and friends of people trapped under the debris.

Someone was seen informing the police and res-

cue team members that he had received a call from a trapped friend crying for help. Several others passed on similar information.

In the past two days, several landslides have been reported across the State.

Body of journalist found

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

The police on Tuesday recovered the body of a missing journalist in a village in East Champaran district of Bihar. Manish Kumar Singh, who worked for a private news channel, went missing on Sunday.

The police said the body was recovered from a pond at Mathlohiyar-Gadditola under the Harsidhi police station.

"Two persons have been arrested in the case in which 10 others too have been named accused," Santosh Kumar, sub-divisional police officer, Aheraj, said.

Manish's father Sanjay Kumar Singh, who is associated with a vernacular newspaper, had filed a police complaint.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

Over 600 villages are affected by floods, including 110 cut off from all connectivity, as heavy rain lashes several districts in Uttar Pradesh and major rivers such as the Ganga and the Yamuna flowing above the danger mark in many areas, officials said on Wednesday.

The State recorded 13.1 mm of average rainfall over the past 24 hours, which was 154% of the the normal rainfall (8.5 mm).

Eleven out of the 75 districts in U.P., including Lucknow, Prayagraj, Chitrakoot and Kaushambi, recorded more than 22 mm rainfall, the U.P. Relief Commissioner's Office said.

The department said 605 villages were hit by floods in



Displaced by rain: A National Disaster Response Force team evacuating people at Salori in Prayagraj on Wednesday. •PTI

24 districts, with Prayagraj, Ghazipur and Hamirpur the most affected in terms of flooded areas in six, five, and four tehsils, respectively.

While 20 villages faced embankment issues, floods in 239 villages hit farming, while in 107 villages only residents were affected.

In 129 villages, both farming and residents have been affected, said the Relief Department.

Hamirpur badly hit

The worst affected were Hamirpur with 75 flooded villages, followed by Banda (71), and Etawah and Jalaun

(both 67). According to the State Irrigation Department, the Ganga was flowing above the danger mark in Budaun, Prayagraj, Mirzapur, Varanasi, Ghazipur and Ballia districts; the Yamuna was flowing over the danger mark in Auraiya, Banda, Jalaun, Prayagraj and Hamirpur, while the Betwa in Hamirpur, Sharda river in Kheri, and the Chambal were also above the danger mark.

The State Relief Department said that, so far, it had rescued 536 persons from flooded areas.

National Disaster Response Force teams were deployed in nine districts, while 11 districts were served by the State Disaster Response Force and 39 by the Provincial Armed Constabulary.

Restore Statehood to J&K, Rashtra Manch urges PM

Sinha's group says promise of development unfulfilled

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Rashtra Manch, a political action group started by former BJP leader Yashwant Sinha, on Wednesday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi must announce the restoration of full Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir in his Independence Day speech.

In a statement, the group urged the Opposition parties also to demand full Statehood for J&K, followed by free and fair elections. The Centre's decision to revoke J&K's special status under



Yashwant Sinha

Article 370 and split the State into two Union Territories on August 5, 2019, was taken "without any consultation with the people, who are the principal stakehol-

ders in a democracy, and with their elected representatives", it stated. People of J&K were still unable to exercise their right of holding meetings and expressing their opinions openly. "Far from fulfilling the promise of attracting new investments and accelerating development, the Modi government's actions have caused losses worth tens of thousands of crores to the economy of J&K. Lakhs of youth have lost employment and there has been a worrisome increase in suicides," it said.

Wreckage of Army copter located in J&K reservoir

Search on for two pilots, say officials

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The wreckage of the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) that crashed into the Ranjit Sagar reservoir at Kathua in Jammu and Kashmir last week has been located, the Chandimandir-based Western Command of the Army said on Wednesday. A search is on for its two pilots.

"The wreckage of the Army helicopter that had crashed into the Ranjit Sagar reservoir has been identified at a depth of approximately 80 m from the

surface of the reservoir. Heavy duty remotely operated vehicles are being flown in to assist the recovery operations," the Western Command said on Twitter.

Special equipment

The weaponised ALH had taken off from Pathankot on a routine sortie and crashed into the reservoir on August 3. Special sonar equipment flown in from Kochi was being employed for the search. Equipment from Israel was also being pressed into service, an official said.

Rahul's offending tweet removed, Twitter tells HC

Bench posts hearing for September 27

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Twitter on Wednesday informed the Delhi High Court that it had removed an offending tweet posted by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi sharing a picture of himself with the parents of a nine-year-old alleged rape and murder victim in the capital.

Twitter further said his account had also been blocked as his August 5 tweet was in breach of its policy.

Following Twitter's submission, a Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh posted the hearing on a petition seeking the initiation of legal action against Mr. Gandhi for September 27.

During the brief hearing,

the Bench got miffed by advocate for petitioner Makrand Suresh Mhadlekar, who disputed the submission made by Twitter's counsel before the court.

"The counsel for respondent number 4 [Twitter] says they have removed [the tweet] even without order from the court. There is no reason to disbelieve it. If this is your attitude, we are not issuing notice. We will see on next date," the Bench remarked.

'Account locked'

Senior advocate Sajan Poovalya, for the social media platform, said, "We have locked that account and the tweet is no longer available. It violates our policy as well. This is the status as on date".

Justice Rohinton Nariman retires today

His judgments tapped the myriad nerves of our social and legal fabric

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

Justice Rohinton Fali Nariman, the Supreme Court's "Renaissance Man", retires on Thursday. He was *sui generis* on the Bench, sharp, brusque, fearless and armed with repartees. He did not suffer incompetence and frivolous cases in court, dismissing both without mercy.

In 1993, then Chief Justice of India M.N. Venkatachaliah amended the court's rules to designate him senior advocate at the age of 37. He was appointed Solicitor-General in 2011. He became only the fifth lawyer in the nation's history to be directly appointed as judge of the Supreme Court in 2014.

A Parsi priest, a scholar of classical western music and theology and a published author are some of his many caps. Penguin, which is re-



Justice Rohinton Nariman

leasing his new work, *Discordant Notes – The Voice of Dissent in the Last Court of Resort*, in two volumes, introduces the author as "an institution in himself".

Justice Nariman almost single-handedly steered the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code in its teething years. Of the 164 Supreme Court judgments on the code, 81 were authored by him.

Justice Nariman's judgments in his seven-year tenure tap the myriad nerves

of our social and legal fabric. The Supreme Court amended its rules following his judgment that review petitions filed by condemned prisoners should be heard in open court and not within the judges' chambers.

He struck down Section 66A of the Information Technology Act which armed the State with power to send people to prison for "uncomfortable" social media messages. In his judgment in the *Shreya Singhal* case, Justice Nariman said, "The freedom of speech and the Press is the Ark of the Covenant of Democracy because public criticism is essential to the working of its institutions."

He cleansed a colonial smear from the Indian Penal Code by decriminalising homosexuality. He was part of the majority on the Bench which held that women aged

between 10 and 50 years cannot be barred from the Sabarimala temple on the biological ground of menstruation. Later, when the case came up for review, his dissent shone as much as his earlier majority opinion. His absence on the Ayodhya Bench was stark.

His judgment on instant talaq found the Muslim man's "capricious and whimsical" right "manifestly arbitrary".

He held political parties accountable for the 'criminal' candidates they field in elections. His last judgment on August 10 chastised the lawmakers.

He urged Parliament to take away the Speaker's power to decide disqualification under the Tenth Schedule. He said an independent tribunal should be formed for this function.

IN BRIEF



Court allows confiscation of assets in drugs case

NEW DELHI
A special court in Mohali has allowed confiscation of assets worth about ₹10 crore in a drug trafficking case involving former Arjuna awardee wrestler Jagdish Singh Bhola, who had also served as a Deputy Superintendent of Police in Punjab. Bhola was dismissed from the Punjab police after his role in drug trafficking surfaced.

Maharashtra announces Rajiv Gandhi Award in IT

MUMBAI
Days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi renamed the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award as Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, the Maharashtra government on Tuesday announced Rajiv Gandhi Award for Excellence in Information Technology. Minister of State for Information and Technology Satej Patil said the award would be announced on August 20, the birth anniversary of the former Prime Minister.

HC to hear Kangana's petition on Sept. 13

MUMBAI
The Bombay High Court on Wednesday said it will hear actor Kangana Ranaut's plea seeking to quash the FIR against her for "promoting enmity between groups on grounds of religion" through her tweets on September 13. The petitioner said Ms. Ranaut's tweets on Islam was a big insult to the religion. He said her tweets were communal, malicious, biased and a deliberate attempt to create disturbance in the society at large.

10 killed, 60 missing after Himachal landslide

Teams from the Army, the National Disaster Response Force, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police, the Central Industrial Security Force, the police and the district administration are involved in the rescue and relief operations.

"Drone images show that

debris is around 10-15 feet high and spread across 50-100 metres. So the rescue operation will take some time. The conductor who was rescued from the bus has stated that 28 people were inside the bus," Kinnaur Deputy Commissioner Abid Hussain Sadiq said.

New Cong. whips for RS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has appointed Rajya Sabha members Syed Naseer Hussain and Chaya Verma as the party's whips in the Upper House.

With Mr. Hussain, Chief

Whip Jairam Ramesh and Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge representing Karnataka, certain sections are wondering why both the whips were not appointed from Hindi heartland States. However, Ms. Verma is from Chhattisgarh.

RS members' protest an act of sacrilege: Naidu

Reflect and explore remedies, he says

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

In a voice choked with emotion, Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu on Wednesday castigated House members for Tuesday's events that saw some members protesting and standing on the table of the Secretary-General and reporters.

Mr. Naidu called the protests an "act of sacrilege".

"As I spent a sleepless night last night, I struggled to find the provocation or reason for forcing this august House to hit such a low yesterday," he said.

The table area constituted the *sanctum sanctorum* of the House and anything said or done destroying the sacredness of such a place amounted to sacrilege, he stated.

"In our temples, devotees are allowed only up to the *sanctum sanctorum* and not beyond. Entering this *sanctum sanctorum* of the House in itself is an act of sacrilege and it has been happening as routine over the years. I am distressed by the way this sacredness has

19 Bills passed in RS

NEW DELHI

A total of 19 Bills were passed in the Rajya Sabha in the monsoon session. About 76 hours were lost due to disruptions. The BJP sought the creation of a special panel to look into the incidents of the last two days, when the Opposition protests turned violent.

been destroyed yesterday," he observed. Such acts were "propelled by a sense of competition among some sections of the House, since the commencement of this monsoon session, he added.

Mr. Naidu appealed to the collective conscious of the House to "seriously reflect on what happened yesterday and explore remedies". "Failure to do so would certainly render our parliamentary democracy irrelevant," he noted. Each member had to make a choice to be either the best parliamentarian or the worst disruptor, he added.

Mr. Naidu adjourned the House after reading out his statement for an hour.

LS adjourned two days ahead of schedule, sees 22% productivity

Speaker hosts senior leaders, including PM and Cong. leader Sonia Gandhi for tea

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

As the Lok Sabha was adjourned *sine die* on Wednesday, Speaker Om Birla expressed pain over the repeated disruptions that allowed only 21 hours of functioning and 22% productivity of the House in the monsoon session.

The session that got under way on July 19 was adjourned two days ahead of its scheduled date of August 13, as the Opposition protested over the Pegasus snooping controversy, farm laws and other issues.

Zero Hour – time allotted to individuals members to raise important issues – was most affected and Question Hour, too, witnessed disruptions on most of the days.

The House managed to pass 20 Bills, mostly without debate or participation from the Opposition. However, the exception was the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Amendment) Bill, 2021 to restore



Tea time: Speaker Om Birla and Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a meeting with Opposition leaders on Wednesday. •PTI

the power of the States to make their Other Backward Class (OBC) lists that was passed after an extensive debate from all the parties.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi as well as Congress president Sonia Gandhi were present in the House when it was adjourned *sine die*.

Soon after adjourning the House, Mr. Birla hosted a tea party for all senior leaders, including Mr. Modi, Ms. Gandhi, Home Minister Amit Shah, the Congress's Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and K.

to function for 74 hours and 46 minutes. The total productivity was 22%... I am hurt by the fact that the proceedings of the House did not take place as per expectations in this session. I always make an effort to see that maximum business takes place in the House and discussions are held over issues related to the public," Mr. Birla told presspersons.

Previous sessions had seen good productivity, he added.

Members holding placards and raising slogans in the well of the House was not in accordance with rich parliamentary traditions. "I always expect the MPs to maintain the dignity of the House. There have been debates, agreements and disagreements in the House, but its dignity was never lowered," he noted.

Mr. Birla also informed that the construction of the new Parliament building was expected to be completed before August 15 next year.

Parliament passes Bill on OBC lists

In a break from its protests in RS, Opposition joins discussion and supports Bill

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Parliament on Wednesday passed a constitutional amendment aimed at restoring the rights of the States and the Union Territories to maintain their own list of Socially and Economically Backward Classes (SEBCs), commonly known as Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Amendment) Bill, 2021 was passed unanimously by the Rajya Sabha, a day after the Lok Sabha passed it. In a break from its protests on the Pegasus issue and farm laws, the Opposition joined the discussion and supported the Bill. While the Bill received support from across party lines, at least 10 parties, including the National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) Janata Dal (United),



MPs standing for the National Anthem after the adjournment of the Rajya Sabha in New Delhi on Wednesday. •PTI

called for a caste-based census and 12 parties demanded the removal of the 50% cap on reservation.

On May 5, the Supreme Court held that the Maratha reservation granted by the Maharashtra government was unconstitutional and that the President alone was empowered to identify SEBCs. In his response to the

discussion on the Bill, Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Virendra Kumar said the government understood the concerns over the 50% cap and that it should be revisited as it was decided 30 years ago.

Congress leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi said the government was congratulating itself for correcting a mis-

take it made in 2018, referring to the 102 Constitutional Amendment that said the President, in consultation with the Governor, would notify SEBCs. This Bill was an empty promise since there was a cap of 50% on reservation and this cap couldn't be changed till the caste census was done to reveal the actual numbers, he stated.

The Samajwadi Party's (SP) Ramgopal Yadav argued for a caste census. He said there was speculation that the Uttar Pradesh government would delist Yadav, Gujarat and Kurmi from the backward list. The BJP government, he said, was not bringing in the caste census only so that it could amend the backward list as per its wishes. There was need to raise the 50% cap on reservation, he observed.

Cong. announces panel for U.P. Assembly poll

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Wednesday announced its election committee for the Uttar Pradesh Assembly poll next year.

The 38-member panel includes U.P. unit chief Ajay Kumar Lal and former Union Ministers Salman Khurshid, Rajeev Shukla and

R.P.N. Singh.

The national presidents or chairpersons of the All India Congress Committee (AICC) organisations from U.P.; State heads of the party's frontal organisations; and vice-presidents and general secretaries of the Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee (UPCC) will be its *ex officio* members.

Birla meets officials after complaint

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

Taking cognisance of a complaint filed by Congress leader and Chairman of the Standing Committee on Information Technology (IT) Shashi Tharoor, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla is learnt to have met Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla, IT Secretary Ajay Sawhney and Telecom Secretary Anshu Prakash over the past few days.

Mr. Tharoor wrote to Mr. Birla on July 29, a day after the three Secretaries did not appear before the committee. They were called to depose on "Citizens Data Security and Privacy", which would have also entailed deliberations on the alleged Pegasus cyberattack.

Sought exemption

The three Secretaries, sought exemption from appearance at the very last minute, citing a variety of reasons. As per the rules, officials can skip the meeting only if permitted by the committee chairperson.

"It is important to share that as Chairperson, I did not excuse these witnesses from attendance," Mr. Tharoor wrote.

The meeting had to be cancelled after the BJP members boycotted it, accusing Mr. Tharoor of using the committee for "forwarding the Congress agenda". The BJP MPs, though present, refused to sign on the attendance register.

Debate on OBC Bill shows new avatar of Mandal politics

Regional parties are at the forefront of these demands

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

The debate on the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Amendment) Bill, 2021 in both Houses of Parliament during the monsoon session saw growing demands by political parties across the board, including National Democratic Alliance (NDA) allies, that a caste-based census be undertaken. Such an exercise, revealing the true extent of the Other Backward Classes (OBC) population, will lead to raising the 50% cap on reservations currently in place.

The two demands made with more strength than before are significant in the way they point to the fulcrum around which Mandal politics, in its third avatar, is likely to revolve.

Regional parties, especially those that came up following the implementation of the Mandal Commission recommendations in the 1990s, are at the forefront of these demands.

In the past few elections, especially in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, these parties have seen a successful campaign by the BJP, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in parsing the non-dominant sections of the OBC from the dominant communities belonging to that category, reaching out to them to build a powerful coalition of upper castes and non-dominant communities among

the OBCs and among the Scheduled Castes (SC) as well.

In ticket distribution and in terms of Ministry berths and in certain legislative interventions, the BJP has managed to make its version of Mandal work for it, along with a powerful Hindutva rhetoric.

NEWS ANALYSIS

The Union government under Mr. Modi, however, has not revealed the findings of the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) done in 2011, and the Justice G. Rohini Commission set up to look into sub-categorisation of OBCs for reservations in jobs and educational institutions is yet to submit its report and is currently on its 11th extension since being set up in October 2017.

Demands by regional parties such as the Samajwadi Party (SP), the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) for the BJP to empirically establish the correct number of OBCs and take the matter to its logical conclusion of raising the 50% cap on reservations are, therefore, seen as ways to call the BJP's bluff on its commitment to OBCs and seize the political momentum as well.

Coupled with this demand, the Mandal parties especially point to the 10% sub-categorisation within the general category reser-

vation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) among the upper castes. The message being conveyed by regional parties is clear – that the BJP's actions over the OBCs is to be balanced out by imperatives to keep upper castes on its side. For the BJP, despite having the largest number of OBC MPs, it is important to balance the upper caste sentiments, especially in Uttar Pradesh where they make up nearly 18-20% of voters.

Delicate situation

It puts the government led by the BJP at the Centre in a delicate situation. A situation that party MPs say could be ameliorated by finally pushing through a sub-categorisation plan for reservations in jobs. "It is an inevitable development and it would be better if the party pushes for it and seizes the initiative," a former Union Minister and current MP from the BJP told *The Hindu*. There is speculation that a fresh SECC may be undertaken after the 2021 census is concluded.

The forces of social and political mobility unleashed by the Mandal Commission recommendations are unfolding in each decade in a different way. For political parties, especially the BJP, it may be time to draft plans to re-engineer their social engineering formula, this time to accommodate the third coming of Mandal politics.

THE ENGLISH AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES UNIVERSITY
HYDERABAD – 500 007, Telangana (A Central University)

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION
Online applications are invited for admissions to the following courses/programmes at Hyderabad, Shilong and Lucknow for the academic year 2021-2022.

U.G. Courses: B.A. (Hons.) English; Arabic; Chinese; French; German; Japanese; Korean; Persian; Russian; Spanish; B.A. Journalism and Mass Communication.

P.G. Courses: M.A. English; Journalism and Mass Communication; Computational Linguistics; English Literature; Linguistics; Literatures in English; Comparative Literature; English Language Teaching; Hindi; Arabic Language and Literature; French Language and Literature; German Language and Literature; Japanese Language and Literature; Russian Language and Literature; Hispanic Language and Literature.

Teacher Education Courses: P.G. Diploma in the Teaching of English (PGDTE); B.Ed. English; P.G. Diploma in the Teaching of Arabic (PGDTA).

PG Diploma Courses: Post Graduate Diploma in Translation (PGDT)

Ph.D. Programmes: Ph.D. Linguistics and Phonetics; English Language Education; English Literature; Translation Studies; Hindi; Comparative Literature; Indian and World Literatures; Aesthetics and Philosophy; Film Studies and Visual Culture; French Language and Literature; German Language and Literature; Russian Language and Literature; Spanish Language and Literature.

The link to application form, and the Prospectus are available on the university's website: www.eflu.ac.in. In case you need further clarification : ☎ 040 – 27689647 (Helpline), 27689447 Sd/- REGISTRAR
The last date for the receipt of applications is 31 August 2021.

KARNATAKA STATE LAW UNIVERSITY
Navanagar, Hubballi-580025
Accredited with 'A' Grade by NAAC
Phone: 0836-222492 Website : www.kslu.karnataka.gov.in
Fax : 0836-2223392 Email : kslu.registrar@gmail.com

No. KSLU/DPAR/2021-22/0700 Date: 12.08.2021

NOTIFICATION FOR APPOINTMENT OF PERMANENT TEACHERS AND OTHER ACADEMIC STAFF
Applications are invited in eight sets in the prescribed Application Form from the eligible Indian citizens for the following Permanent Teachers and other Academic Staff.

Backlog Teaching Posts	Fees Details	
	Application	Processing
Professor in Law – 01 (Backlog Post)		
SC (Open) – 01	Rs. 700/-	Rs. 1800/- (Rs. 900/- for SC/ST/ Cat-I)
Associate Professor in Law – 02 (Backlog Posts)		
ST (Open) – 01	Rs. 700/-	Rs. 1800/- (Rs. 900/- for SC/ST/ Cat-I)
Cat-I (Open)-01		
Non-Hyderabad-Karnataka Teaching Posts	Fees Details	
	Application	Processing
Assistant Professor in Law – 02		
SC (Woman) – 01	Rs. 700/-	Rs. 1200/- (Rs. 600/- for SC/ST/ Cat-I)
GM (Woman) – 01		
Assistant Professor in Non-Law – 05		
GM (Physically Handicapped) – 01 (Blindness and Low Vision) (Management Studies)		
GM (Open) – 01 (Management Studies)	Rs. 700/-	Rs. 1200/- (Rs. 600/- for SC/ST/ Cat-I)
GM (Rural) – 01 (History)		
II A (Woman) – 01 (Kannada)		
II B (Open) – 01 (Asst. Director of Physical Education and Sports)		
Hyderabad-Karnataka 371 (J) Posts	Fees Details	
	Application	Processing
Assistant Professor in Non-Law – 03		
GM (Woman) – 01 (English)	Rs. 700/-	Rs. 1200/- (Rs. 600/- for SC/ST/ Cat-I)
SC (Open) – 01 (Economics)		
ST (Open) – 01 (Political Science)		

Note: 1. Qualifications, Pay Scales and other Eligibility conditions are as per "UGC Regulations on Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges, Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education, 2018 (No. F. 1-2/2017 (EC/PS) dated: 18th July 2018)".
2. Interested candidates can download the Application Form from the official website of Karnataka State Law University - <http://www.kslu.karnataka.gov.in>. For more details refer the same website.
3. Application fees to be paid through Online SBI collect, Karnataka State Law University, Hubballi.
4. Candidates applying for more than one post should apply with separate Application Form and Online SBI Collect E-Receipts for each post.
5. Application Forms duly complete in all respects along with the Online SBI collect E-Receipts should be submitted to The Registrar, Karnataka State Law University, Navanagar, Hubballi-580025 on or before 27.09.2021.
Sd/-
DIPRDWD/391/2021-22/DESHPANDEPUBLICITY REGISTRAR
STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19. NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE

Wear Mask **Follow Physical Distancing** **Maintain Hand Hygiene**

Opposition leaders to march from Parliament

'Govt. did not want to discuss issues'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Opposition leaders from 15 parties will protest against the curtailment of the monsoon session of Parliament on Thursday by marching from Parliament to Vijay Chowk at Rajpath to "inform" the people that the Narendra Modi government did not want to discuss important issues affecting them.

Congress chief whip in the Lok Sabha, K. Suresh, said former Congress president Rahul Gandhi will be a part of the protests.

Opposition MPs will first assemble in the Parliament complex and then protest in front of Mahatma Gandhi statue before marching to Vijay Chowk to address a joint press conference.

Earlier in the day, Congress leader in the Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, criticised the government for curtailing the monsoon session and alleged that Opposition members were not allowed to speak on issues like price rise, farmers agitation and the repeal of farm laws.

Sudden adjournment

Mr. Chowdhury said, "It's not the task of the government to say who is right or wrong... Such a government that focuses on its whims and fancies is not good for the country and is dangerous for democracy. First, we were told the House will run till August 13, but the government today suddenly



Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury

decided 'no need to run the house further' and the House was suddenly adjourned".

Mr. Chowdhury claimed that the government and the ruling BJP spared no opportunity to portray the Opposition in a bad light and "deflect the truth".

"We sought discussions on COVID-19, unbridled price rise, fuel price rise, farmers issues. We wanted a repeal of the farm laws and when the Pegasus issue came up, we repeatedly tried to tell the government the issue is not small. It has put a question mark on national security... It kept escaping a discussion and till the end did not allow a debate on Pegasus," he stated.

"If Israel is probing the issue, France is investigating and Hungary and Germany are reacting, why can't India," Mr. Chowdhury asked.

Objecting to the manner in which Bills were being passed, he said, "We have seen that every Bill is passed within five to seven minutes and the government has created a new record on this front."

Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture, (RGCA), a society under the MPEDA inviting applications from eligible candidates to work as Trainee and Young Professional-I purely on temporary basis. For further details, log on to www.rgca.co.in.

12.08.2021 Director I/C

IndianOil Southern Region

Notification for Engagement of 480 Apprentices under the Apprentices Act 1961

IndianOil, Marketing Division, Southern Region, as a measure of Skill Development Initiative for the Nation invites applications for Engagement of 480 Trade Apprentices (ITI / Accountant / Data Entry Operator-Fresher/ Skill Certificate Holders/Retail Sales Associate - Fresher/ Skill Certificate Holders), Technician Apprentice (Diploma) for the year 2021-22 (Phase-I) at its Locations in the States of Tamil Nadu & Puducherry, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh & Telangana.

Full text of the Advertisement including eligibility criteria of age, qualification and details of stipend, relaxations, concessions, reservations, etc. will be hosted in our Corporate website www.iocl.com or at (<http://www.iocl.com/PeopleCareers/job.aspx>) from 13th August 2021 @ 10.00 hrs.

How to apply: Interested candidates meeting the prescribed eligibility criteria may apply through the above mentioned website from 13th August 2021 @ 10.00 hrs onwards. Closing date for online submission of Application is 28th August 2021 @ 17:00 hrs.

Any subsequent notification/amendment in the matter shall be notified in www.iocl.com only.

Note: The Corporation shall have no obligation to give regular employment to Apprentices. The Apprentices shall have no right to claim regular employment from the Corporation on the basis of this Apprenticeship at any point of time. This Apprenticeship shall not create any liability on IOCL for providing any job to the Apprentice.

Advertisement No. IOCL/MKTG/SR/APPR.2021-22 (Phase I)

Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited
(A group company of IndianOil)

Regd. Office: 536, Anna Salai, Teyyanampet, Chennai 600 018.
Website: www.cpcl.co.in; Email id: shankarp@cpcl.co.in
Tel: 044-24349833 / 24346807 CIN: L40101TN1985G0005389

ADDENDUM TO NOTICE OF 55TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING DATED 25.06.2021

TO WITHDRAW THE PROPOSAL FOR APPOINTMENT OF MR. SUKH RAM MEENA (DIN 09011328) AS A DIRECTOR AND TO INCLUDE THE PROPOSAL FOR APPOINTMENT OF MR. DEEPAK SRIVASTAVA (DIN 09275923) AS A DIRECTOR AS SL. NO. 4 OF THE NOTICE DATED 25.06.2021

Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (the "Company") had issued Notice dated 25th June, 2021 (Notice of AGM) convening the 55th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the shareholders of the Company scheduled on 20th August 2021 at 3:00 PM through VC / OAVM. The said Notice has already been dispatched to all the shareholders of the Company on 28.07.2021 in due compliance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the Rules made thereunder.

Subsequent to the issuance of the aforesaid Notice, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoP & NG), Government of India vide letter dated 05.08.2021 has nominated Mr. Deepak Srivastava, Deputy Secretary (OMC), MoP & NG as a Government Nominee Director on the Board of CPCL in place of Mr. Sukh Ram Meena, Deputy Director General (DDG) (IFD), MoP & NG. Accordingly, the earlier circulated agenda item No. 4 for appointment of Mr. Sukh Ram Meena stands withdrawn.

Pursuant to Section 160 of the Companies Act, 2013, read with Rule 13 of Companies (Appointment of Directors) Rules 2014, it is hereby notified that a shareholder of the Company has proposed the name of Mr. Deepak Srivastava, for appointment as a Director of the Company for consideration at the 55th Annual General Meeting of the company scheduled to be held on Friday, the 20th August, 2021 at 3:00 PM through Video Conference (VC)/ Other Audio Visual Means (OAVM).

The aforesaid appointment would be included in the remote e-voting facility commencing on Monday, August 16th, 2021 at 9:00 AM (IST) and ending on Thursday, August 19th, 2021 at 05:00 PM (IST) to enable the shareholders to vote electronically.

Notice in this regard is also hosted on the website of the Company at <https://cpcl.co.in/investors/financials/statutory-disclosure/> and on the website of KFIN Technologies Private Limited, the Share Transfer Agents of the company at <https://evoting.kfintech.com>.

By order of the Board of Directors
For Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited
Sd./-
(P. Shankar)
Company Secretary

Date : August 11, 2021
Place: Chennai

WHO decision on Covaxin EUA in Sept.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GENEVA

A top vaccines official at the World Health Organization says the agency expects to make a decision in September on an emergency use authorisation for the Indian-made COVID-19 vaccine made by Bharat Biotech, a shot that has yet to be authorised by any Western regulatory authorities.

Mariangela Simao, a WHO Assistant Director-General for vaccines, says the UN health agency's assessment of the Bharat Biotech vaccine was "quite advanced" and officials hoped for a decision by mid-September.

Few studies have been published on the shot. Indian researchers have yet to share any advanced research about the vaccine, which has been authorised and used in India.

Scientists in India say the vaccine is about 78% effective, but there are questions about how it performs in the real world, including against variants. There are many vaccines in the final stages of the pipeline, Dr. Simao said.

Deaths due to lack of oxygen not taken lightly, says Ministry

'Centre took several measures to ensure supply'

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry on Tuesday told the Rajya Sabha that some patients who were on ventilator support died while undergoing treatment for COVID-19 at Sri Venkateswara Ramnaraina Ruia Government Hospital in Andhra Pradesh.

Senior Health Ministry officials told *The Hindu* that each State had been specifically asked to report any death of COVID-19 and the reasons for the death.

An official said, "This isn't data that we take lightly. Data gathered is the guide for the Ministry [State and Central] to ensure that we are able to bridge any gaps and catch any trends early on. Several and immediate measures were brought in to ensure adequate oxygen and other medical supplies to the States during the COVID-19 waves."



Life support: In this photo dated April 27, 2021, relatives of COVID-19 patients are seen waiting to refill medical oxygen in their cylinders in New Delhi. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

In the Rajya Sabha, in a written reply to a question by Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar on deaths due to inadequate oxygen supply in Andhra Pradesh, Minister of State for Health Bharati Pravin Pawar noted that the Centre had been providing the required technical support and supported the States through logistic and financial support to further strengthen the existing health infrastructure to tackle the pandemic.

The Ministry said the daily liquid medical oxygen

(LMO) supply, which was about 1,292 MTs a day in February 2021 increased to 8,593 MTs in April 2021.

"On May 28, 2021, a total of 10,250 MTs of LMO was allocated to the States. This was done by enhancement of LMO production in steel plants as well as in other LMO plants. Restrictions were imposed on industrial use of oxygen. A dynamic and transparent framework for allocation of medical oxygen in consultation with all the stakeholders has been prepared," it stated.

Mandaviya counters Sisodia's claim

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Wednesday countered the Delhi government's claim that the Centre had not made any enquiries regarding the number of deaths due to oxygen shortage during the second wave of COVID-19.

Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia had said no letter had been received from the Centre on the matter.

Mr. Mandaviya tweeted, "Dear Sisodia, Here is the copy of the mail sent by my ministry to the Delhi government on 26th July. It's not too late yet! By August 13 you can send the data so that we can answer the question to Parliament. After reviewing with your officers, please send the necessary data as soon as possible."

The aim is to make Brand India strong, says Modi

PM urges industry to partner with the government

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said economic growth in the country is picking up pace again and the domestic industry should take advantage of the environment that has been created for development.

"The government is with you, with your every effort," Mr. Modi said.

The Prime Minister was addressing the annual session of the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) that was attended by Tata Sons Chairman N. Chandrasekaran, Kotak Mahindra Bank MD & CEO Uday Kotak, Larsen & Toubro MD & CEO S.N. Subramaniam, and Bharat Forge CMD Baba Kalyani, among others.

He added that for a self-reliant India, investments in R&D need to increase manifold, which is not possible with government efforts alone. "For the success of Atmanirbhar Bharat, a big responsibility rests on Indian industries... There is a need



Narendra Modi

for partnership with industry for this. Our aim is to make Brand India strong... and for that we need to strengthen our partnership," he said.

Domestic manufacture

He said there was a time when everything foreign was considered better, but this psychology has changed and citizens today prefer products that are made in India. "It is not necessary that the company is Indian, but today every Indian wants to adopt products made in India," he said, adding that industry has to align its policy and strategy to this.

Speaking at the same session, Mr. Kalyani suggested a

five-pronged approach, including augmenting design and innovation capability, establishing end-to-end value chains, participation in global agendas for climate action, reducing cost of doing business, and focus on indigenous research, innovation and IPR (intellectual property rights), while Mr. Kotak said there is a need to increase financing capabilities to realise the dream of high growth. "An *atmanirbhar* (self-reliant) Bharat needs an *atmanirbhar* financial sector. The markets should be well-regulated but free to operate," Mr. Kotak said.

Mr. Chandrasekaran called for making India a \$5 trillion economy by 2031, and working towards enhancing technological capabilities in areas such as electronics and 5G, developing a skill ecosystem and creating protocols and partnerships with countries for cooperation in technology, "so that the decade belongs to India in the technological sectors".

Fill consumer disputes panel vacancies in eight weeks: SC

Centre told to do 'legislative impact study' on Consumer Act

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday gave the Centre and the States eight weeks to fill the vacancies in the consumer disputes redressal commissions.

"Is there some *muhurrat* required for taking steps? States are defeating the purpose for which the consumer protection laws have been made... they have been made for the benefit of people," Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, heading a Bench, including Justice Hrishikesh Roy, said.

The Bench asked the Centre to conduct a comprehensive "legislative impact study" on the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

"We want to know the impact of this legislation on litigation," Justice Kaul said. The court gave the government four weeks to complete the study. When the government complained about the paucity of time, Justice Kaul said, "You make legislation instantly. You rush through so many things, you can rush through this too..."

'Is it deliberate?'

The court asked if the governments, both at the Centre and in the States, had deliberately kept the vacancies pending to dissuade pe-



ople from filing complaints.

"You don't want complaints to be processed, for citizens to get justice? There is no manpower, there is no infrastructure.... People get fed up. You say 'we will get this thing done' or 'we will get that thing done', and then nothing happens. You seem to have only vacancies and not appointments," Justice Kaul slammed the governments. The legislative intent behind the Consumer Protection Act was to empower ordinary citizens, he noted.

"However, the ground reality is different. There is little attempt made to translate the legislative intent to administrative infrastructure, facilities, staff, members in order for the functioning of the consumer disputes commissions," the Bench stated.

The Centre had dilly-dallied over the appointments of members in the National

Commission.

Additional Solicitor-General Aman Lekhi, for the Centre, said there was litigation in the court regarding the tenure of tribunal members. The Centre was waiting for its outcome. Mr. Lekhi also referred to the recent passing of the Tribunal Reforms Bill of 2021, which had the same provisions regarding tenure and so on as the Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Ordinance, 2021 that was struck down by the court in the recent verdict in the Madras Bar Association case. The to and fro of litigation and legislation had caused "confusion", delaying appointments.

Justice Kaul addressed the law officer, "Somebody will keep challenging. Now, somebody will challenge this law too... That does not mean you stop appointments. Mr. Lekhi, when you want to do something, there is no 'confusion'. My question is simple. You have appointed four persons, when are you appointing the remaining three people? You need to have the requisite number of people to deal with the cases filed".

The court said if it could ask the States to comply with a eight-week deadline, it could "jolly well" ask the Centre to do the same thing.

Amid ruckus, RS clears insurance Bill

Even as the speeches were going on, MPs had an intense tussle with the marshals

SOBHANA K. NAIR
DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

The contentious General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2021 was passed amidst shocking scenes in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday despite the Opposition's demand to send the legislation to a select committee.

The Rajya Sabha passed the Bill that would allow the government to cut its share in public sector insurance companies, paving the way for more private sector participation, amid protests by the Opposition. The Bill had been passed by the Lok Sabha on August 2.

The entire Opposition was united in their call to send the Bill to a select committee. YSR Congress Party MP Vijaysai Reddy said it must go to a select committee to understand the greater rami-



Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge

fications of this law. Congress MP Syed Naseer Hussain and TDP MP K. Ravindra Kumar also urged the government to send the Bill to a select committee. RJD MP Manoj K. Jha said the entire nation was watching the murder of democracy here. "I ask the Chair too how can you sit and let this happen," Mr. Jha said.

When the government forced through a discussion amid the din, CPI MP Binoy Viswam tried to climb on to the reporter's table. BJD MP Sasmit Patra, who was in the

Chair, immediately adjourned the House. Within minutes, more than 10 women marshals and nearly 50 men formed a human chain around the reporter's table. They also blocked the way for the Opposition members to get into the well.

Noisy protest

When the House reconvened, Ripun Bora and Syed Naseer Hussain (Congress), Mr. Viswam and Elamaram Kareem (CPI-M) had a tussle with the marshals as they tried to push their way to the reporter's table.

Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut, who was in the second row, clambered on to the seats and leapt at the marshals.

Even as the speeches were going on, the MPs had an intense tussle with the marshals. Mr. Bora at one point stood up on a platform where the TV screen is kept.

Trinamool MP Mausum Noor stood with a noose around her neck.

The Congress MPs walked out in protest against what Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge called an "insult to democracy". "We are all peace-loving people. So many male and female marshals created a shield... Lady members are insulted here. Marshals are pushing. We are not safe and our lady members are not safe," said Trinamool MP Sukhendu Sekhar Ray.

Inside the House, the government introduced the National Commission for Homoeopathy (Amendment) Bill, 2021 and the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (Amendment) Bill, 2021. Both Bills were passed after brief discussions, before the Rajya Sabha was adjourned sine die.

Google rolls out features for child safety

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

To give kids and teens a safer experience online, Google has announced a host of changes in its policies and products to limit their exposure to explicit content, including blocking advertising targeted at the under-18 age group.

In the "coming weeks and months", the technology giant will roll out a new policy that will enable anyone under 18, or their parent or guardian, to request the removal of their images from Google Image results. "Of course, removing an image from Search doesn't remove it from the web, but we believe this change will help give young people more control of their images online," the company said in a blog.

It would expand safeguards to prevent age-sensitive ad categories from being shown to teens, and block ad targeting based on the age, gender or interests of people under 18. "We'll start rolling out these updates across our products globally over the coming months. Our goal is to ensure we're providing additional protections and delivering age-appropriate experiences for ads on Google," it stated. The company would also roll out changes for YouTube, Search, and Play Store.

Bihar teacher sacked for selling gunny bags

AMARNATH TEWARY
PATNA

A schoolteacher in Bihar's Katihar district was suspended after his video went viral on social media recently in which he was seen selling gunny bags used to supply mid-day meals (MDM) in schools. The Bihar Primary School Teachers Association

(BPSTA) has condemned the suspension calling it "too stringent a measure".

Mohd. Tamijuddin, posted at the Government Primary School, Kantadih in Katihar district, was seen selling empty and torn gunny bags at a market crossroad urging people to buy "strong gunny bags of Bihar government for ₹10

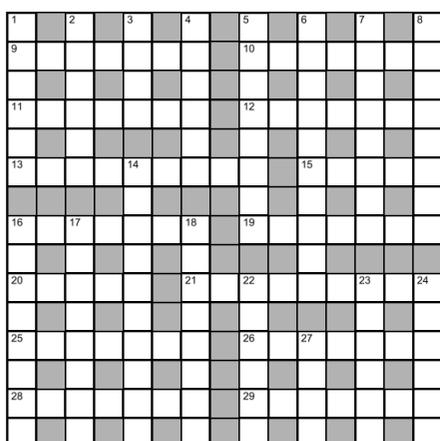
each".

The video is said to have gone viral on social media a few days back. Mohd. Tamijuddin was suspended on August 8 and departmental proceedings were initiated against him. Later, he appealed to Chief Minister Nitish Kumar to revoke his suspension as he was only

"obeying government's order".

"I tried to sell used gunny bags first in the school. But no takers turned up there as the government has fixed the price of ₹10 for each bag. So I decided to sell them in the market just to obey the order of the department," the teacher said.

TH CROSSWORD + 13324 Display keystrokes of genius. Type your answers in our online grids. @ <https://qrqo.page.link/jjptn> SCAN TO PLAY



- 16 Mark had one drink first and at the end more cocktail (7)
- 19 Irritated with new journalist covering final battle moved (7)
- 20 Capital of Denmark, initially also known as capital of Russia (5)
- 21 Variable direction, that is on road is the most frivolous (9)
- 25 If it could be one assisting in childbirth (7)
- 26 Axes interchanged in observation behind net used by acrobats (7)
- 28 Paralyzing pain at the extremity and top, doctor's information not good (7)
- 29 Recognised South African instrument having depth (7)

DOWN

- 1 New one — upstart has sea sickness (6)
- 2 Doctor losing his head? Encourage (4,2)
- 3 A dad and mom primarily made first man (4)
- 4 Parish official's dog's not good, died (6)
- 5 Can almost rock in US city (8)
- 6 King brought in redrawn treatises, most uneven in quality (10)
- 7 Support withdrawn, mistrial due to something relating to mediation (8)
- 8 Damned pet, escaped by first door (8)
- 14 Article rewritten about trouble with lizards (10)
- 16 Grounds for side to change people in third match (8)
- 17 Germany and Britain way back had Saxon titles (8)
- 18 British physicist's suggestion; the French power has no limits (8)
- 22 A rare thespian in South, Tamil leading actor perhaps (6)
- 23 Leaves, leaves, each for one (6)
- 24 Courses at river ends, fade away at the bend (6)
- 27 Friend's call about leaving first year (4)

ACROSS

- 9 Contract for an offer, got in writing at company (7)
- 10 Regarding sailor, one on ocean in a Canadian province (7)
- 11 Got excited with second side, half the side on comeback (7)
- 12 Wanting to sack student — troubling (7)
- 13 Nun disturbed, having mental breakdown about cancellation (9)
- 15 Perhaps a Thai king or reportedly leader of Nepal (5)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13323

G	R	A	S	H	O	P	P	E	R	S			
S	A	P	E	E	H	A							
C	H	I	M	E	R	A	T	O	R	R	E	N	T
A	L	L	A	T	R	I	B	A	W				
R	E	C	O	R	D	L	I	T	E	R	A	T	I
E	A	M	F	B	F	V	I	G	I	L			
D	O	R	M	I	T	O	R	Y	V	I	G	I	L
R	A	N	C	H	T	E	N	A	C	I	O	U	S
O	E	L	C	E	L	L	A						
S	P	R	O	C	K	E	T	A	V	I	D	L	I
A	V	O	T	G	E	T	I						
R	O	O	S	T	E	R	A	R	R	A	I	G	N
Y	O	T	E	L	S	M	I	G					
S	T	A	G	E	M	A	N	A	G	E	D		

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Worship, made simple

Bringing one's palms together and doing an anjali to Lord Narayana is the easiest way to worship Him, said Akkarakkani Srinidhi in a discourse. This simple act is enough to please Him. Alavandar, in his *Stotra Ratnam*, says that whoever offers an anjali to the Lord, at whatever time of the day, and even if he were to do this only once, it is enough to wipe out all his sorrows, and to contribute to his welfare. Alavandar, addressing the Lord, says that an anjali offered to Him will never be in vain. As Alavandar points out, the beauty of anjali is that anyone can do it. There are no rules about when to do it. No special rituals are to be followed to do an anjali. And yet, there are those who do not even do this simple act. Nammazhvar says that it is their fate that keeps them from doing that which is good for them.

In the Yuddha Kanda of Valmiki Ramayana, Rama tells Sugreeva that should a man approach one with folded palms (anjali), then regardless of whether that man is an enemy, or a beggar, or one seeking refuge, he should not be killed. Anjali is saranagati (surrender) through the body. Valmiki's use of the word 'deena', indicates surrender through the manas, and the poet's use of the word 'yaacantam' indicates surrender through one's words.

Vedanta Desika, in his *Anjali Vaibhavam*, says that if the Lord were about to punish us for our sins, we must direct towards Him the weapon known as anjali! The Lord will melt with compassion and drop the idea of punishing us. Every act has a purpose, but once we achieve our target, we no longer continue the same task. But when you do anjali, you get moksha, and in Sri Vaikuntha, what does one do, but offer anjali to the Lord? So anjali is something that continues even after the goal (moksha) is attained.

As India celebrates 75 years of Independence, a young practising Gandhian juxtaposes his views against more conventional seniors

With the Mahatma into the millennium



Marching behind Gandhi (Clockwise from below) Sudarshan Iyengar with wife Lakshmi; Avyakta; Ghanshyam Shukla with students of Kasturba Balika Intercollege which he founded • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



PRIYADERSHINI S

Forty-one-year old Avyakta left New Delhi 10 years ago and began travelling across India to interact with students, discussing Mahatma Gandhi's teachings on life and society.

Currently living in a small village in Kangra valley of Himachal Pradesh, he is somewhat critical of how Gandhi's ideas have been delivered to the last four generations. "Even the new generations are being subjected to the same misunderstandings about Gandhiji's ideas both by supporters and opponents alike," he says.

"The true successor of Gandhiji was Vinoba Bhave. He proved that the Gandhian way of life will lead to the real freedom of India and the world. But as Gandhiji was politically misappropriated by many and even vilified by some, in the same way Vinoba was consciously ignored. Do you hear many people talking about Gandhiji's 11 vrata or vows for living a harmonious life?" rues Avyakta.

However, after his interactions with thousands of children and young adults across the country, he sees a silver lining. "I find young



ones more discerning, intrepid and open to lead a Gandhian way of life. They will choose non-violence only if they survive the assault by overpowering consumerism," he says.

Sudarshan Iyengar, 67, who is talking to youth across the country on his latest project, "gram swaraj" about strengthening participatory democracy, is hopeful.

"I notice that those in their teens and twenties are curious about Gandhi," he

says over phone from his home in Dharampur, in Valad district of Gujarat, adding that in the last three decades "as we moved from an industrial economy to a knowledge economy and now to a tech world, Gandhi has been relegated to the moral science class. He is not for intellectual curiosity but for earnest practice."

As India celebrates 75 years of Independence, there are just a handful of these practising Gandhians left, a majority being se-

niors: Ghanshyam Shukla, for instance, who sweeps the premises of the Prabha Prakash Degree College in Panjwar village of Siwan district in Bihar every day. The 78-year-old Shukla, a retired teacher of Tari High School, founded the institution by urging people to donate land and build a college for girls. The practising Gandhian's only possessions are two sets of clothes, a cot, cycle and an umbrella.

"It is not totally appro-



I find young ones more discerning, intrepid and open to lead a Gandhian way of life. They will choose non-violence only if they survive consumerism

AVYAKTA

prate to call me a practising Gandhian," says Sudarshan who has devoted a large part of his life training Advaiti girls in agriculture, ani-

mal tending, and basic computer skills.

Drawn to Gandhian ways as a youngster, he went on to serve the State in several capacities. The former Vice Chancellor of Gujarat Vidyapeeth is now active in running two schools under the Sarvodaya Parivar Trust. "A total of 90 girls are trained at the schools. Their attendance was down to 60 during the pandemic," says Sudarshan.

Sudarshan is supported by his wife Lakshmi, an Ayurvedic practitioner. Influenced by the JP Movement, (Sampoorna Kranti or Total Revolution) in 1973, he adopted the slogan *humla chahe jaisa hoga, haath hamara nahi uthega* (however violent the attack, we will not raise our hand).

Championing a cause
In October 2020, 94-year-old Professor Ramjee Singh of Munger, Bihar, a former parliamentarian, was awarded the Padmashri for social work. In 1942, as a student of Army School Jamalpur he led a student's demonstration against British rule for which he was expelled. He continues to propagate Gandhian philosophy.

"He led a *padayatra* in

England on the 125th celebrations of Gandhi's birth anniversary," says his son Sarvodaya Sharma. Ramjee is responsible for the induction of Gandhian Studies as a post-graduate subject in universities, a cause he championed in Parliament.

Former Professor of Gandhian Studies at MG University and member, Gandhi Peace Foundation, MP Mathai, says, "There is a problem in defining a practising Gandhian. You will not find another Gandhi, none practising the 11 vows to live by. These were for the inmates of the ashram. Gandhi's ashram was neither isolated or insulated but existed in the heart of a thriving society."

Mathai has seen several communities practising a non-violent way of life. "They resort to prayer, meditation, manual labour... Others take to organic farming, wearing khadi and handspun, some practise naturopathy, consumption of electricity from alternative energy sources... There are umpteen number of ways that Gandhi's principles and ideas are being practised," says Mathai, pointing out it is time to look at Gandhi in a new context.

A passage through Bengal

DEEPA ALEXANDER

In the late 17th Century, East India Company galleons sailed up the Bay of Bengal into the waterlogged delta of the Ganges-Brahmaputra and weighed anchor. Legend has it that administrator Job Charnock 'established' the city of Calcutta at the site of three extant villages, near the banyan tree where he liked to smoke his bubble-bubble.

Over time, Calcutta became the hub for Company trade, the capital of the sub-continent and seat of the province of Bengal. Businessmen and soldiers, artists and *memsahibs*, all drawn to its riches in wealth and culture, flocked to it. Among them was Flemish marine painter, printmaker and ethnographer, Balthazar Solvyns, perhaps the only European artist to have documented the people and material culture of Bengal in the decade he lived there.

An exhibition in Bikaner House

DAG is exhibiting 288 etchings of Solvyns that he titled *Les Hindous* opened recently in New Delhi. The works were published by the artist in Paris between 1808 and 1812.

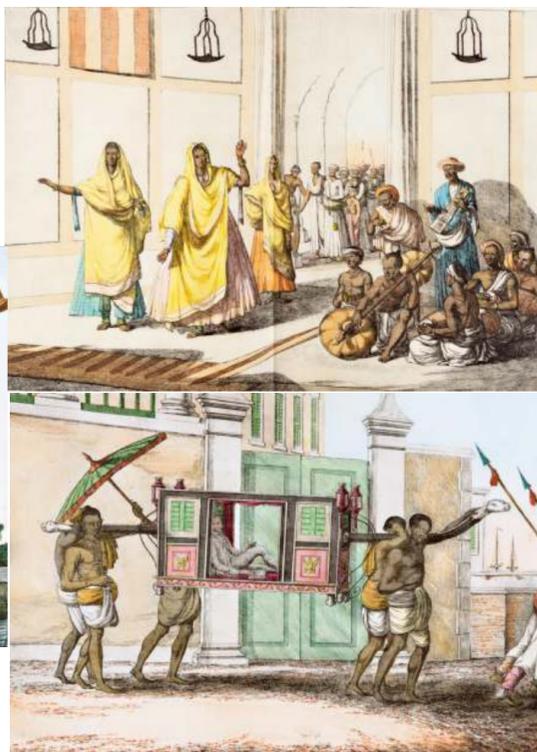
"What makes Solvyns exceptional, among foreign artists in India of his time, is his focus on the whole spectrum of society from



high to low. Most British painters, for example, were portrait painters seeking patronage from the elites; or they portrayed architecture and landscape. Solvyns addressed Indian society as a whole, and did not neglect its less privileged members," says Giles Tillotson, senior vice president, Exhibitions and Publications at DAG, in an email interview.

Curated by Tillotson, the exhibition is accompanied by a book that introduces, illustrates and contextualises this body of work. Tillotson had earlier curated an exhibition based around a set of Oriental scenery by Thomas and William Daniell in the Red Fort.

The first-ever exhibition of the complete series of *Les Hindous* by Balthazar Solvyns is a portrait of an Indian way of life that has long passed into the pages of history



From the album (Clockwise from left) Ramsingha; Natche and Long Palanquin by Balthazar Solvyns • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Les Hindous can be viewed in the high-vaulted halls of Bikaner House in the heart of Lutyens' Delhi. The paintings are of individuals and of groups, a hat tip to Calcutta's growth as a cosmopolitan city. So while a native, *dhoti*-clad man blows the *ramsingha* (serpent horn), women in flounces and petticoats stroll through the European quarters. The co-

lours are muted, but the exposed brickwork and colonnades are stark. At the bazaar, palm trees are in the distance as men and women crowd the baskets selling wares, but it is the different types of clothing, the drape of the sari or the *dhoti*, indicating caste and class, that underline Solvyns' keen powers of survey.

"All the works are coloured

etchings on paper and hence the works are rested in light and temperature-controlled environments between exhibitions," says Tillotson, adding, "Each work in this series is based on close observation – of a person or an object such as a boat, cart, a musical instrument... It is also accompanied by text, written by the artist, describing the person or object, explaining them to Western audiences."

The storyteller

The descriptive texts are quaint with phonetic spellings for a Parisian viewer, but they also reveal an ethnographic study of Bengal. The works also feature 'nautch' girls and fortune tellers apart from the gamut of weavers, boatmen and merchants, lending the portraits a touch of the exotic.

"Inevitably, the gaze is in part European. Solvyns is attracted to some things that are strange to Western eyes. Some of the ceremonies and religious rites fall in this category – like the views depicting *sati* or *charak* puja. But one also gets a strong sense of Solvyns gathering information from the people he met, his informants, particularly Bengali Brahmins."

The series also covers carts and palanquins, apparatus for smoking and natural history.

Solvyns did not arrive in India with the intent of portraying its people to Europe. In the early years, he decorated carriages and restored paintings for a living. It opened to him a world of customs, dress and character he may not have seen otherwise. Neither would have we, of that India veiled now by the mists of time.

The exhibition is on till August 20 at Bikaner House, New Delhi. It can also be viewed online at dagworld.com/TheHindus

In Velu Nachiyar's shoes

From Hazrat Mahal to Rani Lakshmi Bai, Chennai actor TM Karthik attempts to start a conversation on women warriors of India with a new photo series

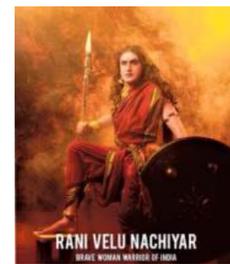
GOWRI S

Against a smoky backdrop, Velu Nachiyar stands, spear and shield in hand. Adorned in a red sari and jewellery from a bygone era, her posture exudes power. For Tamils worldwide, Nachiyar is "veeramangai"; the first Indian queen to have waged a war against the East India Company. But in this frame, Chennai-based actor and theatre practitioner TM Karthik embodies the role.

In an unusual series of photographs, to be launched around Independence Day, Karthik, takes on the roles of five women who rewrote India's history.

Done in collaboration with Pearls Beauty Academy, the series features the actor dressed as Velu Nachiyar, Rani Lakshmi Bai (Rani of Jhansi), Rani Padmini, Kittur Rani Chennamma and Begum Hazrat Mahal. With costumes and makeup by the Academy and pictures by Ashok, a freelance photographer, the project attempts to tell these stories again.

"I wanted to do a series on Tamil women warriors, but realised that not many would know who they are. The aim



In the spotlight TM Karthik as Velu Nachiyar (above) and Hazrat Mahal (below) • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

was also to reach many. So we selected warriors across India," says Karthik.

Inspiration for poses, costumes and jewellery came from early paintings and images that Karthik found in books. While a few costumes were purchased, others were borrowed from her 91-year-old grandmother, says Aarthi Balaji, director of Pearls Beauty Academy.

"We wanted to highlight Indian culture and heritage through the jewellery and makeup; things that are almost lost now," adds Arthi. The series will be launched on August 13, on Pearls Beauty Academy's social media handles.



Taliban could take over Kabul in 90 days: U.S. intelligence

Militants control 65% of Afghanistan, and have taken or are fighting for 11 cities

REUTERS
WASHINGTON/KABUL

The Taliban could isolate Afghanistan's capital Kabul in 30 days and potentially take it over in 90 days, a U.S. defense official told Reuters on Wednesday, citing a U.S. intelligence assessment.

Taliban militants have taken control of eight provincial capitals in six days, a pace that has surprised U.S. officials.

Taliban now control 65% of Afghanistan and have taken or threaten to take 11 provincial capitals, a senior EU official said on Tuesday.

The U.S. official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said the new assessment followed the rapid gains the Taliban had been making around Afghanistan.



Complete chaos: Taliban insurgents and Afghans gathering in the city of Farah in Afghanistan on Wednesday. *AP

"But this is not a foregone conclusion," the official added, saying the Afghan security forces could reverse the momentum by putting up more resistance against the insurgent group.

The United States has es-

sentially pulled all troops out of Afghanistan, except those staying to protect the U.S. Embassy and airport in Kabul, with the military mission set to end on August 31.

On Wednesday, the Taliban took control of Faizabad

— the capital of the northeastern province of Badakhshan, the eighth provincial capital they captured in less than a week.

The city fell as President Ashraf Ghani landed in Mazar-i-Sharif to rally its defenders as Taliban militants closed in on the biggest city in the north.

After a long battle in Faizabad, government forces retreated to a neighbouring district, Jawad Mujadidi, a provincial council member from Badakhshan said.

He said Taliban fighters had taken most of the province and laid siege to Faizabad before launching an offensive on Tuesday. The far northeastern province of Badakhshan borders Tajikistan, Pakistan and China.

Biden to host democracy summit in Dec.

A second summit, this time in-person, will follow about a year later

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN

In line with his campaign message on foreign policy, U.S. President Joe Biden will host a 'Summit for Democracy', virtually, on December 9-10, around three themes: defending against authoritarianism, fighting corruption, and promoting respect for human rights. The summit will gather together heads of state, civil society, philanthropy, and the private sector, the White House announced on Wednesday.

A second summit, this time in-person, will follow about a year later, the White House said. "In his first six months in office, the President has reinvigorated democracy at home, vaccinating 70% of population, passing the American Rescue plan, and advancing bipartisan legislation to invest in our infrastructure and competitiveness," it said.

On foreign policy, the



Renewing democracy: The summit will gather together heads of state, civil society, philanthropy, and the private sector. *AP

statement said Mr. Biden had rebuilt America's alliances with other democracies, "rallying the world to stand up against human rights abuses, to address the climate crisis, and to fight the global pandemic, including by donating hundreds of millions of vaccine doses." Mr. Biden ran for President on a platform that promised an

American re-engagement with the world and to "renew" American democracy. In discussion with its foreign partners and on foreign visits, the U.S. messaging has included — sometimes preemptively — the idea that democratic norms are under threat domestically as well and they need fixing.

The Summit is seen as one

way to counter growing Chinese influence. In his March 2021 'Interim National Security Strategy Guidance' to agencies and departments, Mr Biden had written: "I believe we are in the midst of an historic and fundamental debate about the future direction of our world. There are those who argue that, given all the challenges we face, autocracy is the best way forward. And there are those who understand that democracy is essential to meeting all the challenges of our changing world."

Wednesday's announcement suggested that there would be country-wise commitments made at the first summit. "Following a year of consultation, coordination, and action, President Biden will then invite world leaders to gather once more to showcase progress made against their commitments," it said.

Sri Lanka files charges against 25 people for Easter bombings

Chief Justice asked to appoint special Bench to hear cases

ASSOCIATED PRESS
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka has filed 23,270 charges against 25 people in connection with the 2019 Easter Sunday suicide bomb attacks on churches and hotels that killed 269 people, the President's office said on Wednesday.

The charges filed on Tuesday under the country's anti-terror law include conspiring to murder, aiding and abetting, collecting arms and ammunition, and attempted murder, it said.

The Attorney General also

asked the Chief Justice to appoint a special three-member High Court Bench to hear the cases speedily, it said in a statement.

Two groups blamed

Two local Muslim groups that had pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group were blamed for the six near-simultaneous suicide bomb attacks on April 21, 2019. The blasts targeted three churches and three hotels.

Another suicide bomber who had entered a fourth

hotel left without setting off his bomb, but later committed suicide by detonating his explosives at a different location.

Friction and a communication breakdown between then-President Maithripala Sirisena and then-Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe were blamed for the government's failure to act on near-specific foreign intelligence warnings ahead of the attacks. That led to the election of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on a platform of national security.

Senate passes massive infrastructure Bill

Biden celebrates major bipartisan win, vows to transform America

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden hailed the Senate passage on Tuesday of a "historic" \$1.2 trillion infrastructure package, celebrating a major bipartisan win on a plan he vowed would "transform America."

By funding work on roads, bridges and ports, as well as clean water and high-speed internet, Mr. Biden said the Bill — which still needs House approval — would create thousands of high-paying jobs for people without college degrees.

"This historic investment infrastructure is what I be-

lieve you, the American people, want," he said in a White House address. "This Bill shows that we can work together," he added.

Some seven weeks after the Democratic leader stood with senators from both parties hailing a preliminary agreement, the bill received rare bipartisan support in Washington's highly-polarized political atmosphere.

Needing just a simple majority, it passed by 69 votes to 30 with backing from a third of Republican Senators. The measure now faces a make-or-break vote in the House of Representatives in coming weeks, where its fu-

ture is less certain as divisions have sprung up in the Democratic majority.

Democratic Senate majority leader Chuck Schumer credited Mr. Biden for winning approval of "the first major infrastructure package in over a decade on a bipartisan basis" after just seven months in office. "It's been a long and winding road, but we have persisted," Mr. Schumer said.

The ambitious plan provides for \$550 billion in new federal spending on transport infrastructure, but also for public transit, broadband internet, and clean water, as well as electric charging sta-

tions and other measures to fight climate change. The total price tag relies on other public funds that have already been appropriated.

In a deeply divided Washington, the Bill's final approval would mark a resounding victory for Mr. Biden, a former senator who touts his ability to reach across the aisle.

In a sign of the continued influence wielded by former president Donald Trump, three Republican senators who participated in the negotiations announced they would not support the plan after Mr. Trump threatened reprisals for helping to hand Mr. Biden a political win.

Sudan to hand Bashir over for genocide trial

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KHARTOUM

Sudan will hand long-time autocrat Omar al-Bashir to the International Criminal Court along with other officials wanted over the Darfur conflict, Foreign Minister Mariam al-Mahdi said on Wednesday.

Mr. Bashir, 77, has been wanted by the ICC for more than a decade over charges of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Sudanese region. The "Cabinet decided to hand over wanted officials to the ICC," Ms. Mahdi was quoted as saying.

Germany detains alleged Russian spy

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BERLIN

German prosecutors said on Wednesday that they have detained a British citizen who is accused of spying for Russia while working at the British Embassy in Berlin.

Federal prosecutors said the man was detained on Tuesday in the city of Potsdam based on cooperative investigations by German and British authorities.

Canada slams China's jailing of Michael Spavor as 'unacceptable and unjust'

Canadian businessman receives 11-year jail term on spying charges

ANANTH KRISHNAN

Canada on Wednesday slammed China's sentencing of businessman Michael Spavor to 11 years in jail on spying charges, calling for his immediate release.

Mr. Spavor and Michael Kovrig, a former Canadian diplomat, were both detained in 2018, in cases dubbed by Canada as "hostage diplomacy". Their detentions in China shortly fol-

lowed Canada's arrest of top Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou at Vancouver airport, based on a U.S. warrant accusing the Chinese telecom company of violating Iran sanctions. The case of Ms. Meng, who is the daughter of Huawei founder Ren Zhengfei, is ongoing and she is facing extradition to the U.S. if found guilty, with a verdict expected in coming weeks.

The 11-year sentence for Mr. Spavor came a day after another court in China upheld a death sentence for a Canadian accused of drug smuggling, in another case seen by Canadian officials as linked to Ms. Meng's case. Robert Schellenberg had been arrested in 2014 and later sentenced to 15 years in prison. The verdict was changed to a death sentence in early 2019, also shortly after Ms. Meng's arrest.

Both verdicts this week came as hearings in Ms. Meng's case reach their con-



Michael Spavor

clusion. On Wednesday, the court in Dandong, in northeastern Liaoning, said Mr. Spavor was convicted "of spying on China's national

secrets" and was ordered to be deported. Deportations of foreigners often follow the serving of their sentences, but the time served before deportation could be reduced at the discretion of judicial authorities. The courts in China are controlled by the Communist Party. Mr. Kovrig's trial opened in March and he is awaiting a verdict. The Party-run *Global Times* said Mr. Kovrig "was accused of using an ordinary passport and business visa to enter China to steal sensitive information

and intelligence through contacts in China since 2017, while Spavor was accused of being a key source of intelligence for Kovrig."

The three cases, and Ms. Meng's ongoing trial, have strained Canada's relations with China. The detentions of Mr. Spavor and Mr. Kovrig have been seen by Canada as pressure points being used by China on the Huawei case, and criticised as "hostage diplomacy". Chinese officials have rejected that charge, and instead have accused Canada of taking Ms. Meng

"hostage" at the behest of the U.S. and demanded her release.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, in a strong statement on Wednesday, hit out at Mr. Spavor's conviction and sentencing, saying it was "absolutely unacceptable and unjust". "The verdict for Mr. Spavor comes after more than two and a half years of arbitrary detention, a lack of transparency in the legal process, and a trial that did not satisfy even the minimum standards required by international law," he said.

China approves first mixed-vaccine trial as Delta variant spreads

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BEIJING

China's drug regulator has approved the country's first mixed-vaccine trial, a company involved in the study said, as the rapid spread of the Delta variant raises concern about the efficacy of domestically produced jabs.

The trial will test the efficacy of combining an "inactivated" vaccine made by China's Sinovac with a DNA-based one developed by U.S. pharmaceutical company Inovio, a statement issued on Tuesday said. The statement was put out by Advaccine Biopharmaceuticals Suzhou, Inovio's trial partner in China.

Preclinical work has found that "two different vaccine applications... produce an even stronger and more balanced immune response", Advaccine chairman Wang Bin said in the statement.

There are several types of COVID-19 vaccines, including those using an inactivated or weakened virus to generate an immune response, and more cutting-edge RNA- or DNA-based jabs that use engineered versions of the coronavirus' genetic code to create a protein that safely prompts an immune response.

Five out of the seven vaccines approved in China are two-shot inactivated vaccines. Their published efficacy lags RNA jabs by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna, which have pre-Delta success rates above 90%.

The World Health Organization has said there is still not enough data to say whether using two different vaccines together is safe or can boost immunity.

China is battling its worst coronavirus outbreak in months, with officials saying many of those infected had already been vaccinated. Beijing is yet to approve any foreign vaccines for domestic use.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVT. GENERAL HOSPITAL, KADAPA.
RC.No.138/G1/GGH/KDP/2021, Dt. -08-2021

TENDER NOTIFICATION
Interested agencies are invited by the Superintendent, Govt. General Hospital, Kadapa for the auction of the condemned 16 slice CT scan machine in the department of Radiology, Govt. General Hospital, Kadapa. The agencies willing to dismantle the equipment as per AERB norms shall participate in the auction schedules to be held on 26-08-2021 at 5.00 p.m. The applications shall be sold on all working days from 12-08-2021 to 26-08-2021 from 10.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Sd/- SUPERINTENDENT, GOVT. GENERAL HOSPITAL, KADAPA.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
Highways Department,
Trichy (H) NABARD and Rural Roads, Circle.

TENDER NOTICE ONLINE ONLY
Tender Notice No. 07/2021-22/SDO/Dated 09.8.2021.

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamilnadu Percentage Tender (Two Cover System) will be received by the Superintending Engineer (H) NABARD & Rural Roads Circle, Trichy, for Eight Bridge works under NABARD RIDF - XXVI/2020-21 (50 BRIDGE WORKS, 26 BRIDGE WORKS, 21 BRIDGE WORKS and STATE FUND) loan Assistance scheme in respect of Trichy, Pudukkottai & Madurai (H) NABARD & Rural Roads Divisions upto 14.00 hours on 14.9.2021 through online only.

Details of works, approximate value of work, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from 26.8.2021 onwards in the Government website <http://tenders.gov.in> If any changes / Corrections etc in the tender, it will be published on the above website only.

Superintending Engineer(H)
NABARD and Rural Roads Circle, Trichy.

DIPR/2368/Tender/2021

Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit - III,
Bhubaneswar - 751 001

Tel. : (0674) 2380660, Website: www.osmcl.nic.in, Email: logistics.osmcl.od@nic.in

NOTICE INVITING BID
Bid Reference No.: OSMCL/2021-22/COVID /31

Online Bids through e-Tender portal (<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>) are invited from eligible bidders for supply of Intravenous Immunoglobulin, 5 GM/100ml as per the particulars mentioned below:

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date & Time
1.	Date & time of release of bid	11/08/2021, 5:30 PM
2.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time End Date & Time 11/08/2021, 6 PM 17/08/2021, 11 AM
3.	Date & time of online Technical bid opening	17/08/2021, 11.30 AM
4.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: www.osmcl.nic.in and <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. OSMCL reserves the right to reject or modify any conditions of the tender or cancel the tender or cancel the issued purchase order at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/- Managing Director,
OSMCL Ltd., Odisha

CAD-851 OIPR-10112/11/0045/2122

ADDITIONAL SKILL ACQUISITION PROGRAMME KERALA
A GOVERNMENT COMPANY REGISTERED UNDER THE COMPANIES ACT 2013
(THIRD FLOOR, TRANS TOWERS, VAZHATHACAUD, TRIVANANTHAPURAM-14)

TENDER NOTICE

Additional Skill Acquisition Programme (ASAP) Kerala invites proposals from reputed dealers, suppliers, manufacturers for the Supply and Installation of Augmented Reality (AR) / Virtual Reality (VR) Equipment for CSPs of ASAP.

Bid submission end date : 31.08.2021 05.00 PM

Technical Bid Opening date: 02.09.2021 12.00 PM

For more details: www.asapkerala.gov.in

Sd/-
Chairperson & Managing Director

KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Central Offices, Stores and Purchase Dept.,
K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560027

NOTICE INVITING TENDER No. 03 Dated: 10.08.2021
Tenders (Pre-qualification and or commercial offers) through e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>) are invited for supply the following goods/services:

Tender No.	Nomenclature	Tender Value in Lakhs Rs. (Approx.)	Last date for submission of tender @ 17:00 Hrs.
G-16/21-22	Procurement of LED lamps with assembly	250.00	23.09.2021
A-12/21-22	Procurement of Spring Leaves	1200.00	13.09.2021
A-13/21-22	Procurement of U Bolts Centre Bolts and Spring Clamps	300.00	23.09.2021

Further any addendum / corrigendum in respect of change in calendar of events, specification, scope, other tender terms and conditions etc., will be uploaded / published through e-portal only.

Note: Interested suppliers need to register in the e-procurement portal. For further information log into <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>. In case of further assistance, contact e-procurement cell (Phone No. 080-22230960, 080-22234115). Interested suppliers may also contact e-procurement cell for training on bid submission. Mail to eprocurementhelpdesk@gmail.com for further information of required.

Sd/-
Controller of Stores & Purchases,
(Tender Inviting Authority)

DIPR/DDU/LC/1142/2021-22

COVID-19 - DON'T SPREAD RUMOURS. ACT RESPONSIBLY, AVOID INFECTING/NOT INFECTED.

Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Sl. No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Specification No. and Description of work / Material	Due date & time for Submission of Tender
1.	CE/MECHANICAL/COAL	COAL (Ship) - 83 Time chartering of one self trimming supramax geared vessel with the lay days from 1st October 2021 to 15th October 2021	13.09.2021 upto 14.30 hours

The Tender Specification can be downloaded from TANGEDCO website, www.tangedco.gov.in www.tenders.in.gov.in, <https://tenders.gov.in/nicgep/app> at free of cost. Tender will be opened through the NIC portal <https://tenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>

DIPR/2377/Tender/2021

CHIEF ENGINEER/MECHANICAL/COAL

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
Website: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE No. RWF/S/P/007/2021-22 dt: 10.08.2021

On behalf of the President of India, Principal Chief Materials Manager invites electronic Tenders from Interested Vendors for supply of the following items on the Indian Railways E-Portal - www.ireps.gov.in. The Tender documents and the Corrigenda to the Tenders, if any, will be available on the Portal only.

Sl. Tender No.	Due date	Short Description	Qty
1 P1211516	26-08-2021	MS ANGLE CUT PIECES WELDABLE	152276 kg
2 P1211486	02-09-2021	Modified 10" Pitch chain for light roller conveyor as per RWF Drawing	742 Meters
3 P1211521	02-09-2021	Magnesite Wet Ramming Mass as per RWF specification	1042800 Kgs
4 P1211541	03-09-2021	Copper Coated Graphite Electrodes as per RWF specification	148973 Nos

Principal Chief Materials Manager

PUNJAB STATE GRAINS PROCUREMENT CORPORATION (PUNGRAIN)
Anaaaj Bhawan, Sector 39-C, Chandigarh- 160036

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-Tender for Supply of LDPE Black Polythene Tarpaulins for KMS 2021-22

Online tenders under two bid system are invited from manufacturers for the F.O.R delivery of 78,000 LDPE Black Polythene Tarpaulins to State procuring agencies in various districts in the State of Punjab.

Online bids can be submitted from 11:00 A.M. on 12.08.2021 till 03.00 P.M. on 26.08.2021. The Technical bids will be opened on 26.08.2021 at 04:00 P.M. in Punjab office Committee Room, 1st Floor, Anaaaj Bhawan, Sector-39 C, Chandigarh in the presence of bidders who may wish to be present. The date and time of opening of financial bids will be notified online to technically eligible bidders.

The tender form along with detailed terms & conditions can be downloaded from e-Procurement portal of the Government of Punjab i.e. <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> on payment of Rs. 5000/- only (Rupees Five thousand only) per Tender form (non refundable). The terms and conditions of the tender are also available on the website www.foodsupp.gov.in.

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

DPRP- NA/12/4123/2021/6703

Managing Director, PUNGRAIN

MARKET WATCH

	11-08-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	54526	-0.053
US Dollar	74.44	-0.01
Gold	45130	0.04
Brent oil	69.79	-1.57

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	699.15	6.15
Asian Paints	2972.60	-4.55
Axis Bank	760.80	-0.75
Bajaj Auto	3727.15	-70.80
Bajaj Finserv	14206.20	169.70
Bajaj Finance	6167.80	-2.30
Bharti Airtel	620.85	-1.35
BPL	450.00	5.30
Britannia Ind.	3625.50	-11.70
Cipla	909.85	-2.75
Coal India	143.95	1.75
Divis Lab	4919.10	-35.95
D Reddys Lab	4744.85	-24.90
Eicher Motors	2718.25	-16.10
Grasim Ind.	1502.40	11.80
HCL Tech	1066.95	3.25
HDFC	2658.50	-13.15
HDFC Bank	1494.95	-12.70
HDFC Life	666.65	-3.65
Hero MotoCorp	2781.60	-15.45
Hindalco	436.65	9.70
Hind Unilever	2390.45	8.65
ICICI Bank	693.55	-7.35
IndusInd Bank	1041.20	7.60
Infosys	1677.55	0.30
Indian Oil Corp.	104.65	2.40
ITC	208.65	-1.20
JSW Steel	749.10	26.95
Kotak Bank	1780.60	-32.65
L&T	1583.30	-5.15
M&M	778.70	-7.60
Maruti Suzuki	7021.50	-19.55
Nestle India Ltd.	18187.80	-105.50
NTPC	116.95	2.60
ONGC	117.00	2.15
PowerGrid Corp	176.35	3.75
Reliance Ind.	2117.30	29.25
SBI Life	1135.40	7.80
State Bank	428.05	1.60
Shree Cement	26547.50	-570.15
Sun Pharma	779.55	-13.80
Tata Consumer		
Products Ltd.	765.00	-6.90
Tata Motors	295.45	1.25
Tata Steel	1426.20	52.60
TCS	3344.20	10.30
Tech Mahindra	1323.60	0.55
Titan	1789.40	-9.80
UltraTech Cement	7452.45	-21.70
UPL	773.80	2.70
Wipro	601.25	-2.60

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 11

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 Ringgit	17.55	17.64

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF



I-T dept. to refund FY21's late fee, excess interest

NEW DELHI
The I-T Department on Wednesday said it will refund the excess interest and late fee paid by taxpayers due to software error while filing ITR for 2020-21. The last date for filing was extended till September 30. Some taxpayers complained that interest and late fee was charged while filing income tax return after July 31. PTI

'Returned ₹21,000 crore in 6 shuttered schemes'

NEW DELHI
Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund (MF) on Wednesday said it has returned over ₹21,000 crore to unit holders of six shuttered debt schemes till date. This amounts to 84% of assets under management (AUM) as of April 23, 2020, when the fund house announced to shut its six debt mutual fund schemes, citing redemption pressures and lack of liquidity in the bond market. PTI

KFC, Pizza Hut operator Sapphire Foods IPO papers

NEW DELHI
Sapphire Foods India Ltd., which operates KFC and Pizza Hut outlets, has filed draft papers with capital markets regulator SEBI to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO). The initial share-sale will be entirely an offer-for-sale (OFS) of 17,569,941 equity shares by promoters and existing shareholders, according to the draft red herring prospectus. PTI

Eyewear brand Lenskart to hire 2,300 people

BENGALURU
Lenskart, an omnichannel eyewear brand, said it will hire more than 2,000 people by 2022 as part of its expansion plan. The firm was looking to add 1,500 retail staff to manage stores, 300 to support supply chain and manufacturing operations, 100 techies, data scientists, data engineers, business analysts and other domain experts, 100 for corporate functions and 300 for international teams, it said.

Govt. to completely exit erstwhile PSUs

DIPAM's Pandey says awaiting court orders for other divestments, hinting at Hindustan Zinc, Balco

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The government is eyeing a sale of its residual stakes in erstwhile public sector firms like Paradeep Phosphates, Hindustan Zinc and Balco, which were privatised during the Atal Behari Vajpayee regime, a top finance ministry official said.

"We intend to exit from Paradeep Phosphates, a disinvestment done way back in 2002," Department of Investment and Public Asset Management Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said on Wednesday. "We are retaining some stake that we will completely exit this year. We also have the intention to exit some of the other entities, subject to court rulings as there are some court stays out there," he added.

Exploring acquisitions, says ITC chairman Puri

'Hotel unit to track asset-right strategy'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

ITC Ltd. is exploring inorganic opportunities as part of its vision for the next horizon, chairman Sanjiv Puri said, addressing shareholders online at the 110th Annual General Meeting on Wednesday.

"This was manifest in the earlier acquisition of Savlon and Nymyle brands and... Sunrise Foods," he said. "Business segments... incongruent to our growth aspirations, such as the Lifestyle Retailing Business, have been shrunk. Whilst existing growth platforms comprising megabrands will be scaled up... new platforms, whether developed or acquired, will be nurtured to power growth across time



In limbo: The Centre still owns 29.5% in Hindustan Zinc, with the sale held up since 2016 after an SC stay. ■ C.V.SUBRAHMANYAM

The government still owns 49% stake in aluminium producer Balco and 29.5% in Hindustan Zinc, with the latter's sale held up since 2016 following a Supreme Court stay. With both the firms staying highly profitable af-

L&T unit sells hydel plant for ₹985 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Larsen & Toubro Ltd. (L&T) has announced the divestment of 100% stake in a hydroelectric power plant owned by a subsidiary to Renew Power Services Pvt. Ltd. for ₹985 crore.

L&T Uttaranchal Hydro-power Ltd. owns the 3 x 33 MW run-of-the-river hydroelectric plant. Renew Power Services Pvt. Ltd. is a wholly owned arm of Renew Power Pvt. Ltd.

The divestment is in line with L&T's intention to invest non-core assets and improve shareholder value. "This development is a significant step in our effort to unlock the value of our power-development assets," said D. K. Sen, whole-time director, L&T.



Sanjiv Puri

horizons." In hotels, ITC would pursue an 'asset-right' strategy. New boutique brand, 'The Storii', will offer travellers "curated nature experiences." In the medium term, the asset-right model is expected to double the number of properties and the firm will continue to examine alternative structures, he said.

PwC India to create 10,000 additional jobs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Global consultancy firm PwC India on Wednesday said it will invest up to ₹1,600 crore and create additional 10,000 jobs in the next five years.

Announcing a new business strategy - 'The New Equation' - PwC India said the firm would also increase campus hiring by more than five times in the same time period.

"The New Equation is based on analysis of trends and thousands of conversations with clients and stakeholders, the firm said. "India has strong economic fundamentals, a huge advantage in the form of its demographic dividend and an ecosystem to boost innovation," said Sanjeev Krishan, Chairman PwC in India.

PNB HF mulls raising ₹35,000-cr. debt capital

SAT order on Carlyle deal triggers move

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

PNB Housing Finance is now looking to raise ₹35,000 crore debt, after facing legal hurdles in the Carlyle group deal, days after SAT gave a split verdict in the matter.

The company will seek shareholders' nod at its annual general meeting (AGM) on September 3, PNB Housing Finance said in a regulatory filing on Wednesday.

The company said it will seek shareholders' approval for further fund raising by way of debt issue.

"Shareholders' approval is being sought in the 33rd AGM for further fund raising by way of debt issue and the shareholders are being requested to authorise the board of directors to offer, from time to time, the subscription of redeemable, se-



cured/unsecured non-convertible debentures aggregating to ₹35,000 crore in one or more tranches," it said in the filing.

On Monday, the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) gave a split verdict in the firm's appeal to the court in the matter related to ₹4,000 crore equity-fund infusion led by its existing investor Carlyle group and others through preferential allotment of shares and warrants.

Valli Arunachalam seeks to file fresh waiver plea

NCLT to hear case on September 15

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Chennai has directed Valli Arunachalam and her family to file a withdrawal plea on an earlier waiver petition, before filing a fresh one in its case against Ambadi Investments (AIL), the holding firm of the Murugappa Group and also its family members.

Ms. Arunachalam had sought to file a fresh waiver plea to rectify the errors in the previous one. Ambadi strongly opposed the move in a hearing on Wednesday.

The earlier application had sought waiver of the minimum shareholding requirement of 10% for maintaining the alleged oppression and mismanagement case against AIL and



Valli Arunachalam

also its family members.

The family owns 8.21% in Ambadi and falls short of the minimum requirement as per Sec. 244 of the Companies Act, 2013. NCLT has posted the hearing for September 15. Ms. Arunachalam's major charge is history of gender discrimination in the group and denial of equal representation in company affairs.

'GWM to shift some India stake to Brazil'

REUTERS
NEW DELHI/BEIJING

Great Wall Motor (GWM) has decided to reallocate to Brazil a portion of its \$1-billion investment in India, as the Chinese automaker has been unnerved by a year-long delay in winning government approvals, three sources told Reuters.

The reallocation, which could range up to \$300 million, comes as the sources said the maker of popular sport-utility vehicles (SUVs) and pick-ups was close to acquiring a former Daimler plant in Brazil to build cars.

"Brazil is almost a done deal and it did not make sense to keep the funds blocked for India," said one of the sources, explaining the rationale for the change of focus.

There will be a lot of assets on offer from the public sector. COVID-19 had an impact... it is much more difficult to do a strategic sale as the due diligence process is extremely rigorous and there were controls on travel," Mr. Pandey told industrialists at a CII national conclave, asserting that disinvestment was now 'back on track'.

EoIs for CONCOR

Expressions of interest were expected to be invited soon for the sale of Container Corporation of India (CONCOR), once the government framed a land lease policy for the firm's holdings, Mr. Pandey said.

The IDBI Bank sale process had also begun.

"We intend to complete

the privatisation of Air India, BPCL, Shipping Corporation of India, BEML, Pawan Hans and Nilanchal Ispat Nigam Limited. These are the transactions where we have got sufficient interest from bidders and are now completing the second stage of the due diligence and financial bidding," he informed.

On asset monetisation, the Secretary said GAIL was likely to come up with an offering soon through the Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) structure, though there were still some pending structural issues that needed to be smoothed as per the learnings of the maiden InvIT from PowerGrid Corporation. More airports would also be offered as public-private partnership ventures, he added.

India Cements profit more than doubles

'Measures to cut costs aid bottomline'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The India Cements Ltd. (ICL) said standalone net profit for the first quarter had more than doubled to ₹37.42 crore, due to steps taken to control fixed costs, administrative and marketing overheads, and other discretionary expenses.

"The situation was more like Q1 of last fiscal," said vice chairman and managing director, N. Srinivasan.

"ICL's plant capacity utilisation went up from 35% to 50% as we expanded the marketing zones to North, Northeast and Central India, which helped in improving the despatches during these tough times of severe lockdowns in the main markets," he added.

Revenue from operations climbed 35% to ₹1,022 crore

Revenue from operations grew 35% to ₹1,022 crore. Net plant realisation was 7% lower due to the impact on sales mix as home markets were affected. On the outlook, he said the Tamil Nadu government was expected to bolster housing and infrastructure development.

Andhra Pradesh and Telangana had begun implementing irrigation, road-building and other infrastructure projects as well as new housing schemes, he added. These developments give room for cautious optimism for cement demand in the coming months, he said.

Centre to soon free up untapped space in SEZs

Land, ₹30,000 cr. built area to find use

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The government will soon free up unused built-up area worth about ₹30,000 crore and idle land inside Special Economic Zones (SEZs) for other economic activity, Commerce Secretary B.V.R. Subrahmanyam said on Wednesday at a CII event.

The move to free up unutilised land parcels is likely to be operationalised by the end of August, as part of a simpler regulatory regime that the government is ringing in for SEZs, which account for about 30% of India's exports.

"There's a lot of space within SEZs, including land that is free. We are going to ease up the process for denotification of that land. As long as you can use that land for some industrial purposes, we will allow SEZ land to be hived out," Mr. Subrahmanyam said, adding that a similar change would be introduced later for denotifying unused space in SEZ buildings.

"You built a building for an IT SEZ - half of it is being used and half is not. The figures are astounding. We have 10 crore square feet of space idle in built-up accommodation in over 250 SEZs. In money terms, that is ₹30,000 crore of built-up area idle, which can be brought into play for anything else," he pointed out.

Import monitoring cell

The top trade official also said an import monitoring cell had been set up this month to track any spurts in an item's inflows and flag it to the concerned ministries. "We are not looking at controlling imports... but these can be potential areas for manufacturing within the country," he asserted.



The ministry has also kicked off a restructuring exercise for the Directorate General of Foreign Trade. "They should actually become a trade promotion organisation from an incentive-distribution one. I think a change in mental make-up is required," Mr. Subrahmanyam said.

Pending dues to be paid

The government will remit about ₹50,000 crore of pending export benefits over a two-year period and notify the RoDTEP scheme rates awaited by exporters by Friday or the weekend, Mr. Subrahmanyam said, even as he red-flagged 'a massive increase' in incentives paid out on exports.

"There is something that worries the government - how are export incentives being drawn at three times the figure over five years, with exports being roughly constant," he wondered. "Any incentive should lead to better performance, so that genuine exports are promoted," he added.

Exporters have been complaining about their inability to price orders effectively in the absence of the notification of rates under the RoDTEP (Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Products) scheme, which in January replaced the earlier export incentive schemes that were not compliant with WTO rules.

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala - 147001.
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813 | Website: www.pspcl.in
(Contact No. 96461-22185)
Tender Enquiry No. 239/SS-II(D)
Dy./CE/Substation Design/TS Organization, C-1 Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender for Manufacture, Testing, Supply & Delivery of 86 nos. 66KV Potential Transformers. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification, please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 12.08.2021 (09.00AM onwards).
Note: corrigendum and amendments, if any, will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
C - 29/21
DPRPB 76155/12/394/2021/6694

Appeal for Identification

General public is hereby informed that one person Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 25-30 Yrs. About, Height: 5'7", Sex: Male, Complexion: Shallow, Injury Marks: Head Injury, Place of Recovery: Found dead at K.M. Pole No. 17/28-17/30 DN Line Opposite prem nagar 2nd Nangloi, Delhi.

In this regard FIR/DD No. 2A, Dated 08.08.2021 has been lodged at Police Station, Sarai Rohilla Railway Station, Delhi. Any clue come to notice please inform undersign.

SHO
P.S. Sarai Rohilla Railway Station, Delhi
DP/206/RLY/2021 Ph.: 011-28714802, 28711697

NEW OKHLA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B. Nagar, (U.P.)
Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from eligible firms/contractors for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & http://etender.up.nic.in Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

1. 15/SM(Jal)-R/ET/21-22, Computerization of Water Bill System & Facility Management Centre, Noida. Cost - Rs. 59.92 Lacs. 2. 13/SM(Jal)-I/ET/21-22, Strengthening of Sewerage (Electric Work, Transformer, D.G. Set and Allied Electric Work at SPS Sector-150), Noida. Cost - Rs. 46.61 Lacs.

The above tenders can be uploaded by date 26.08.2021 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened / downloaded on date 27.08.2021 at 11.00 AM.

3. 04/SM(Jal)-I/ET/21-22, Reboring and Chlorination Plant in Different Sectors (Reboring of TW No. 19/25, 18/25 and 13/25) Noida. Cost - Rs. 89.56 Lacs.

The above tenders can be uploaded by date 20.08.2021 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened / downloaded on date 23.08.2021 at 11.00 AM.

(A. K. VARUN)
Senior Manager (JAL)-II
Noida

Office : Sector-37
CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON

General public is hereby informed that one person namely Prashant Kumar Maharana S/o Sridhar Maharana R/o 98, Dairy Farm, Masudpur, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi. & Permanent Address Village & Post Office, Jiral, P.S. Kamakhyanagar, Distt. Dhenkanal, Odisha, Age 33 years, Height 5'6", Complexion wheathish, Face oval, Built strong, ID mark: Navel is big, wearing Blue colour jeans and white striped shirt & bare footed is missing since 29.07.2021 from Near Shiv Mandir, R.K. Ashram, Pahar Ganj, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out this person, but no clue has come to light so far. In this regard a DD No. 69-A dated 03.08.2021 has been lodged at PS Pahar Ganj, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing person may kindly inform to the undersigned at the address or telephone nos. given below.
Website: http://cbi.nic.in
Email: cbc@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-23011334
Ph: 011-23014046, 23015218
DP/939/CD/2021

SHO
PS Pahar Ganj, Delhi
Ph. 8750012525, 8750042525

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that an one male person was found in unconscious condition at Train No. 04404 Standing at PF No. 15, Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi dated 07.08.2021 at 9:51 am. He was admitted in Aruna Asaf Ali Hospital, New Delhi on MLC No. 1383/2021 dated 07.08.2021 declared brought dead by doctor. In this regard a DD No. 15A, dated 07.08.2021 has been registered at P.S. Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved for identification at Sabzi Mandi Mortuary, Delhi for 72 hrs.

The description of the person is given as under Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 35-40 years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Fair, Built: Medium, Identification Mark: A Tattoo Mark "Bhagwan" on right hand and a Tatoo Mark "OM" on left hand, Wearing: Cream Colour Full Sleeve T-shirt and Grey Colour Lower.
Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.

SHO
P.S. Old Delhi
Railway Station, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23961522, 8750871302
DP/209/RLY/2021

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one unidentified dead body of male Namely: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: about 60-65 years, Height 5'5", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Built: Medium, Wearing: Red and Black Colour Line Shirt and Sky Blue Colour Pant who was found dead at Jhadu Block SN Marg, H Block, Lahori Gate, Delhi. In this regard a case FIR No./DD No. 8A dated 07.08.2021 has been registered at P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the above deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

Sd/- SHO
P.S: Lahori Gate, Delhi
DP/1408/N/2021 Tel. No.: 011-23953776, 23958234

India looks for the right mix as the action shifts to Lord's

If Kohli opts for four pacers, Ishant or Umesh could come in for the injured Shardul: a dry pitch could see both Ashwin and Jadeja in the XI

INDIA IN ENG
AGENCIES LONDON
Skipper Virat Kohli could consider playing his best spinner R. Ashwin while expecting a better show from the batsmen when India meets England in the second Test at Lord's from Thursday. While India was in a better position to win the first Test before the heavens opened up on the final day, the first innings effort of 278 was below par as Virat Kohli, Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane failed to get going. With Shardul Thakur's hamstring injury ruling him out of the Test, the lower-order batting balance will suffer. Ashwin, who was dropped from the opening game in Nottingham, is back in the mix after Shardul's injury. In case, the pitch is on the dry side, both Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja could play. However, if Kohli is thinking of sticking with four pacers, Ishant Sharma or Umesh Ya-

dav could replace Shardul. London has been recording a maximum temperature of 24 degrees and an average temperature of around 14 degrees, and it would be interesting to see if England opts for a green top like it did in 2018 when the Indian batsmen collapsed twice in two days. **Mayank back** Though Mayank Agarwal is available for selection, K.L. Rahul, one of the heroes at Nottingham, is likely to open the innings again. Though both Pujara and Rahane have not been in the best of form, they are expected to retain their spots. England opener Rory Burns might not be as lucky as he could be replaced by Haseeb Hameed, who scored a hundred opening the innings for County Select XI against the Indians in the tour game last month. The hosts' batting relies heavily on skipper Joe Root, who came up with two good knocks in the first Test, in-

cluding a century in the second innings. As the hosts will miss James Anderson and Stuart Broad due to injuries, seamer Saqib Mahmood was added to the squad on Wednesday. **Root's pace attack** Mahmood will join Ollie Robinson, Mark Wood, Craig Overton and all-rounder Sam Curran in the pace attack. **The teams (from):** **India:** Virat Kohli (Capt.), Rohit Sharma, K.L. Rahul, Cheteshwar Pujara, Mayank Agarwal, Ajinkya Rahane (Vice-capt.), Hanuma Vihari, Rishabh Pant (wk), R. Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Jasprit Bumrah, Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Umesh Yadav, Wriddhiman Saha (wk), and Abhimanyu Easwaran. **England:** Joe Root (Capt.), Jonny Bairstow, Moeen Ali, Rory Burns, Jos Buttler, Zak Crawley, Sam Curran, Haseeb Hameed, Dan Lawrence, Jack Leach, Ollie Pope, Ollie Robinson, Dom Sibley, Mark Wood, and Saqib Mahmood. *Match starts at 3.30 p.m. IST.*



SOURCE: ESPNCRICINFO | COMPILED BY R. NARAYANAN AND G. PRASAD

The Lord's battles

A look at the contests between India and England at the 'home' of cricket

INDIA: 2 DRAWN: 4

TESTS: 18 ENGLAND: 12

THE DECADE-WISE BREAK-UP				
Decade	M	IND	ENG	D
1930-39	2	0	2	0
1940-49	1	0	1	0
1950-59	2	0	2	0
1960-69	1	0	1	0
1970-79	3	0	1	2
1980-89	2	1	1	0
1990-99	2	0	1	1
2000-09	2	0	1	1
2010-19	3	1	2	0

ENGLAND | Most runs: Graham Gooch (588, 5 innings)
Highest: Gooch (333), 1990
Most wickets: James Anderson (28, 8 innings)
Best bowling: Innings: Alec Bedser (7/49), 1946
Match: Bedser (11/145), 1946

THE SPECIAL ONES
■ India tasted its first success at Lord's in the 11th attempt when Kapil's team outshone Gower's side in the first game of a three-match series in 1986. The Indians went on to win the series 2-0
■ England 294 (Graham Gooch 114, Derek Pringle 63, Roger Binny 3/55, Chetan Sharma 5/64) & 180 (Milke Gattling 40, Kapil Dev 4/52, Maninder Singh 3/9) lost to India 341 (Mohinder Amarnath 69, Dilip Vengsarkar 126 n.o., Graham Dilley 4/146, Pringle 3/58) & 136/5 (Target 134). **Man-of-the-Match: Kapil**
■ The Indians had to wait another 28 years for their second victory at the hallowed venue. Under Dhoni's leadership, the team defeated Cook's men by 95 runs in the second Test of a five-match series after the first was drawn. The joy was shortlived as England won the next three and clinched the series 3-1
■ India 295 (Ajinkya Rahane 103, James Anderson 4/60) & 342 (M. Vijay 95, Cheteshwar Pujara 43, Ravindra Jadeja 68, Bhuvneshwar Kumar 52, Ben Stokes 3/51, Liam Plunkett 3/65) bt England 319 (Gary Ballance 110, Plunkett 55 n.o., Bhuvneshwar 6/82) & 223 (Target 319) (Joe Root 66, Ishant Sharma 7/74). **Man-of-the-Match: Ishant**

TOPPING THE CHARTS
INDIA | BATTING: Most runs: Ishant Sharma (508, 8 innings)
Highest: Vinoo Mankad (184), 1952
BOWLING: Most wickets: Dilip Vengsarkar (17, 5 innings)
■ Kapil Dev (17, 7 innings)
Best bowling: Innings: Ishant Sharma (7/74), 2014
Match: Kapil Dev (8/168), 1982



AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE LONDON
England and India have both lost two World Test Championship points and each been fined 40 percent of their match fees for maintaining a slow over-rate in the series opener at Nottingham, ICC announced on Wednesday. ICC match referee Chris Broad, the former Test batsman and father of England paceman Stuart Broad, imposed the sanction after both sides were ruled to be two overs short of their targets after time allowances were taken into consideration. Under ICC regulations, players are fined 20 percent of their match fees for every over their side fails to bowl in the allotted time, with teams penalised one Test Championship point for each over short. England captain Joe Root and India counterpart Virat Kohli pleaded guilty and accepted the proposed sanctions.

'Will first think about picking up 20 wickets'

Kohli talks about the factors involved in choosing Shardul's replacement in the side

AMOL KARHADKAR
India captain Virat Kohli said on Wednesday that Shardul Thakur's injury-enforced absence will not force India "to plug in another guy who can give us some runs" in the second Test at Lord's. The priority, he said, would be to field a combination that can take 20 wickets. "For us, it's about finding that perfect balance," Kohli said in a virtual media interaction. "But if someone like Shardul is not available, then we'll definitely first think how to pick up 20 wickets ... and we'll be very comfortable after how the first Test went." Kohli said Shardul, preferred in the series-opener for his additional utility with the bat, "should be okay for



Swinging away: Jadeja's contribution with the willow was one of the highlights of the Nottingham Test. ■AP
the third Test" after suffering a "myofascial strain on his left hamstring". On Trent Bridge's pace-

friendly track, India went with four seamers, bolstering its batting with Ravindra Jadeja, the lone spinner, at No. 7 and Shardul at No. 8. It will be interesting to see whether off-spinner R. Ashwin, unfortunate to have missed out last week, or Ishant Sharma, who was instrumental in India's win at Lord's in 2014, is included in the XI on Thursday. Kohli stressed that Jadeja coming good with the willow was one of the biggest gains from Nottingham. "The good thing is Jadeja has got runs in the first game already so he'll go into the second game confident. That already makes our batting a bit deeper. Lower-order contributed with the bat as well," Kohli said. "Shardul brings in more batting ability but having said that, from the batsmen's point of view, we are well-placed because [Chetesh-

war] Pujara, Jinks [Rahane] and myself, we did not score too many. Every game is an opportunity for the other batters to step up as well. Rohit [Sharma] and K.L. [Rahul] played really well. We are very comfortable where we are placed as a batting unit and we don't feel we might be a batsman short if Shardul doesn't play." Kohli also expressed his displeasure over India losing points in the new World Test Championship cycle for maintaining a slow over-rate in Nottingham. "You don't want to be that far behind in the game that you are not able to catch up and cover your overs in time which could cost the points, which are very, very crucial," he said.

Broad out, Anderson doubtful

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE LONDON

England could be without its two leading bowlers for the second Test against India at Lord's starting on Thursday, after James Anderson joined Stuart Broad in missing Wednesday's final pre-match practice session. Broad suffered a calf problem after pulling up during Tuesday's warm-up and has been ruled out of the Test. A high injury prevented Anderson from taking part in Wednesday's net session. The veteran new-ball bowlers, who featured in last week's drawn series opener at Trent Bridge, are England's two most successful Test bowlers of all time with a combined 1,145 wickets from 312 matches. England has not played a Test without either one of the pair since October 2016.



Big boots to fill: England has not played a Test without either Broad or Anderson since October 2016. ■REUTERS
England batsman Jonny Bairstow, meanwhile, said he did not have much knowledge about the extent of injuries suffered by Broad and Anderson. "We knew that Broad had gone for scans, we didn't know anything else," Bairstow said. Asked about the possibility of playing a Test without both Anderson and Broad, he said, "It's a big loss for the team - both have over 1000 wickets between them - but it's also an opportunity for others, just like it was against Pakistan recently," Bairstow said. "There is going to be injury, illness, you have to be adaptable within the group, we are playing a professional sport."

QUICK SINGLES

NCA clears Shreyas as match-fit
NEW DELHI
Talented India batsman Shreyas Iyer is now fully match-fit and cleared by the National Cricket Academy (NCA) to return to competitive action, which is likely when the IPL resumes in the UAE from September 19. Shreyas will rejoin Delhi Capitals, the IPL franchise which he led to the final for the first time in 2020, but his injury meant that Rishabh Pant captained the side during the last edition, which was halted after multiple COVID-19 cases inside the bio-bubble. The 26-year-old Shreyas, who has played 22 ODIs and 29 T20Is, sustained a horrifying shoulder dislocation during a one-dayer against England in Pune on March 23 and had to undergo a surgery in the United Kingdom. ■PTI

Chris Cairns serious but stable after heart surgery
SYDNEY
Chris Cairns is in an intensive care unit at a hospital here after undergoing cardiovascular surgery. St Vincent's Hospital said Cairns was in "a serious but stable condition." His wife Melanie Cairns said the cricketer had surgery in Canberra after a "major medical event" late last week but the seriousness of his condition required him to be transferred to St Vincent's for another operation. "Chris' family and friends are heartened by the respectful and warm manner in which this terrible news has been reported, and received by the public, both in New Zealand and around the world, and thanks everyone for their warm wishes, prayers, and kind words," she said on Wednesday. ■REUTERS



Messi, PSG eye Champions League glory

Argentine cites reunion with Neymar as key factor in joining the French giant

ASSOCIATED PRESS PARIS
Lionel Messi said he's "in the right place" to win another Champions League trophy and cited a reunion with Neymar as a key factor in his decision to sign with Paris Saint-Germain. The 34-year-old Argentine star spoke at his introductory news conference at Parc des Princes stadium on Wednesday. "My goal and dream is to raise another Champion's (League Trophy) and I believe that I am in the right place to have the best chances to achieve that," Messi said. "When you see this squad, you really want to play with them because there are so many possibilities," he added. "We have the same goal. And Neymar of course did a lot and was important for my choice." Messi's arrival gives PSG

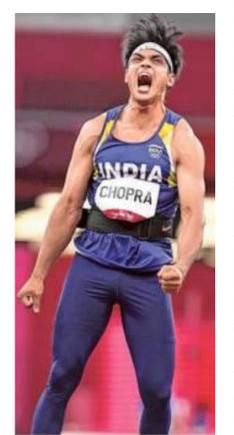


Smiling again: Lionel Messi says that PSG and his targets are aligned well. ■AP
formidable attacking options as he links up with not only Neymar - his former teammate at Barcelona - but also France World Cup winner Kylian Mbappe. "I'm going to play with best players, it's very nice,

it's incredible to be able to experience this," said Messi, who also cited Argentine teammates and PSG players Angel di Maria and Leandro Paredes. "Obviously, one of the reasons (I came) was the locker room: Neymar, Di Maria, Paredes, whom I know." Messi said he is "ready" to start playing with PSG, which hosts Strasbourg on Saturday night. "When I feel it, when the staff thinks I'm ok, I'll be ready. I'm willing to play," he said. PSG will be hoping not only that Messi helps the team regain the French title it lost to Lille last season but finally win the Champions League. Messi will wear the No. 30 jersey - the same number he wore in his first two seasons with Barcelona before switching to No. 19 and then the prized No. 10.

WA puts Neeraj's feat in top-10

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI
Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra's historic gold-winning feat in the Olympics was listed as one of the 10 magical moments of track and field in the Tokyo Games by World Athletics (WA). WA noted that the 23-year-old Neeraj had 143,000 followers before the Olympics, but now has a staggering 3.2 million (on Instagram), making him the most followed track and field athlete in the world. **Neeraj is World No. 2** Neeraj has jumped 14 spots to occupy the second spot in the latest world rankings. He was ranked 16th before the Tokyo Games



Neeraj Chopra. ■PTI
began. With a ranking score of 1315, he is second behind Germany's Johannes Vetter (1396).

Celebrate Neeraj's golden Olympic moment, but probe the poor performances too

Barring Kamalpreet, Sable and the men's 4x400m relay team, most of the other athletes were nowhere near their personal bests and failed to impress at Olympics

STAN RAYAN KOCHI
Looking at the athletics medal table at the Tokyo Olympics one gets that hold-your-head-high feeling. For India, with its 18th spot, finished above sporting giants like Great Britain, Australia, host Japan, France, Brazil and even Spain. That's because, though many of them had more medals than India, none of them had a gold. Britain, incidentally, had six medals, including three silver. With its first-ever medal - the gold which javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra produced -

this is certainly the country's best Olympics in athletics. This also offered the Athletics Federation of India and other athletes a wonderful opportunity to closely study how Neeraj managed to stay so confident in Tokyo, something which we rarely see in other Indians, as he produced quality throws early in both the qualification round and final. Fine performances also came from discus thrower Kamalpreet Kaur, the only other athlete to enter the final where she finished sixth (63.70m) in rainy and slippery conditions, and Avinash



Heartwarming displays: Steeplechaser Avinash Sable and discus thrower Kamalpreet Kaur justified their selection. ■REUTERS
Sable, who bettered his men's 3000m steeplechase National record by more than two seconds, clocking 8:18.12s, and the men's 4x400m relay team



which broke the Asian record with 3:00.25s but missed the final after finishing ninth overall. But there were major dis-

appointments which brought back familiar and bitter memories of past Olympics. Javelin thrower Annu Rani, the 2019 Worlds finalist who had been consistent over 60m this year raising her National record to 63.24m, finished more than nine metres behind that with a pathetic 54m

Nothing much was expected from the mixed 4x400m relay team since the squad's two women were slow and inexperienced. There was nothing special to talk about the six walkers too. "We need to sit down and discuss what exactly happened to them in Tokyo," said Anju Bobby George, a senior vice-president of the Athletics Federation of India. "In Sreeshankar's case, I feel his peaking was not correct. You have to do your best at the Olympics. You have to show it there," said Anju. That applies to everybody else too.

TV PICKS

England vs India: 2nd Test, day 1, Sony Six & Sony Ten 3 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Nadal out of Toronto tournament

TORONTO
Rafael Nadal pulled out of the National Bank Open on Tuesday because of an injured left foot that has troubled him for months, putting his preparation for the U.S. Open on hold. AP



Williams sisters, Kenin withdraw from Cincinnati

CINCINNATI
Serena Williams, Venus Williams and Sofia Kenin on Tuesday withdrew from the upcoming Western & Southern Open. Kenin and Serena Williams are hampered by injuries. The reason for Venus Williams' withdrawal was not disclosed. AP

Olympic champion Zverev to miss Davis Cup

BERLIN
Newly-crowned Olympic men's tennis champion Alexander Zverev said on Wednesday he will not play for Germany in the Davis Cup tournament this November. AFP

Eurosport to broadcast Tokyo Paralympics

NEW DELHI
Fans can catch Indian para athletes live in action at the upcoming Paralympics with the PCI awarding the rights to broadcast the Games — scheduled from August 24 to September 5, to Eurosport India. The coverage will start on August 27 with the men's and women's archery events. PTI

Sathiyian, Manika to team up

The duo will revive the partnership at the Hungarian Open next week

TABLE TENNIS

AMOL KARHADKAR
MUMBAI

G. Sathiyian and Manika Batra have decided to reunite in mixed doubles in a bid to bring laurels to Indian table tennis at the Paris Olympics in 2024. The duo will start its second stint with the next week's Hungarian Open, the first World Tour event in the new Olympic cycle.

The development comes barely a fortnight after Manika and A. Sharath Kamal represented India at Tokyo. The duo, which fetched India a historic first Asian Games table tennis medal in the same event in 2019, had qualified for the Olympic after a heroic win over World No. 5 team of Lee Sangsu and Jihee Njeon in the qualifiers.

Best shot

"Sathiyian and Manika discussed it after returning from Tokyo. We as personal coaches feel they have the best shot at all the multi-disciplinary games in the next three years," S. Raman, Sathiyian's personal coach, told *The Hindu* on Wednesday.



Olympics dream: G. Sathiyian and Manika Batra have decided to play together over the next few years with a view to doing well at the Paris Games in 2024. •GETTY IMAGES

Sathiyian, Raman, Manika and her personal coach Sanmay Paranjape had a round of discussion before both the players wrote to the Table Tennis Federation of India, Sports Authority of India and Target Olympic Podium Scheme officials last week.

"We have written to all the relevant authorities about charting out a roadmap for

their mixed doubles pairing leading up to Paris 2024," said Raman, who will watch the duo in action in Budapest.

Sathiyian and Manika have had a fruitful stint as a combination early on in their career. In fact, in the last match they played as a team, the duo defeated Sharath and Mouma Das to win the

bronze medal at the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

Sharath, who wished the duo well, was a tad disappointed with the lack of communication. "I wish both of them well but it would have been better had either of them communicated their decision to me before I got to know it from the federation," he said.

Four Indians among nine leaders

CHESS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

S. L. Narayanan, Abhimanyu Puranik, Arjun Erigaisi and Nihal Sarin were among the nine leaders at three points after three rounds of RTU Open chess tournament in Riga, Latvia, on Tuesday.

Leading results (involving Indians): **Third round:** Nihal Sarin (3) bt Raja Harshit (2); S. L. Narayanan (3) bt Roshka Yev-

geniy (Ukr, 2); Mark Plotkin (Can, 2) lost to Arjun Erigaisi (3); Abhimanyu Puranik (3) bt Ravi Haria (Eng, 2).

Tomas Laurusas (Ltu, 3) bt Raja Rithvik (2); N. R. Vignesh (2.5) drew with N. R. Vignesh (2.5); V. Varshini (2) lost to Grigor Grigorov (Bul, 3); M. Karthik (2) drew with Kristaps Kretainis (Lat, 2.5).

Kirill Chukavin (Est, 1.5) lost to Aravindh Chithambaram (2.5); Justin Sarkar (USA, 1.5) lost to R. Praggnanandhaa (2.5); Rokas Klabis (Ltu, 1.5) lost to D. Gukesh (2.5).

Leon Mendonca lone Indian in the fray

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

Leon Mendonca is the lone Indian in the reduced field of 16 players in the \$15,000 Kramnik Challenge online rapid chess tournament, the third leg of the Julius Baer Challengers Tour beginning on Thursday.

The field, reduced from 20 players seen in the first two legs, is without the cream of the Indian talent — R. Praggnanandhaa and D. Gukesh, winners on the

Tour so far, and Nihal Sarin.

The teams:
Team Polgar: Vincent Keymer (Ger), Awonder Liang (USA), Polina Shuvalova (Rus), Volodar Murzin (Rus), Sarasadat Khademalsharieh (Iri), Marc Andria Maurizzi (Fra), Zhu Jiner (Chn) and Balaji Daggupati (USA).

Team Kramnik: Nodirbek Abusattorov (Uzb), Jonas Bjerre (Den), Leon Mendonca (Ind), Lei Tingjie (Chn), Dinaara Saduakassova (Kaz), Christopher Yoo (USA), Carissa Yip (USA) and Yahli Sokolovsky (Isr).

Bopanna-Dodig duo advances

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU
TORONTO

Rohan Bopanna, seeded eighth in partnership with Ivan Dodig of Croatia, beat the Italians Fabio Fognini and Lorenzo Sonego 6-4, 7-6 (4) in the doubles first round of the \$3,487,915 ATP tennis here.

In the \$100,000 ITF women's event in the US, Anika Raina qualified into the main draw and will play her doubles partner Renata Zarazua of Mexico.

The results: \$3,487,915 ATP, Toronto: Doubles: First round: Ivan Dodig (Cro) & Rohan Bopanna bt Fabio Fognini & Lorenzo Sonego (Ita) 6-4, 7-6(4). **\$100,000 ITF women, Landis-**

ville, US: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Renata Zarazua (Mex) & Anika Raina bt Sophie Chang & Sophia Whittle (US) 6-3, 7-5.

Qualifying singles (second and final round): Anika Raina bt Katie Boulter (GBR) 6-4, 6-1. **€31,440 Challenger, Prague: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals:** Yan Bondarevskiy (Rus) & Oleg Prihodko (Ukr) bt Sriram Balaji & Arjun Kadhe 6-4, 6-4.

\$15,000 ITF men, Monastir: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Mateo Nicolas Martinez & Santiago Fa Rodriguez Taverna (Arg) bt Rimpei Kawakami (Jpn) & Adil Kalyanpur 6-2, 7-6 (4); Naoki Tajima (Jpn) & Siddhant Bantia bt Yuki Mochizuki & Makoto Ochi (Jpn) 7-5, 6-4; Jeremy Beale & Thomas Fautt (Aus) bt Drew Baird (US) & Rishab Agarwal 6-4, 6-4.

Arjun tops 50m free pistol

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

World junior champion Arjun Singh Cheema shot 564 to top the 50-metre free pistol open event in the shooting National selection trials at the Dr. Karni Singh Range on Tuesday.

Nikhil Chandila took the second place with 549.

In the combined event for men and women, Shikha Narwal was the best among the women as she placed eighth with 534. Esha Singh shot 530 for the 11th spot.

The results: 50m free pistol: Open: 1. Arjun Singh Cheema 564; 2. Nikhil Chandila 549; 3. Ajinkya Chavan 543.

BWF cancels Korea and Macau Opens

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Korea Open and Macau Open were on Wednesday cancelled by the game's governing body BWF due to rising cases of COVID-19 pandemic in the region.

The apex body also postponed the World Junior badminton championships which was scheduled to be held in China.

The Korea Open (August 31 to September 5), a Super 500 event, was scheduled to resume the BWF World Tour which was suspended after the All England Championships in March.

The Macau Open Super 300, on the other hand, was scheduled to be held from November 2 to 7.

A final decision on Malaysia Masters Super 500 event and Malaysia Open Super 750, which were postponed earlier, will come at a later date, BWF said.

Titles for Manikandan and Shristhi



Young champs: Tayin Arun, Kishore Kumar and D. Srikanth were the podium finishers in Groms (u-16) category.

•SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SURFING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

D. Manikandan and Shristhi Selvam won the men's and women's Open titles in the first edition of the Covelong Classic National Surf and SUP championships, which concluded here on Tuesday. Arun Vasu, president of Surfing Association

of India, gave away the prizes.

The results: Men's Open: 1. D. Manikandan, 2. T. Nithishvaran, 3. Babu Sivaraj.

SUP champion: 1. P. Sekar, 2. S. Santhosh, 3. Manikandan.

Women's Open: 1. Shristhi Selvam, 2. Shanti Banarse, 3. Sinchana Gowda.

Groms under-16: 1. D. Srikanth, 2. Kishore Kumar, 3. Tayin Arun.

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