



INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

SATURDAY, JULY 17, 2021

DELHI  
CITY EDITION  
16 pages • ₹10.00

PRINTED AT : CHENNAI • COIMBATORE • BENGALURU • HYDERABAD • MADURAI • NOIDA • VISAKHAPATNAM • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • KOCHI • VIJAYAWADA • MANGALURU • TIRUCHIRAPPALLI • KOLKATA • HUBBALLI • MOHALI • MALAPPURAM • MUMBAI • TIRUPATI • LUCKNOW • CUTTACK • PATNA

## BYJU'S IAS

Attend a FREE ONLINE WORKSHOP on  
**How to start early and crack IAS  
in the first attempt!**

### Workshop Highlights

- Strategies, tips and tricks to ace IAS 2022
- Nuances of UPSC CSE preparation such as how to read the newspaper, study for current affairs etc.

Date: July 18, 2021 | Time: 11:00 AM

Register now <https://byjus.com/ias-workshop>

Outstanding performance by  
BYJU'S students in UPSC CSE 2019

04 Ranks in Top 10 | 09 Ranks in Top 20 | 13 Ranks in Top 50 | 22 Ranks in Top 100



RANK 03



RANK 06



RANK 08



RANK 10

### NEARBY



#### Israeli Embassy blast: 4 Kargil students get bail

NEW DELHI  
A Delhi court has granted bail to four Kargil-based students in connection with the blast at the Israeli Embassy here on January 29, noting that "nothing incriminating" has been put forth by the Delhi Police to suggest they have links with any terror outfit or are a threat to society.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

#### Centre told to reply on Nizamuddin centre plea

NEW DELHI  
The Delhi High Court on Friday gave the Centre two weeks' time to respond to a petition by the Delhi Waqf Board to reopen the Tablighi Jamaat's Nizamuddin centre, which has been locked since March 31 last year after several people who attended a religious congregation there contracted COVID-19. The court will hear the case again on September 13.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

#### Assam Budget seeks to control cattle population

GUWAHATI  
Assam's Budget for the 2021-22 fiscal aims to control the cattle population through artificial insemination to ensure that up to 90% of the calves born are females. The proposal follows the tabling of the Assam Cattle Protection Bill, which seeks to ban the transportation of cattle and sale of beef within 5 km of temples.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 10

## Rising cases in Maharashtra, Kerala a cause of worry: PM

Modi holds meeting with Chief Ministers of six States

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The increasing number of COVID-19 cases in Kerala and Maharashtra was a cause of grave worry, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday while interacting with the Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha, Maharashtra and Kerala.

He pointed out that in the past week, 80% cases as well as 84% COVID-19 deaths came from the States present in the meeting. He cautioned that similar trends were seen in January-February before the second wave.

"The States where cases are rising, we have to take proactive measures to prevent the possibility of a third wave," he said.

We need to continue with the strategy of Test, Track, Treat and Teeka [vaccination] while putting special focus on micro-containment zones. The districts with large numbers should be focused on

NARENDRA MODI,  
PRIME MINISTER

Mr. Modi underlined experts' view that if cases kept rising for a long time, chances of mutation of the coronavirus would also increase and dangers of new variants would also rise. "Therefore, we need to continue with

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8  
CHANDIGARH BUCKS TREND ▶ PAGE 9

the strategy of Test, Track, Treat and Teeka [vaccination] while putting special focus on micro-containment zones. The districts with large numbers should be focused on," he stated.

A Bench of Justices Rohinton F. Nariman and B.R. Gavai gave the State time till July 19 to rethink its proposal and file an affidavit. If it did not change its plans, Justice

## U.P. can't proceed with Kanwar Yatra amid pandemic, says SC

Right to life trumps religious sentiments: court

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday disagreed with the Uttar Pradesh government's proposal to conduct a "symbolic" Kanwar Yatra amid the pandemic for "compelling religious reasons", saying the fundamental rights of citizens across faiths and their right to life trumped religious sentiments.

A Bench of Justices Rohinton F. Nariman and B.R. Gavai gave the State time till July 19 to rethink its proposal and file an affidavit. If it did not change its plans, Justice



Against all odds: In this file photo, Kanwarias are seen crossing Delhi on a rainy day. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Nariman said, the court "will deliver whatever we have to deliver".

"We are of the *prima facie* view that this is a matter that concerns everyone of us as

citizens of India and goes to the very heart of Article 21 [right to life], which has the pride of place in the Fundamental Rights Chapter of the Indian Constitution. Health

of the citizenry of India and the right to life are paramount. All other sentiments, albeit religious, are subservient to this basic fundamental right," Justice Nariman dictated in the order.

The hearing began with Solicitor General Tushar Mehta submitting that the "State must not permit movement".

An affidavit was filed by the Centre "late" in the Supreme Court. After speed-reading the affidavit, Justice Nariman announced peremptorily, "State of Uttar Pradesh cannot go on with this, 100%".

The Bench refused to permit a "physical yatra".

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

### Fatal fall



Frantic search: Rescue operations in progress after several people fell into a well while trying to rescue a teenage boy at Garibasoda in Madhya Pradesh on Friday. Eleven bodies have been recovered from the site. ■ A.M.FARUQUI (REPORT ON PAGE 10)

## HC: jabs for children without clinical trials will be a disaster

Quickly vaccinate them once studies are over, govt. told

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday said it would be a "disaster" if COVID-19 vaccines are administered to children without clinical trials, while asking the Centre to take steps to inoculate those below 18 years of age once the trials are over.

"Let the trials be done. Otherwise, it would be a dis-



A worker at Zydus Cadila showing the company's COVID-19 vaccine. ■ FILE PHOTO

aster if vaccines are administered without trials, that too, in case of children... Once trials are over, you quickly apply to children. The whole

country is waiting," a bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh said.

During the hearing, the Centre said clinical trials for the vaccines for children under 18 years of age are going on, and children will be vaccinated when experts give permission.

The HC was hearing a petition filed on behalf of a minor which sought directions for the immediate vaccination for the 12-17 age group.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8  
MORE REPORTS ▶ PAGE 10

### Farmers' stir: Delhi rejects police's panel of lawyers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI  
The Delhi Cabinet on Friday rejected the city police's proposed list of lawyers to argue cases related to the farmers' protests, setting the stage for a confrontation with the Centre and the L-G office. Earlier, L-G Anil Baijal had refused to let a panel of lawyers constituted by the Delhi government appear in the cases.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 3

## Indian photojournalist killed in Afghanistan

Siddiqui was a Pulitzer Prize winner

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI  
Noted Indian photojournalist Danish Siddiqui was killed on Thursday night in a clash between the Afghan special forces and Taliban attackers.

Tolo News, a leading news channel of Kabul reported that Mr. Siddiqui, working for Reuters news agency, was covering the clashes between the two sides in Kunduz over the last few days and he died in Spin Boldak district, which



CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

## Over 10,000 jihadis crossed in from Pak.: Afghan President

Islamabad did not push Taliban to join talks: Ghani

SUHASINI HAIDAR  
TASHKENT

Pakistan has not severed its ties with terror groups, said Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani in a pointed charge even as Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan sat a few feet away on stage at the Central and South Asia connectivity conference held here on Friday.

Speaking at the confe-

rence, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar referred to problems with transit trade in his speech alluding to Pakistan. He said economic development and prosperity go "hand in hand" with peace and security.

In a hard-hitting speech, Mr. Ghani said more than 10,000 "jihadi" fighters had entered Afghanistan in the last month, according to intelligence reports, while the Pakistani government had failed to convince the Taliban to participate "seriously" in the peace talks.

Speaking at the confe-

rence, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar referred to problems with transit trade in his speech alluding to Pakistan. He said economic development and prosperity go "hand in hand" with peace and security.

In a hard-hitting speech, Mr. Ghani said more than 10,000 "jihadi" fighters had entered Afghanistan in the last month, according to intelligence reports, while the Pakistani government had failed to convince the Taliban to participate "seriously" in the peace talks.

IMRAN'S COMMENTS ▶ PAGE 8

and communication technology, we are still looking at the skies for pigeons to communicate the orders

JUSTICE N.V. RAMANA,  
CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

When Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said orders anyway were uploaded on the court website, Justice Rao said "the idea behind the scheme is to transmit orders securely".

The Bench asked State

governments to file their reports about the Internet connectivity in their jails to prevent technical glitches in future. The Secretary General of the Supreme Court was directed to submit a comprehensive report formulating the scheme within two weeks.

The hearing was based on a suo motu case, 'In Re: Delay in release of convicts after grant of bail', registered on the initiative of Chief Justice Ramana to confront the problem which affects the liberty and dignity of prisoners.

Recently, 13 prisoners in Agra Jail, who suffered imprisonment for up to two decades despite the Juvenile Justice Board declaring them 'juveniles' at the time of commission of their crimes, were granted bail by the Supreme

Court on July 8, but were released by the prison authorities after a delay of four days.

Again, Pinjra Tod activists Devangana Kalita and Natasha Narwal and Jamia Millia Islamia student Asif Iqbal Tanha walked out of Tihar Jail nearly two days after the Delhi High Court granted them bail.

The Supreme Court has made concerted moves in the recent months to de-congest prisons amid the COVID-19 pandemic. In May, a Bench led by Chief Justice Ramana had ordered the police to limit arrests during the pandemic to prevent overcrowding in jails and urged courts to not order detention in a mechanical manner.

DON'T SEEK SURRENDER OF THOSE  
ON INTERIM BAIL: SC ▶ PAGE 8

**SHUBHRA RANJAN**  
Always Ahead

## ANNOUNCING SOCIOLOGY OPTIONAL

BY  
UPENDRA SIR



ENROLL NOW

Follow us on:

Batch Starting From

**25th July 2021**

Sociology Toppers

AIR 1 (2005) AIR 13 (2006) AIR 4 (2015) AIR 11 (2018) AIR 10 (2019)

& many more....



COURSE FEATURES:

- TABLET COURSE where Lecture will be followed by LIVE Q&A session.
- Course Material Included.
- Course Duration: 4.5 Months.

Other Options Available  
PSIR | GEOGRAPHY | ANTHROPOLOGY

**011-45612719, 9910812719**

delhi@shubhraranjan.com | www.shubhraranjan.com

25 Pusa Road, 1st Floor, Karol Bagh, New Delhi - 110005

This pdf was originally uploaded to Brills Express Official ([https://t.me/The\\_Hindu\\_Express](https://t.me/The_Hindu_Express)) before anyone else. Don't forget to join backup channel @Thehindu000

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana on Friday said people given bail by courts, even by the Supreme Court, have to wait for days before prison authorities release them. "It is just too much," he said.

The Chief Justice, heading a Special Bench, voiced the Supreme Court's exasperation at prison authorities who insist on receiving by hand the "authentic" hard copy of the bail order regardless of the fact that the personal liberty of people suffers.

"In this age of information

'Start admission process at College of Arts'

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A group of Delhi University professors, who are members of the Academics for Action and Development (AAD), has written to DU Vice-Chancellor P.C. Joshi seeking initiation of the admission process for first year students at the College of Arts.

The AAD contended that the Delhi Cabinet decision of merging it with Ambedkar University violated the relevant guidelines and that DU should conduct the admission process for the new batch.

#### IN BRIEF

**HC seeks report on impact of interim bail orders**

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday took note of rising crime rate in the Capital and asked the Delhi government to file a status report on the impact of its orders extending interim bails granted to undertrials and convicts to decongest jails to contain the spread of COVID-19.

## Reply to plea on opening Nizamuddin centre: HC

Tablighi centre has been locked since March 31 last year

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday gave the Centre two weeks' time to respond to a petition to open the Tablighi Jamaat's Nizamuddin centre, or *markaz*, which has been locked since March 31 last year after several people who attended a religious congregation there contracted COVID-19.

Justice Mukta Gupta remarked that the Centre had not filed any reply in the petition filed by the Delhi Waqf Board.

"Do you want to file or not?" the High Court asked while clarifying that a status report filed by the Centre was on the limited issue of reopening the Tablighi Jamaat centre for the month of Ramzan. The court will hear the case again on September 13.

On April 15, the High Court had permitted 50 people to offer namaz five times a day at the centre during Ramzan, noting there was no direction in the



A view of the closed Tablighi Jamaat centre in New Delhi.

• FILE PHOTO: SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) notification to close down places of worship.

Justice Gupta had then said that namaz be offered on "first floor above the basement" of the mosque, and "strictly in accordance" with the DDMA's April 10 notification and other standard operating protocols.

#### Safety paramount

"Devotees require to perform namaz five times a day during the holy month of Ramzan but at the same

time, care has to be taken that COVID-19—which is increasing exponentially in Delhi—does not spread and affect the health of the public at large and those who visit the mosque to offer namaz," the court had said.

The board, in its plea, had contended that even after unlock-1 guidelines permitted religious places outside containment zones to be opened, the *markaz*—comprising the Masjid Bangley Wali, Madarsa Kashif-ul-Uloom and attached hostel—continues to be locked.

## Father made to run around to register FIR on son's death

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Father of a doctor, who had taken his life at his residence in south Delhi's Malviya Nagar, has been running from pillar to post to get a First Information Report registered into his son's death.

On April 30, the 34-year-old doctor was found dead at his residence and left behind a note along with videos detailing why he is taking the step. Hailing from Gorakhpur, he had got married in November 2020.

In one of the videos, he said that he loved his wife but she used to often fight with him over family and monetary issues. She had also not been living with him for a few days and was living at her maternal house. In the video, he also mentioned how her mother used to stop him from calling the daughter and questions every time he would call to enquire about her health.

The doctor's father, a resident of Gorakhpur, said that he had submitted a complaint against his daughter-in-law alleging that she was the reason behind the doctor taking his own life and demanded an FIR on charges of abetment. "I have come to Delhi thrice and met with the officials at Malviya Nagar. They tell me that my case won't hold in court. I have always told them to register my FIR and I'll see what happens in court," the father said.

He is in Delhi for the fourth time in the last two-and-a-half months and is staying at a relative's house in Noida.

DCP (South) Atul Thakur said that inquest proceedings are under way and inquiry is being conducted

## Alternative mode grading for DU students

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi University (DU) has issued a notification stating that students of the intermediate semesters will be graded with the alternative mode where 50% will be based on internal assessments while the other half will be awarded based on the performance of the previous semester.

"In view of the prevailing situation of the pandemic, conventional mode, that is pen and paper is not feasible as per the existing government norms," the notification read.

The varsity said that as a "special measure" alternative mode of grading and promotion will be adopted as per composite format for calculating the same for the intermediate batch. "For students of intermediate semester, term or year, having no previous performance shall be graded on the basis of 50% assignment based evaluation or internal assessment and 50% of internal assessment of previous semester or year," the notification read.

## 'Spy was working at the behest of handler at Pak High Commission'

Arrested duo will be subjected to psychological profiling

SAURABH TRIVEDI  
NEW DELHI

The vegetable supplier, who was held for allegedly providing classified documents to ISI, was working at the behest of a handler employed in Pakistan High Commission, said a senior police officer on Friday.

Police said Army clerk Paramjit and vegetable supplier Habir-ur-Rahman, who were arrested under charges of spying, will undergo psychological profiling to get more details in the case. Paramjit had instructions to pass on documents related to operations and had markings of secret and confidential on them, added police.

The officer said that in 2019 Rahman had approached Pakistan High Commission for a visa before visiting his aunt's home in the Sindh area of Pakistan.

#### Making of an asset

During the visa approval process, they understood that he supplied vegetables and meat in the Army cantonment area

Before we could reach their main handlers, the media leaked the details of the operation

• A SENIOR POLICE OFFICER

of Pokhran and he has good contacts in the Army. They used him as an asset and he was promised a hassle-free visa process and can visit his relatives in Pakistan for as much time as he wanted if he agreed to their demand. They lured him and entrapped him.

When he was in Pakistan, two people met him and brainwashed him. After returning, he got in touch with Army man Paramjit, who was deployed in Pokhran area.

"The Military Intelligence was keeping an eye on the activity of Paramjit and traced Rahman. But before we could reach their main handlers, the media leaked the details of the operation," said the officer.

Rahman knows some of his handlers with different names and we are trying to

find out if these handlers are in India. We also found he used social messaging platforms like WhatsApp and Instagram to send the classified documents to his handlers, a senior police officer said.

Police said that Paramjit is currently posted as a clerk at Agra Cantonment. He has been in touch with Rahman since February 2018.

**From ₹ 4000 to ₹ 50,000**

"Initially, ₹ 4000 to ₹ 5000 were paid to Paramjit for every set of documents. In November 2019, Paramjit was posted in Agra where he had access to more discreet documents and therefore his payments were increased to ₹ 50,000 per month," said the officer.

Paramjit had a loan, and a chunk of his salary went as installment. Hence, he was in dire need of money. "We have recovered six mobile sets from Paramjit. They have been sent to the forensic science lab to get details of documents he shared with handlers," said the officer.

## Riot victim says he has little faith in police

**Mohammed Nasir; who lost an eye, is happy that the judiciary has understood his loss**

HEMANI BHANDARI  
NEW DELHI

Mohammed Nasir (35) is happy that the judiciary has understood his loss but has little faith in Delhi Police, a year after communal riots broke out and he lost an eye after being shot at.

A Delhi court on Tuesday imposed a fine of ₹25,000 on police while dismissing their petition challenging a court order that directed them to file a First Information Report on Mr. Nasir's complaint. Police had clubbed his complaint in another FIR already registered from the area.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, the Ghonda resident said he called the Station House Officer (Bhajanpura) and another officer asking them if he should come to the police station for FIR formalities. They reportedly told him that they will call him if required.

"The court had directed them earlier to file an FIR and they challenged it. The court has now dismissed their petition again but I don't think they'll still file it. They'll find another way," he said.

However, he is happy



A group of men beating up a man from another community in Delhi during protests sparked by the new citizenship law.

• FILE PHOTO: REUTERS/ DANISH SIDDIQUI

about the court order, in which the judge had written that he does "not find any merit in this revision petition."

"The same accordingly stand dismissed with a cost of ₹25,000, which shall be deposited with Delhi Legal Services Authority by DCP (North-East) within one week from Tuesday and the said amount shall be recovered from the petitioner and his supervising officers, who have miserably failed in their statutory duties in this case after holding a due inquiry in this regard," the order read.

Pulling up the police, the order stated: "The investigation even in case

FIR No.64/2020, PS Bhajanpura has been done in a most casual, callous and farcical manner."

#### Living in fear

However, he said he and his family still feel scared in the neighbourhood. "Whenever there is a crowd, I get scared. I have called the police station also whenever I have felt odd but the response has been very casual. I had also sought protection and the court had ordered it in July last year but police have not been responsive," he said.

The court had ordered that the SHO should keep vigil at Mr. Nasir's place and that he should be provided

with mobile numbers of the SHO and beat officers who he can contact in an emergency.

The SHO was asked to contact Mr. Nasir on alternate days to ask for his well-being and provide adequate security whenever required. "None of it was followed," Mr. Nasir claimed.

Mr. Nasir was shot on February 24 when he and his family were on the way from a hospital after his sister's operation and had reached home safely in a cab but en route dropping the cab driver till Gokulpuri

junction, he was shot at by a mob and he lost his right eye in the incident. He later gave a complaint to the police identifying the accused but they added his complaint to an existing FIR.

**Fight till the end**

"In the last one year, I have been threatened so many times by the people who I have named in my complaint to withdraw it and to even change my lawyer [Advocate Mahmood Pracha] but nothing can bring my eye back. I'll fight till the end because it should not happen to anyone," he said.

## Two suppliers held with drugs worth ₹50 lakh

One was an electrician-turned-peddler

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A 56-year-old electrician-turned-drug supplier was arrested along with his Uttar Pradesh-based accomplice for allegedly supplying heroin in Delhi, police said on Friday.

The accused have been identified as Ghanshyam, a resident of Peeragarhi village in Delhi, and Parvez Alam (23), a resident of Badayun in Uttar Pradesh, they said.

"Police received information that Ghanshyam would be supplying heroin to someone near his home in Peeragarhi. Thereafter, a trap was laid and he was apprehended," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) Chinmoy Biswas said.

Police seized 200 grams of heroin from Ghanshyam and 100 grams of it and one bike from Parvez. The seized drug is worth over ₹50 lakh in the international market, they added.

**Sold shop**

During interrogation, Ghanshyam disclosed that he is a drug addict. He came in contact with a local person



The accused in custody. •

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

who led him to heroin consumption by inducing that it increases physical power.

He started consuming heroin and soon became a drug addict. He had to sell his shop due to his addiction and his marriage could not be solemnised due to his addiction.

In a state of unemployment and poverty, he came to Delhi with the help of his friend but his addiction to drugs continued. He became so much addicted to drugs that he left all the work. His desperation for drugs made him search for leftover drugs or packets in parks and he got in touch with a Badayun-based drug supplier Parvez, who offered him incentives for supplying drugs to Delhi.

## CITY UNION BANK LIMITED

Credit Recovery and Management Department  
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar,  
Kumbakonam - 612 001. E-Mail id : crmd@cityunionbank.in,  
Ph : 0435-2432322, Fax : 0435-2431746

#### PUBLICATION - DEMAND NOTICE

Notice under Section 13(2) of The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 - Sent on 07-05-2021 by Registered Post with Acknowledgement Due and the same was returned by Mr. Atul Uppal & Mrs. Somya. Hence this.

No.1) M/s. Allied Stamping Represented by its Proprietor Mr. Atul Uppal, Plot No.15, Gali No.6E, Saroorpuri Industrial Area, Faridabad, Haryana - 121005. No.2) Mr. Atul Uppal, S/o. Mr. V.K. Uppal, House No.1371, Sector-16, Faridabad, Haryana - 121002. No.3) Mrs. Somya, W/o. Mr. Atul Uppal, House No.1371, Sector-16, Faridabad, Haryana - 121002.

Sub: Account / Overdraft with City Union Bank Limited, Faridabad Branch in the name of M/s. Allied Stamping.

The Bank issued notice under the SARFAESI Act on 07-05-2021 calling upon all of you to repay the outstanding amount of Rs.93,83,613/- (Rupees Ninety Three Thousand Six Hundred and Thirteen Only) on 02-05-2021 with further interest for 50181208030018 (CUB OSL TERM EMI-BR) at 12.25% plus 2.00% penal interest p.a. (not compounded), 50181208067095 (EMERGENCY CREDIT LINE SCH) at 9.25% plus 2.00% penal interest p.a. (not compounded), 512120203030144 (OD REDUCTION) at 12.50% plus 2.00% penal interest p.a. (not compounded) with monthly rests from 03-05-2021 till the date of repayment. The notice sent to you by Registered Post have been received by No.1 of you and returned by Nos. 2 & 3.

Therefore, we hereby once again call upon all of you to pay Rs.93,83,613/- (Rupees Ninety Three Lakh Eighty Three Thousand Six Hundred and Thirteen Only) with further interest for 50181208030018 (CUB OSL TERM EMI-BR) at 12.25% plus 2.00% penal interest p.a. (not compounded), 50181208067095 (EMERGENCY CREDIT LINE SCH) at 9.25% plus 2.00% penal interest p.a. (not compounded), 512120203030144 (OD REDUCTION) at 12.50% plus 2.00% penal interest p.a. (not compounded) with monthly rests from 03-05-2021 till the date of repayment. The notice sent to you by Registered Post have been received by No.1 of you and returned by Nos. 2 & 3.

Constrained to exercise its rights of enforcement of security interest as against the secured assets given in the schedule hereunder. The Notice is published/issued without prejudice to any other right/ remedy available to the Bank.

Note: That our 511-Faridabad Branch has also extended financial assistance (CREDIT CARD AGAINST LOAN:512120202028099) dated 11-03-2019 requested by No.1 of you represented by No. 2 of you as Proprietor for the facility for a total amount of Rs. 1,00,00/- at a ROI of 12.50% and the balance outstanding as on 02-05-2021 is Rs. 1,25,153/-.

Inmorable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank

Schedule - A : (Property Owned by Mr. Atul Uppal, S/o. Mr. V.K. Uppal)

Plot No.15 measuring 403.32 sq.yds. forming part of Rect.No.12, Killa No.22/2, 23, Rect No.13, Killa No.2/2, 3/1 situated at Gali No.6E, Saroorpuri Industrial Area, Mauza Saroorpuri, Sub Tehsil Gauchi, Tehsil Ballabgarh, District Faridabad and is bounded as under: North : Gali No.6E, South : Vacant Plot, East : Vacant

**Timings****DELHI**

SATURDAY, JUL. 17
RISE 05:35 SET 19:21
RISE 12:24 SET 00:00
SUNDAY, JUL. 18
RISE 05:36 SET 19:20
RISE 13:28 SET 00:16
MONDAY, JUL. 19
RISE 05:36 SET 19:20
RISE 14:34 SET 00:53

**Delhi Weather** max min  
Delhi City 38 27  
Safdarjung 38 27  
Palam 38 28**Delhi Palam Today**  
37°C A spell of light rain or thunderstorm likely at some places with partly cloudy to cloudy sky and humid day.**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
35°C Moderate to heavy rain or thundershower likely at some places with gusty winds and lightning strike.© Copyright Skymet Weather 2019  
All rights reserved.**THE HINDU**

DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any advertisement before responding to any offer contained therein. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher &amp; Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authority of any advertisement or any claim or any offer made in any advertisement's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director, Editor-in-Chief, or any employee of the Company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

## Delhi manages to give jabs to only 14% of daily capacity

City sees 66 new COVID cases, 1 death

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

NEW DELHI

The number of beneficiaries vaccinated in the Capital fell further with 33,186 persons getting the jab in 24 hours, according to a health bulletin released by the Delhi government on Friday.

The city has the infrastructure to vaccinate 2,26,552 people daily.

On Thursday, the government had said 64,983 doses of vaccine were administered compared to 1,29,054 doses the previous day.

**Shortage of doses**

The Capital has been facing a shortage of vaccines all week.

The government added that Delhi had 1,13,900 doses of Covishield in stock and 2,27,600 doses of Covaxin as of Friday morning. It also said 1,13,900 doses of Covishield were added on July 15.

Meanwhile, the city re-



A woman gets RT-PCR test done at Mall Road Extension in Delhi on Friday.

■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

corded 66 new COVID-19 cases with one death.

A total of 76,459 tests were conducted during the 24-hour period with a positivity rate of 0.09%.

**Active cases**

There are 657 active cases in the city.

The total number of COVID-19 cases since the pandemic began has reached 14,35,419 with 25,023 deaths.

The Cabinet also refused to allow the panel of lawyers recommended by Delhi Pol-

## Cong., BJP workers protest outside CM house against water shortage

Kejriwal minting money in connivance with tanker mafia: Gupta

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

NEW DELHI

The BJP and the Congress on Friday held a demonstration outside the residence of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to protest against water shortage in the Capital.

The police stopped workers of both parties on their way towards the Chief Minister's residence.

Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta said the Delhi government, which came to power with the promise to finish the tanker mafia in the city, is now minting money in connivance with them. He alleged that piped water supply is not being given in Delhi colonies so that "the tanker mafia could flourish".

Delhi Congress chief Ch. Anil Kumar alleged that for the past two months, Delhiites have been facing a severe water shortage but Mr. Kejriwal has been touring other States, promising "free power and water".

Mr. Kumar accused him of not being able to address the water shortage in Delhi for the past seven years.



(From left) BJP workers stage demonstration; Delhi Congress chief Anil Kumar protests against the water crisis in the city outside CM's residence on Friday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

well in advance, including interaction with her counterparts in U.P. and Haryana, so as to ensure that people were not subjected to water crisis during the hot summer months.

**'No permanent solution'**  
"Mr. Kejriwal has not bothered to find a permanent solution to the water shortage of Delhi in the past seven years despite being in power. Hence, it would be impossible to give free water as Delhi gets less water than its needs," Mr. Kumar said.

He added that when Congress was in power in Delhi, then Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit would take decisions

well in advance, including interaction with her counterparts in U.P. and Haryana, so as to ensure that people were not subjected to water crisis during the hot summer months.

**'No permanent solution'**  
"Mr. Kejriwal has not bothered to find a permanent solution to the water shortage of Delhi in the past seven years despite being in power. Hence, it would be impossible to give free water as Delhi gets less water than its needs," Mr. Kumar said.

He added: "Delhi has suffered and struggled a lot because of the shortage of the rightful share of water that the Haryana government had withheld earlier. The real face

of the Haryana government has been exposed."

Water Minister Satyendar Jain met the DJB officials and instructed them to take stock of arrangements made for the ongoing Monsoon season.

He instructed the DJB officials to ensure that the sewer lines work properly and should not create any hassle to residents. "It is the duty of the DJB officials to address every issue related to waterlogging and sewer blockage.

In case any blockage arises due to excessive rains then water pumps should be used to extract excess rainwater creating a clog in a particular region," the Minister said.

He instructed the DJB officials to ensure that the sewer lines work properly and should not create any hassle to residents. "It is the duty of the DJB officials to address every issue related to waterlogging and sewer blockage.

In case any blockage arises due to excessive rains then water pumps should be used to extract excess rainwater creating a clog in a particular region," the Minister said.

He instructed the DJB officials to ensure that the sewer lines work properly and should not create any hassle to residents. "It is the duty of the DJB officials to address every issue related to waterlogging and sewer blockage.

In case any blockage arises due to excessive rains then water pumps should be used to extract excess rainwater creating a clog in a particular region," the Minister said.

He instructed the DJB officials to ensure that the sewer lines work properly and should not create any hassle to residents. "It is the duty of the DJB officials to address every issue related to waterlogging and sewer blockage.

In case any blockage arises due to excessive rains then water pumps should be used to extract excess rainwater creating a clog in a particular region," the Minister said.

He instructed the DJB officials to ensure that the sewer lines work properly and should not create any hassle to residents. "It is the duty of the DJB officials to address every issue related to waterlogging and sewer blockage.

In case any blockage arises due to excessive rains then water pumps should be used to extract excess rainwater creating a clog in a particular region," the Minister said.

He instructed the DJB officials to ensure that the sewer lines work properly and should not create any hassle to residents. "It is the duty of the DJB officials to address every issue related to waterlogging and sewer blockage.

In case any blockage arises due to excessive rains then water pumps should be used to extract excess rainwater creating a clog in a particular region," the Minister said.

He instructed the DJB officials to ensure that the sewer lines work properly and should not create any hassle to residents. "It is the duty of the DJB officials to address every issue related to waterlogging and sewer blockage.

In case any blockage arises due to excessive rains then water pumps should be used to extract excess rainwater creating a clog in a particular region," the Minister said.

He instructed the DJB officials to ensure that the sewer lines work properly and should not create any hassle to residents. "It is the duty of the DJB officials to address every issue related to waterlogging and sewer blockage.

In case any blockage arises due to excessive rains then water pumps should be used to extract excess rainwater creating a clog in a particular region," the Minister said.

He instructed the DJB officials to ensure that the sewer lines work properly and should not create any hassle to residents. "It is the duty of the DJB officials to address every issue related to waterlogging and sewer blockage.

In case any blockage arises due to excessive rains then water pumps should be used to extract excess rainwater creating a clog in a particular region," the Minister said.

He instructed the DJB officials to ensure that the sewer lines work properly and should not create any hassle to residents. "It is the duty of the DJB officials to address every issue related to waterlogging and sewer blockage.

In case any blockage arises due to excessive rains then water pumps should be used to extract excess rainwater creating a clog in a particular region," the Minister said.

He instructed the DJB officials to ensure that the sewer lines work properly and should not create any hassle to residents. "It is the duty of the DJB officials to address every issue related to waterlogging and sewer blockage.

In case any blockage arises due to excessive rains then water pumps should be used to extract excess rainwater creating a clog in a particular region," the Minister said.

He instructed the DJB officials to ensure that the sewer lines work properly and should not create any hassle to residents. "It is the duty of the DJB officials to address every issue related to waterlogging and sewer blockage.

In case any blockage arises due to excessive rains then water pumps should be used to extract excess rainwater creating a clog in a particular region," the Minister said.

He instructed the DJB officials to ensure that the sewer lines work properly and should not create any hassle to residents. "It is the duty of the DJB officials to address every issue related to waterlogging and sewer blockage.

In case any blockage arises due to excessive rains then water pumps should be used to extract excess rainwater creating a clog in a particular region," the Minister said.

He instructed the DJB officials to ensure that the sewer lines work properly and should not create any hassle to residents. "It is the duty of the DJB officials to address every issue related to waterlogging and sewer blockage.

In case any blockage arises due to excessive rains then water pumps should be used to extract excess rainwater creating a clog in a particular region," the Minister said.

He instructed the DJB officials to ensure that the sewer lines work properly and should not create any hassle to residents. "It is the duty of the DJB officials to address every issue related to waterlogging and sewer blockage.

In case any blockage arises due to excessive rains then water pumps should be used to extract excess rainwater creating a clog in a particular region," the Minister said.

He instructed the DJB officials to ensure that the sewer lines work properly and should not create any hassle to residents. "It is the duty of the DJB officials to address every issue related to waterlogging and sewer blockage.

In case any blockage arises due to excessive rains then water pumps should be used to extract excess rainwater creating a clog in a particular region," the Minister said.

He instructed the DJB officials to ensure that the sewer lines work properly and should not create any hassle to residents. "It is the duty of the DJB officials to address every issue related to waterlogging and sewer blockage.

In case any blockage arises due to excessive rains then water pumps should be used to extract excess rainwater creating a clog in a particular region," the Minister said.

He instructed the DJB officials to ensure that the sewer lines work properly and should not create any hassle to residents. "It is the duty of the DJB officials to address every issue related to waterlogging and sewer blockage.

In case any blockage arises due to excessive rains then water pumps should be used to extract excess rainwater creating a clog in a particular region," the Minister said.

He instructed the DJB officials to ensure that the sewer lines work properly and should not create any hassle to residents. "It is the duty of the DJB officials to address every issue related to waterlogging and sewer blockage.

In case any blockage arises due to excessive rains then water pumps should be used to extract excess rainwater creating a clog in a particular region," the Minister said.

He instructed the DJB officials to ensure that the sewer lines work properly and should not create any hassle to residents. "It is the duty of the DJB officials to address every issue related to waterlogging and sewer blockage.

In case any blockage arises due to excessive rains then water pumps should be used to extract excess rainwater creating a clog in a particular region," the Minister said.

He instructed the DJB officials to ensure that the sewer lines work properly and should not create any hassle to residents. "It is the duty of the DJB officials to address every issue related to waterlogging and sewer blockage.

In case any blockage arises due to excessive rains then water pumps should be used to extract excess rainwater creating a clog in a particular region," the Minister said.

He instructed the DJB officials to ensure that the sewer lines work properly and should not create any hassle to residents. "It is the duty of the DJB officials to address every issue related to waterlogging and sewer blockage.

In case any blockage arises due to excessive rains then water pumps should be used to extract excess rainwater creating a clog in a particular region," the Minister said.

He instructed the DJB officials to ensure that the sewer lines work properly and should not create any hassle to residents. "It is the duty of the DJB officials to address every issue related to waterlogging and sewer blockage.

In case any blockage arises due to excessive rains then water pumps should be used to extract excess rainwater creating a clog in a particular region," the Minister said.

He instructed the DJB officials to ensure that the sewer lines work properly and should not create any hassle to residents. "It is the duty of the DJB officials to address every issue related to waterlogging and sewer blockage.

In case any blockage arises due to excessive rains then water pumps should be used to extract excess rainwater creating a clog in a particular region," the Minister said.

He instructed the DJB officials to ensure that the sewer lines work properly and should not create any hassle to residents. "It is the duty of the DJB officials to address every issue related to waterlogging and sewer blockage.

In case any blockage arises due to excessive rains then water pumps should be used to extract excess rainwater creating a clog in a particular region," the Minister said.

He instructed the DJB officials to ensure that the sewer lines work properly and should not create any hassle to residents. "It is the duty of the DJB officials to address every issue related to waterlogging and sewer blockage.

In case any blockage arises due to excessive rains then water pumps should be used to extract excess rainwater creating a clog in a particular region," the Minister said.

He instructed the DJB officials to ensure that the sewer lines work properly and should not create any hassle to residents. "It is the duty of the DJB officials to address every issue related to waterlogging and sewer blockage.

In case any blockage arises due to excessive rains then water pumps should be used to extract excess rainwater creating a clog in a particular region," the Minister said.

He instructed the DJB officials to ensure that the sewer lines work properly and should not create any hassle to residents. "It is the duty of the DJB officials to address every issue related to waterlogging and sewer blockage.

In case any blockage arises due to excessive rains then water pumps should be used to extract excess rainwater creating a clog in a particular region," the Minister said.

He instructed the DJB officials to ensure that the sewer lines work properly and should not create any hassle to residents. "It is the duty of the DJB officials to address every issue related to waterlogging and sewer blockage.

In case any blockage arises due to excessive rains then water pumps should be used to extract excess rainwater creating a clog in a particular region," the Minister said.

He instructed the DJB officials to ensure that the sewer lines work properly and should not create any hassle to residents. "It is the duty of the DJB officials to address every issue related to waterlogging and sewer blockage.

In case any blockage arises due to excessive rains then water pumps should be used to extract excess rainwater creating a clog in a particular region," the Minister said.

He instructed the DJB officials to ensure that the sewer lines work properly and should not create any hassle to residents. "It is the duty of the DJB officials to address every issue related to waterlogging and sewer blockage.

In case any blockage arises due to excessive rains then water pumps should be used to extract excess rainwater creating a clog in a particular region," the Minister said.

He instructed the DJB officials to ensure that the sewer lines work properly and should not create any hassle to residents. "It is the duty of the DJB officials to address every issue related to waterlogging and sewer blockage.

In case any blockage arises due to excessive rains then water pumps should be used to extract excess rainwater creating a clog in a particular region," the Minister said.

He instructed the DJB officials to ensure that the sewer lines work properly and should not create any hassle to residents. "It is the duty of the DJB officials to address every issue related to waterlogging and sewer blockage.

In case any blockage arises due to excessive rains then water pumps should be used to extract excess rainwater creating a clog in a particular region," the Minister said.

He instructed the DJB officials to ensure that the sewer lines work properly and should not create any hassle to residents. "It is the duty of the DJB officials to address every issue related to waterlogging and sewer blockage.

In case any blockage arises due to excessive rains then water pumps should be used to extract excess rainwater creating a clog in a particular region," the Minister said.

He

## Odisha seeks 95% vaccine allocation for State

'Reduce quota for private hospitals to 5% to speed up COVID-19 inoculation drive'

SATYASUNDAR BARIK  
BHUBANESWAR

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Friday demanded an increase in the allocation of vaccines for the State to 95%, and a reduction in the share available to private hospitals to 5%, in order to speed up the COVID-19 inoculation drive in Odisha.

In a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and other Chief Ministers, Mr. Patnaik said that due to the low presence of private hospi-

tals in the State, the lifting of vaccines from the 25% private hospitals' quota had been less.

"We had written to the Centre to increase the allocation to the State government to 95% and reduce the allocation to private hospitals to 5%. This will help us in increasing the pace of vaccination in the State," he said.

Mr. Patnaik said Odisha had performed very well in vaccination and its wastage was among the lowest in the country.

"I would like to request that the vaccines for the age group of 12-18 years may be prioritised and rolled out at the earliest," he said, voicing concerns over the anticipated third wave and its impact on children.

### Vaccine shortage

Odisha has faced disruption in its vaccination drive due to shortage in the availability of vaccines. This week, vaccination had to be stopped in 24 out of 30 districts as Covishield doses ran out.

As of now, 1,38,09,756 doses, including 1,08,16,744 first doses and 29,93,012 second doses, have been administered in the State.

Currently, the State has stock of 4,61,500 doses of Covishield and 1,79,590 doses of Covaxin, which are grossly inadequate to carry out vaccination at the pace the State government had announced after a change in the vaccine policy from June 21. The State government had then declared it would inoculate 3 lakh persons per day.

### Online Tender GOVT. OF GUJARAT (R&B) DEPARTMENT Tender Notice No.04 of 2021 -22

In the name and on behalf of Governor of Gujarat State the Executive Engineer, Chhotauddepur (R&B) Division, Chhotauddepur (Phone No: 02669-233862) invites online from registered contractors for total 8 (Eight) tenders in which 1 (One) Upkeep work, 6 (Six) Building work and annual rate for hot mix material for road (Esti. cost of Rs.8.85 lakh to Rs.270.00 lakh) in form B-1.

The Bid documents will be available for he above works up to dt.05/08/2021 up to 12:00 Hrs. on Website <http://rnb.nprocure.com>.

Last date of Online Submission of bid are as above up to dt.05/08/2021 up to 18:00 hrs.

For further particulars please visit above website and website of Gujarat Govt

[www.statetenders.gujarat.gov.in](http://www.statetenders.gujarat.gov.in) Or contact this office during office hours. Any Changes/modifications will be seen online.

INF-VAD-447-2021-2022

Interested tenderers may please refer [www.tenderwizard.com/](http://www.tenderwizard.com/)

ISRO Also detailed notice inviting tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, can be downloaded from website [www.isro.gov.in](http://www.isro.gov.in)

Sd/- Group Head CMG, ISRO HQ

### Appeal for Identification

General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body Name: Unknown, S/o Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 40 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Wheatish, Built : Strong, Face : Round, Wearing : Grey Colour T-Shirt and pant was found in unconscious condition at Gate No.2

Mandoli Jail, Delhi, on 11.07.2021. In this regard, a DD No. 60-A, dated 11.07.2021 has been lodged at PS Nand Nagri, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no due has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO P.S., Nand Nagri, Delhi

Ph. : 011-22585985, 22583307

8750870733

Government of Jharkhand  
Scheduled Tribe, Scheduled Caste,  
Minorities & Backward Class Welfare Department

### Notice (P.R. No.- 247714)

### Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Munda Overseas Scholarship Scheme

Applications for Higher Education in Masters / M.Phil in selected Universities/ Institutes of United Kingdom of Great Britain and North Ireland, have been invited from the students belonging to Scheduled Tribe, for the Financial Year 2021-22 under "Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Munda Overseas Scholarship Scheme". A maximum of 10 selected students will get benefit under this scheme.

### Last Date of Application- 31.07.2021

Applications to be submitted to following e-mail id :- tw-com-jhr@nic.in

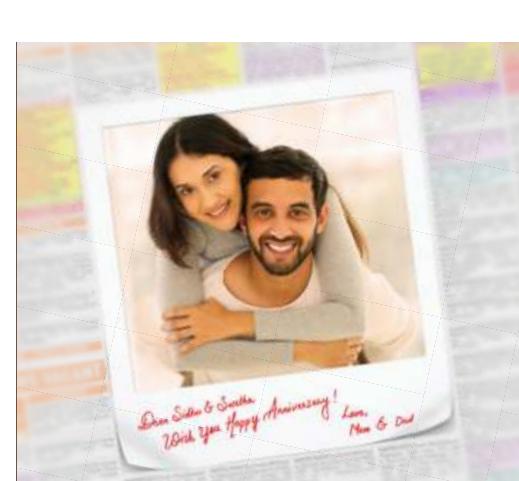
Instructions, (SOP) Application Form,

Details of documents to be submitted by the applicants and other related information can be accessed from the link below :- <https://www.jharkhand.gov.in/welfare>

Tribal Welfare Commissioner

Jharkhand, Ranchi  
Caste, Minority and Backward Class Welfare Department(21-22)#D

## A GREETING TO REMEMBER



Be it an anniversary, a birthday, an academic accomplishment or even a promotion. Now you can surprise your loved ones by wishing them on

### CLASSIFIEDS

For more details, email: [classifiedscustomercare@thehindu.co.in](mailto:classifiedscustomercare@thehindu.co.in)  
Contact Toll Free Number: 180030700404  
For Placing Advertisements Online, Log on to [www.thehinduads.com](http://www.thehinduads.com)

## Resume talks with farmers, Amarinder tells PM Modi

Make concerted efforts to resolve their issues: Punjab CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

Citing the heightened cross-border threat and increased drone and other terrorist activities by ISI-backed groups, including plans by Khalistani outfits to target certain farmer leaders, Punjab Chief Minister Captain (retd) Amarinder Singh has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to immediately resume dialogue with the agitating farmers and make concerted efforts to resolve their issues.

The Chief Minister has proposed to lead an all-party delegation from Punjab for discussion with the Prime Minister to find a durable and amicable solution to the vexed problem of the prolonged farmer agitation, which he said, is threatening



CM Amarinder Singh

provocative statements and conduct of some political parties and the emotional backlash might create law and order problems and also lead to irreversible damage to the hard-earned peace in the State," he said.

### Protests on for months'

In his letter, the Chief Minister pointed out that the farmers have been agitating for the past seven months on Delhi-Haryana borders, and also in the State, demanding repeal of these laws and their protests have been more or less peaceful so far.

"It is a little unfortunate that multiple rounds of engagement between the Union Ministers and representatives of farmers' groups have not proved successful," he said.

Two held for passing bogus ITC of ₹115 cr.

STAFF REPORTER  
BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha State GST Enforcement Wing has arrested two persons on charges of passing bogus input tax credit (ITC) worth ₹115.10 crore on strength of fake invoices to the tune of ₹641 crore.

The accused were identified as Gurdir Dang, managing partner of Tirupati Traders and authorised representative of Satguru Metals Limited, Rourkela, and Sujay Maitra, director of Smartageis Trade Venture Private Limited.

"The masterminds in collusion with others have availed bogus ITC by raising fake purchase invoices in the name of 16 other fictitious or non-existent business entities," said S. K. Lohani, Commissioner of Commercial Tax and GST.

## Five killed in U.P. accident

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LUCKNOW

Five people were killed and three others injured when a truck overturned on a car in the Itaunja area here on Friday, police said.

The accident took place on the Kumhrava road near Tikari village on the outskirts of Lucknow. The victims were on their way to a temple in Barabanki.

### CENTRAL RAILWAY

#### OPEN TENDER NOTICE NO.: DRMWGP-28-2021 OF 12.07.2021

**Sr. No. 1 : A)** Elimination of LC No. 9 at Railway km. 788.527 construction of RCC Box 5.5 x 4.5 m by Pushing/ Sliding method on Sewagram-Ballashah section. **B)** Elimination of LC No. 10 at Railway km. 781.099 proposed construction of RCC Box 5.5 x 4.5 m by Pushing/ Sliding method on Sewagram-Ballashah section. **C)** Elimination of LC No. 11 at Railway km. 784.796 construction of RCC Box 5.5 x 4.5 m by Pushing/ Sliding method on Sewagram-Ballashah section. **D)** Elimination of LC No. 12 at Railway km. 787.690 construction of RCC Box 5.5 x 4.5 m by Pushing/ Sliding method on Sewagram-Ballashah section. **E)** Elimination of LC No. 17 at Railway km. 799.862 construction of RCC Box 5.5 x 4.5 m by Pushing/ Sliding method on Sewagram-Ballashah section. **F)** Elimination of LC No. 18 at Railway km. 802.472 construction of RCC Box 5.5 x 4.5 m by Pushing/ Sliding method on Sewagram-Ballashah section. **G)** Elimination of LC No. 19 at Railway km. 805.210 proposed construction of RCC Box 5.5 x 4.5 m by Pushing/ Sliding method on Sewagram-Ballashah section. **H)** Elimination of LC No. 20 at Railway km. 807.604 proposed construction of RCC Box 5.5 x 4.5 m by Pushing/ Sliding method on Sewagram-Ballashah section. **I)** Elimination of LC No. 21 at Railway km. 807.031 construction of RCC Box 5.5 x 4.5 m by Pushing/ Sliding method on Sewagram-Ballashah section. **J)** Elimination of LC No. 22 at Railway km. 811.662 construction of RCC Box 5.5 x 4.5 m by Pushing/ Sliding method on Sewagram-Ballashah section. **K)** Elimination of LC No. 23 at Railway km. 815.090 proposed construction of RCC Box 5.5 x 4.5 m by Pushing/ Sliding method on Sewagram-Ballashah section. **L)** Elimination of LC No. 24 at Railway km. 825.010 construction of RCC Box 5.5 x 4.5 m by Pushing/ Sliding method on Sewagram-Ballashah section. **M)** Elimination of LC No. 25 at Railway km. 827.604 proposed construction of RCC Box 5.5 x 4.5 m by Pushing/ Sliding method on Sewagram-Ballashah section. **N)** Elimination of LC No. 26 at Railway km. 829.604 proposed construction of RCC Box 5.5 x 4.5 m by Pushing/ Sliding method on Sewagram-Ballashah section. **O)** Elimination of LC No. 27 at Railway km. 837.031 construction of RCC Box 5.5 x 4.5 m by Pushing/ Sliding method on Sewagram-Ballashah section. **P)** Elimination of LC No. 28 at Railway km. 837.031 construction of RCC Box 5.5 x 4.5 m by Pushing/ Sliding method on Sewagram-Ballashah section. **Q)** Elimination of LC No. 29 at Railway km. 837.031 construction of RCC Box 5.5 x 4.5 m by Pushing/ Sliding method on Sewagram-Ballashah section. **R)** Elimination of LC No. 30 at Railway km. 837.031 construction of RCC Box 5.5 x 4.5 m by Pushing/ Sliding method on Sewagram-Ballashah section. **S)** Elimination of LC No. 31 at Railway km. 837.031 construction of RCC Box 5.5 x 4.5 m by Pushing/ Sliding method on Sewagram-Ballashah section. **T)** Elimination of LC No. 32 at Railway km. 837.031 construction of RCC Box 5.5 x 4.5 m by Pushing/ Sliding method on Sewagram-Ballashah section. **U)** Elimination of LC No. 33 at Railway km. 837.031 construction of RCC Box 5.5 x 4.5 m by Pushing/ Sliding method on Sewagram-Ballashah section. **V)** Elimination of LC No. 34 at Railway km. 837.031 construction of RCC Box 5.5 x 4.5 m by Pushing/ Sliding method on Sewagram-Ballashah section. **W)** Elimination of LC No. 35 at Railway km. 837.031 construction of RCC Box 5.5 x 4.5 m by Pushing/ Sliding method on Sewagram-Ballashah section. **X)** Elimination of LC No. 36 at Railway km. 837.031 construction of RCC Box 5.5 x 4.5 m by Pushing/ Sliding method on Sewagram-Ballashah section. **Y)** Elimination of LC No. 37 at Railway km. 837.031 construction of RCC Box 5.5 x 4.5 m by Pushing/ Sliding method on Sewagram-Ballashah section. **Z)** Elimination of LC No. 38 at Railway km. 837.031 construction of RCC Box 5.5 x 4.5 m by Pushing/ Sliding method on Sewagram-Ballashah section.

### GOVT. OF JHARKHAND DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN, CHILD DEVELOPMENT & SOCIAL SECURITY Jharkhand Ministry, Project Building, Dhurwa, Ranchi – 834 004 Phone No. -0651-2400757, Email ID - swdjharkhand@gmail.com

### Notice

F. No. 03 / सोको-रायबोरा-04-48 / 2006(खण्ड-III)-1147

Ranchi, Date. 14.07.2021

**Subject:** Appointment to the vacant positions of Chairperson and Members in Jharkhand State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (JSCPCR) in the State of Jharkhand.

1. It is for the information of all the concerned that Department of Women, Child Development and Social Security, Government of Jharkhand invites online applications on JAP-IT Recruitment Portal ([recruitment.jharkhand.gov.in](http://recruitment.jharkhand.gov.in)) from the eligible candidates to fill up the vacant positions of Chairperson and Members in Jharkhand State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (JSCPCR) in the State of Jharkhand.

2. A Notification No. 1145 dated 14.07.2021 in this regard, including the Number of Vacant positions, Eligibility Requirements, Selection Process, Important Instructions to Candidates and the Structure of Application Form, is available on the website of DWCD&SS ([socialwelfare.jharkhand.gov.in](http://socialwelfare.jharkhand.gov.in)) in recruitment section, for the reference of all the concerned.

3. It is also to be informed that only online applications on JAP-IT Recruitment Portal ([recruitment.jharkhand.gov.in](http://recruitment.jharkhand.gov.in)) shall be accepted and in no case any other form of application shall be accepted.

4. The Advertisement No. PR 14072 dated 09.08.2019 issued by Department of Women, Child Development and Social Security, Government of Jharkhand to invite applications for the positions of Chairperson/Members in Jharkhand State Commission for Protection of Child Rights is cancelled and the applications received earlier in this regard shall not be considered. The aspirants who had submitted their applications in reference to the advertisement dated 09.08.2019, if willing to be considered for the positions in Jharkhand State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, should apply fresh online on JAP-IT Recruitment Portal, as informed above.

5. The receipt of the online applications on JAP-IT Recruitment Portal ([recruitment.jharkhand.gov.in](http://recruitment.jharkhand.gov.in)) to fill the vacant positions shall commence on 21.07.2021 and shall close on 16.08.2021.

PR 249717 Women, Child Development & Social Security(21-22)#D

Joint Secretary, Department of Women, Child Development & Social Security, Jharkhand.

## कार्यालय धनबाद नगर निगम, धनबाद। शुद्धि पत्र

पत्रांक .....

e-Procurement Tender Notice No. DMC/09/2021-22 दिनांक 25.06.2021 एवं Tender\_ID 2021\_UDD\_50194\_1 जो कार्यालय के पत्रांक 459(TC) दिनांक 25.06.21 द्वारा समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित है, जिसका (P.R. 248601 Urban Development (21-22)-D कार्य का नाम :- Construction of Five Storey Commercial Building in Municipal Corporation Office at Bank More, Dhanbad, Jharkhand में मिन्हासा सुधार कर पढ़ा जाय।

क्रम स
--------

IN BRIEF



Landslip disrupts train services on Konkan route

MANGALURU  
Several trains on the Mangaluru-Mumbai sector were either cancelled or diverted following a landslip on the Mangaluru-Mumbai line (Konkan Railway network) near Kulashkara here on Friday morning. The landslip triggered by heavy rains brought down a portion of the retaining wall too thereby blocking the track. Track restoration work is on, but it may take a long time for resumption of services, say officials.

Kerala to appoint dowry prohibition officers

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM  
The Kerala government has amended the Kerala Dowry Prohibition Rules, 2004, to appoint dowry prohibition officers in all districts. The district Women and Child Development officer will function as the district dowry prohibition officer. The first phase of their training is over. The government has invited expression of interest from voluntary organisations for helping women facing dowry-related issues, said Minister for Women and Child Development Veena George.

NIA opposes bail plea in gold smuggling case

KOCHI  
The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday informed the Kerala High Court that continued detention in judicial custody of the main accused, including Swapna Suresh, in the diplomatic baggage gold smuggling case was absolutely necessary given the transnational ramifications of the case. NIA counsel made the submission while opposing the bail plea of Swapna in the case registered by the NIA against her and other accused.

# 'No work on Mekedatu sans CWMA nod'

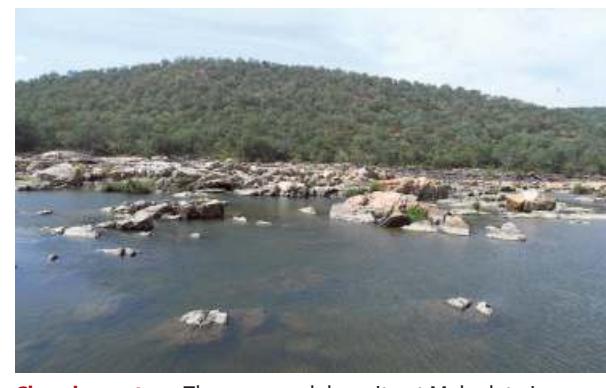
Cauvery water panel must approve DPR, Union Minister Shekhawat tells all-party delegation from T.N.

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ  
NEW DELHI

The Centre has given its assurance that Karnataka will not be allowed to carry out any construction on the Mekedatu dam project on the Cauvery river until its Detailed Project Report (DPR) is approved by the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA), according to members of an all-party delegation from Tamil Nadu who met Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Friday.

Earlier this month, Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa unilaterally announced plans to go forward with the long-pending project, exacerbating Tamil Nadu's concerns that their farmers further downstream will be affected.

In what seemed a rebuff to Karnataka's ambitions, Mr.



Churning waters: The proposed dam site at Mekedatu in Ramanagara district of Karnataka. ■ SUDHAKARA JAIN

submitted its pre-feasibility report first and having studied it, CWC [or Central Water Commission] granted permission for the development of DPR in 2018. It was a conditional permission and the number one condition was that the DPR will only be accepted and considered further if it comes with the

approval of CWMA. All stakeholder States are members of CWMA," he said, adding that the DPR was submitted online in 2020 and last discussed at the CWMA's virtual meeting two months ago.

Karnataka and Telangana representatives urged that further discussions be held when the CWMA is able to

## Will go ahead: Karnataka CM

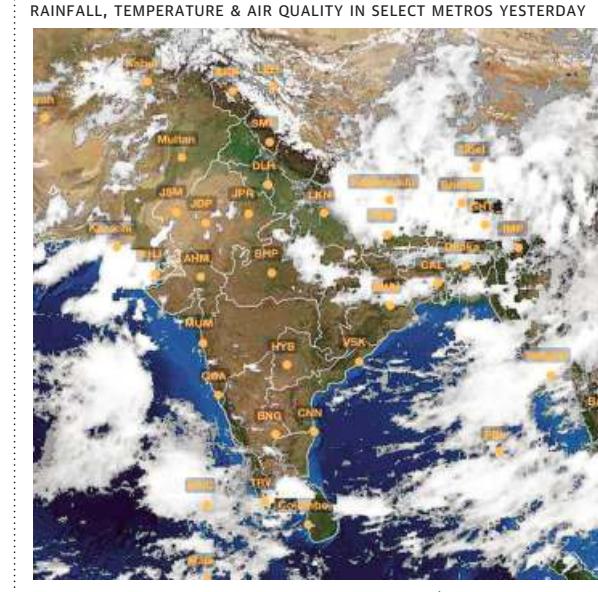
"I assure the people of Karnataka that we will execute the Mekedatu project cent per cent," Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa told the media in New Delhi before meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss with him the clearances related to the project.

meet in person, as it is a sensitive issue, added the Minister.

The 13-member Tamil Nadu delegation, which included representatives from the opposition AIADMK and the BJP's State unit as well, was led by DMK leader and State Water Resources Minister S. Duraimurugan. They handed over a memorandum which noted that "the implementation of Mekedatu project would affect the interests of Tamil Nadu's farming community. It is an attempt to impound the uncontrolled flows in violation of the Final Award delivered by the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal as affirmed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court."

"Mr. Shekhawat assured us that there is no possibility of Karnataka going forward without CWMA approval," said Mr. Duraimurugan.

## WEATHER WATCH



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD; POLLUTION DATA: CPCB; MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00)  
**Forecast for Saturday:** Heavy/heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, Sikkim, sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Telangana, central Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, south interior Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Kerala. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Punjab, Delhi, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam and Rayalseema

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	4...	34.4...	28.0	Kozhikode	53...	28.0...	23.8
Ahmedabad	2.8...	34.9...	27.1	Kurnool	6...	31.9...	23.8
Aizawl	3...	25.8...	19.1	Lucknow	...	38...	29.2
Althababad	...	39.6...	29.0	Madurai	0.6...	34.8...	24.7
Bengaluru	2.8...	27.0...	26.5	Mangaluru	126.8...	26.0...	22.6
Bhopal	...	35.7...	26.9	Mumbai	252...	28.2...	23.5
Bhubaneswar	...	35.2...	26.5	Mysuru	8...	26.0...	19.6
Chandigarh	...	38.4...	28.4	New Delhi	...	37.8...	27.0
Chennai	0.3...	34.6...	27.2	Patna	...	36.8...	28.4
Coimbatore	4...	30.3...	22.2	Port Blair	19...	29.0...	23.4
Dehradun	0.4...	34.6...	23.7	Puducherry	0.3...	35.8...	24.3
Gangtok	0.2...	20.4...	17.8	Pune	1.2...	29.4...	22.7
Goa	70.7...	27.5...	23.8	Raipur	...	33.6...	26.5
Guwahati	0.6...	33.7...	24.7	Ranchi	...	32.2...	23.1
Hubballi	...	25.0...	21.0	Shillong	...	24.5...	18.0
Hyderabad	0.3...	30.0...	23.3	Shimla	...	27.2...	20.1
Imphal	...	31.1...	22.3	Srinagar	...	33.4...	18.8
Jaipur	...	38.0...	30.0	Thiruvananthapuram	17...	31.1...	24.1
Kochi	67...	27.8...	23.4	Tiruchi	...	35.3...	25.8
Kohima	4...	25.2...	18.0	Vijayawada	10...	31.8...	24.6
Kolkata	...	35.8...	28.4	Visakhapatnam	3...	32.2...	26.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

**Pollutants in the air you are breathing**

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>x</sub>	CO	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	CODE	Yesterday
Ahmedabad	.8	.16	.59	.79	.91	■■■	
Bengaluru	11	.6	.86	.23	.41	■■■	
Chennai	12	.5	.35	.43	.68	■■■	
Delhi	.9	.16	.66	.236	.139	■■■	
Hyderabad	...	.61	.18	.16	.24	■■■	
Kolkata	.9	.18	.20	.31	.50	■■■	
Lucknow	.9	.40	.75	.76	.110	■■■	
Mumbai	.8	.3	.16	.99	.43	■■■	
Pune	27	.16	.109	.73	.53	■■■	
Visakhapatnam	14	.27	.30	.17	.38	■■■	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Alwar, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 158, which is moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 14

**Air Quality Code:** ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)  
**SO<sub>2</sub>:** 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.  
**NO<sub>x</sub>:** 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.

**PM<sub>2.5</sub> & PM<sub>10</sub>:** 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 people with heart or lung disease

(With inputs from Delhi)

## Centre notifies purview of Krishna, Godavari Boards

Transfers operation of projects effective from October 14

B. CHANDRASHEKHAR  
HYDERABAD

Seven years after their constitution under the provisions of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, the Centre has notified the purview of Krishna and Godavari River Management Boards (KRMB and GRMB) transferring the operation of all projects, including hydel generation, in the two river basins in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana to the boards, effective from October 14.

The notification assumes significance in the backdrop of escalation in the dispute between the two States over project works and hydel generation at Srisailam, Nagarjunasagar and Pulichintala reservoirs. While Andhra Pradesh has been demanding notification of the boards' purview for long,

as head works in the Krishna Basin and 71 in the Godavari Basin in the two States under the boards' purview empowers them to supervise operation of head works of barrages, dams, reservoirs, regulating structures, water transmission lines and power houses at the projects.

The notification assumes significance in the backdrop of escalation in the dispute between the two States over project works and hydel generation at Srisailam, Nagarjunasagar and Pulichintala reservoirs. While Andhra Pradesh has been demanding notification of the boards' purview for long,

Telangana has been opposing it on the premise that handing over operation of projects without clarity on water share of the two States won't serve the purpose.

At a press briefing in Delhi, MoJS joint secretary Sanjay Awasthi said Telangana's demand for a new tribunal

for Krishna water sharing was now with the Law Ministry. The MoJS had drafted a request to the Law Ministry to see if the issue should be referred to the existing tribunal with revised terms or whether a new tribunal must be set up. The request is "under process", he said.

(With inputs from Delhi)

## WEST

# Record 99.95% students clear Class X exams in Maharashtra

In pandemic year, State's cumulative SSC pass percentage crosses 99% for first time

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
PUNE

In the results to the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) or Class X exams announced on Friday, Maharashtra's cumulative pass percentage in a pandemic-ridden educational year surged to a record 99.95%.

The Maharashtra State Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education (MSBSHSE), which announced the eagerly anticipated results, said the State's cumulative SSC pass percentage, which had crossed 99% for the first time, had improved by 4.65 points as compared to last year's performance of 95.30%.

Official websites crash

However, within minutes of the results being announced, the official websites, on which they were to be displayed, crashed owing to the server load, much to the frustration of students.

As many as 15,70,996 students of 15,75,806, students who registered for the ex-



Expectant faces: Students in Thane check their marks on a mobile after the Class X results were declared on Friday. ■ PTI

ams, have cleared it. A total of 99.96% of girls who appeared cleared the exam, outperforming boys whose pass percentage was 99.94%.

More than 22,000 schools in the State have registered 100% pass performance, with all students in these schools clearing the exams. Of 82,802 students who were repeaters, 74,618 (or 90.25%) cleared the exams.

As many as 83,262 students scored 90% and above, while in 27 subjects, students registered a 100% pass figure, informed Dinkar Patil, Chairman, MSBSHSE.

Mr. Patil said, "6.3% of the total students, 83,262 of them, have scored above 90%, while 957 students have scored 100%. The pass

percentage among disabled students was 97.84%."

More than 22,000 schools in the State have registered 100% pass performance, with all students in these schools clearing the exams. Of 82,802 students who were repeaters, 74,618 (or 90.25%) cleared the exams.

Of the total marks, 50% was based on the performance in Class IX. The remaining 50% was divided into two – with 30 marks based on the internal assessment of Class X and 20 marks reserved for practicals or homework or assignments in Class X.

Of the total marks, 50% was based on the performance in Class IX. The remaining 50% was divided into two – with 30 marks based on the internal assessment of Class X and 20 marks reserved for practicals or homework or assignments in Class X.

Pune reported over 1,100 new cases, taking its total cases to 10,73,547. As many as 32 deaths took the total death toll to 17,609.

As per district authorities, the active case tally stood at 9,700, while the toll has crossed 18,140.

Mumbai reported 443 new cases and 11 fatalities.

Pune reported over 1,100 new cases, taking its total cases to 10,73,547. As many as 32 deaths took the total death toll to 17,609.

As per district authorities, the active case tally stood at 9,700, while the toll has crossed 18,140.



## Overdue review

Supreme Court's remarks on sedition cases bode well for its inevitable invalidation

It is gratifying to note that the Supreme Court, while indicating its intention to reconsider the sedition provision in the IPC, has raised the question most relevant to the issue: "Why does Section 124A continue in the statute book even after 75 years of independence?" The Chief Justice of India, N.V. Ramana, has also pointed to its rampant misuse by the police across the country, and reminded the Government that it was a legal provision that the colonial regime had used to suppress the freedom movement. The issues flagged by the CJI may set the tone for what would be a comprehensive reconsideration of a section that has been frequently and wrongfully used, especially in the last few years, to suppress dissent, criminalise strident political criticism and taunt opponents with the tag of being 'anti-national'. Even though it is often argued that the misuse of a law alone does not render it invalid, there is a special case to strike down Section 124A because of its inherent potential for misuse. There is a pattern of behaviour among all regimes that indicate a proclivity to invoke it without examining its applicability to the facts of any case. Recent cases show that sedition is used for three political reasons: to suppress criticism and protests against particular policies and projects of the government, to criminalise dissenting opinion from rights defenders, lawyers, activists and journalists, and to settle political scores, sometimes with communal hues.

It is not to be forgotten that the section was upheld in 1962 by a Constitution Bench mainly by reading down the import of the terms "bring into hatred or contempt", or "to create disaffection towards the government established by law" and limit its scope to only those instances of speech or writing that show a pernicious tendency to create public disorder. Without this attenuated interpretation, the restriction imposed on free speech by Section 124A would have been declared unconstitutional. The Court is now seized of several cases that seek a reconsideration of the 1962 verdict, citing more recent judgments expanding the scope of fundamental rights and doctrines that have been subsequently evolved. In particular, the "chilling effect" that a law may have on free speech and the vague and 'overbroad' definition of sedition that renders both provocative and innocuous speeches or writings equally liable for prosecution, are points to be examined. In 2016, the Government itself admitted in Parliament that the definition of sedition is too wide and requires reconsideration. The Law Commission's consultation paper in 2018 had said: "In a democracy, singing from the same songbook is not a benchmark of patriotism... People should be at liberty to show their affection towards their country in their own way." While issuing fresh guidelines and safeguards is one way of quelling the potential for its misuse, it will be more helpful if Section 124A is struck down altogether.

## Rising again

Adherence to COVID-appropriate behaviour is the only way to reduce impact of a third wave. Fresh daily cases of the coronavirus, globally, after touching a new peak of over 0.9 million on April 28, began to drop steadily, reaching a low point on June 21, when only over 0.3 million cases were reported. But there has been a rise in cases, again globally, since then. July 15 saw 0.53 million daily cases and the second week of the month witnessed nearly three million new cases. A total of 188.9 million cases have been reported worldwide as on July 15, driven in most countries by the highly transmissible Delta variant. A total of 111 countries now have this variant. Brazil, India, Indonesia, the U.K. and Colombia have reported the most cases in the past week, with the sharpest increase being in Zimbabwe (72%), Indonesia (44%), the U.S. (38%), Bangladesh (35%), and the U.K. (30%). Many Asian countries, including Vietnam, Malaysia, South Korea and Japan, where the spread was under control, have also been reporting a high number of daily cases. Indonesia has seen a surge in new cases, with each day witnessing a sharp increase over the previous day. With 56,757 cases on July 15, Indonesia is now the new Asian epicentre; India reported over 39,000 cases on July 15. According to WHO, COVID-19 deaths are increasing again after falling for nine straight weeks, with the sharpest upticks in Africa and Southeast Asia. On July 7, the total global COVID-19 deaths crossed four million. It took just 90 days for the last million deaths to occur, the shortest time span for every one million deaths recorded.

The U.S. and much of Europe have demonstrated how high vaccination coverage can sharply reduce the number of deaths and even hospitalisation. For instance, with over 87% of the adult population vaccinated with one dose and over 67% with two doses in the U.K., there have been fewer hospitalisations and deaths despite spikes in cases. In the U.S., the case rise is largely in States with low vaccination coverage, and deaths mainly in the unvaccinated. Over 55% of the U.S. population has had one dose; 48% are fully vaccinated. This brings the focus back on increasing vaccination coverage and striving for global vaccine equity to prevent deaths and the emergence of deadlier variants. Ironically, the discussion in some countries is on a booster dose even while health-care workers in many African countries have not been fully vaccinated. Israel has begun giving booster shots to people with a compromised immune system, while the U.S. has ruled out booster shots for now. With several Indian States reporting vaccine shortages, strict adherence to COVID-appropriate behaviour even by the fully vaccinated is the only way to delay and reduce the impact of a third wave.

# India needs a renewed health-care system

The new Health Minister needs to focus on the core lessons from the pandemic and rebuild trust in public health



ABHAY SHUKLA

**I**ndia has a new Union Health Minister after the recent cabinet reshuffle. So, what does the new Health Minister need to learn from previous experience, and what unfinished tasks need to be taken forward? As citizens, how should we expect the Government to perform better on the public health front, given the lessons of the COVID-19 pandemic? If the Union Health Ministry acts upon the following health system lessons, this would not only enable improved handling of COVID-19, but would also have widespread positive impacts extending much beyond the COVID-19 situation.

### Two States and a comparison

For any population, the availability of functional public health systems is literally a question of life and death. This is evident by comparing two States which currently have the highest number of COVID-19 cases in India – Maharashtra and Kerala. Their per capita gross State domestic product (GSDP), reflecting the overall economic situation in each State, is similar. However, their COVID-19 case fatality rates are hugely different – this being 0.48% for Kerala and 2.04% for Maharashtra, with the shocking implication that on average, a COVID-19 patient in Maharashtra has been over four times more likely to die when compared to one in Kerala.

A major reason for such critical divergence is likely to be the huge differences in the effectiveness of public health systems. Kerala has per capita two and a half times more government doctors, and an

equally higher proportion of government hospital beds when compared to Maharashtra, while allocating per capita over one and half times higher funds on public health every year. Despite Maharashtra having a large private health-care sector, its weak public health system has proved to be a critical deficiency.

In contrast, robust government health-care services in Kerala have translated into: a more effective outreach, timely testing, early case detection and more rational treatment for COVID patients, which all together reduce fatality rates. Existing evidence from the COVID-19 pandemic provides a clear message: a neglect of public health systems can mean large-scale, avoidable losses of lives; hence, public health services must be upgraded rapidly and massively as a topmost priority.

### Focus on public health

Talking of priorities, if the ₹20,000 crore or nearabout allocated for the Central Vista project were to be utilised instead to set up oxygen plants, two-thirds of the over 25,000 government hospitals across India could acquire their own oxygen source, thus helping to save the lives of lakhs of COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 patients. A larger programme which requires the immediate attention of the Health Minister is the National Health Mission (NHM); since 2017-18, Union government allocations for the NNM have declined in real terms, resulting in inadequate support to States for core activities such as immunisation, while systemic gaps affect the delivery of COVID-19 vaccination.

Although urban people across India have experienced major shortages of public health services during COVID-19, the condition of the National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) remains pathetic. This year's Central allocation for the



NUHM is ₹1,000 crore, which amounts to less than ₹2 per month per urban Indian. This situation must change, and as recommended by the Parliamentary Standing Committee, for reaching National Health Policy targets, the Government must allocate ₹1.6-lakh crore for public health during the current year. This would amount to a doubling of the present central health Budget, which could enable major strengthening of health services in rural and urban areas across the country.

### Private sector regulation

Another clear priority that has been highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic is the need to regulate rates and standards of care in the private sector. Massive hospital bills have caused untold distress even among the middle class; COVID-19 care often costs ₹1 lakh to ₹3 lakh per week in large private hospitals. The 'Remdesivir panic' was significantly linked with major overuse of this medicine by unregulated private hospitals, despite the drug lacking efficacy to reduce COVID-19 mortality. Although various determinants have contributed to the Mucormycosis outbreak, irrational use of steroids in COVID-19 patients, especially diabetics, appears to be an important factor.

Yet, despite accumulating evidence on the need for comprehensive regulation of private hospitals. Instead, the

tals, the central government is yet to take necessary steps to promote the implementation of the Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act (CEA).

Passed in 2010 and presently applicable to 11 States across India, this Act is not effectively implemented due to a major delay in notification of central minimum standards, and failure to develop the central framework for regulation of rates. Responding to public distress, around 15 State governments invoked disaster-related provisions to regulate rates for COVID-19 treatment in private hospitals. However, initiatives from the central government to promote regulation of private hospitals during the COVID-19 situation are conspicuously inadequate. Learning from stark market failures during the COVID-19 pandemic, comprehensive regulation of private health care in public interest now must be a critical agenda for the new Health Minister.

### NITI Aayog prescriptions

A logical corollary of the first two lessons is that health services should not be further privatised. However, flying in the face of health-care distress faced by ordinary Indians during the last 16 months, NITI Aayog has recently published the document, 'Investment Opportunities in India's Healthcare Sector' (<https://bit.ly/3em8myP>). This promotes further privatisation of health care in a country which already has one of the most privatised health systems in the world.

Published in the midst of widespread experiences of large-scale overcharging and irrational care by private providers during the COVID-19 epidemic, the report fails to acknowledge the negative aspects of unregulated private health care; neither is there any mention of the need for regulation of private hospitals. Instead, the

document celebrates the COVID-19 epidemic as a prime business opportunity to be exploited, stating that 'in the hospital segment, the expansion of private players to Tier 2 and Tier 3 locations, beyond metropolitan cities, offers an attractive investment opportunity'. Proposals for handing over public hospitals to private operators, who would presumably now run these key public institutions on commercial lines under the 'Viability Gap Funding' scheme are deeply worrisome, especially since public health services which were hitherto free of cost, would begin to be charged for.

Assuming that the Union Health Ministry has a primary mandate to shape national health policy in India, the Health Minister must assert his authority to stop such moves for further privatisation, which might benefit health-care corporates but would be damaging for ordinary people.

To conclude, this is a time when it is critical to rebuild people's trust in public health systems. This would help in overcoming COVID-19 vaccination hesitancy while strengthening the promotion of healthy behaviours necessary to deal with the current wave of COVID-19 and prevent a third wave. This would be done best if the new Health Minister acts on three core health system lessons of the COVID-19 pandemic – a need for strengthening public health systems; regulating private health care, and preventing further privatisation of the health sector. It is not unjustified to expect our new Health Minister to present an example to the people of India, by acting decisively for public health systems.

*Dr. Abhay Shukla, a public health professional and health activist, is a National Co-convenor of Jan Swasthya Abhiyan*

# An irrational draft population control Bill that must go

The Uttar Pradesh government should understand that evidence backs the principle of informed free choice



VANDANA PRASAD & DIPA SINHA

**M**any of us working in the field of public health and social development have been taken aback, if not downright shocked, by the recently announced draft Uttar Pradesh Population (Control, Stabilization and Welfare) Bill, 2021 (<https://bit.ly/3eoMRh3>) that focuses exclusively on making a two-child norm a law, specifying various incentives and penalties for non-compliance. The burgeoning negative reaction to this proposal derives from a variety of inherent dangers, but also because most experts would agree that the conceptual clarity on 'development being the best contraception' and the irrationality of incentives-disincentives had been, ostensibly, long settled.

As early as 1994, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (UN 1994); to which India is a signatory, strongly avers that coercion, incentives and disincentives have little role to play in population stabilisation and need to be replaced by the principle of informed free choice.

This principle is also echoed in the National Population Policy 2000, which unequivocally supports a target-free approach and explicitly focuses on education,

maternal and child health and survival, and the availability of health-care services, including contraceptive services, as key strategies for population stabilisation. The logic and rationale for this global and national articulation against incentives and disincentives, and in favour of the developmental measures mentioned above applies as much to Uttar Pradesh and other States today as they did when these policies were formulated.

### Signs of stabilisation

Consider the rationale below with the facts as they stand:

The population of India, and Uttar Pradesh is on the road to stabilisation regardless of coercive policies such as the two-child norm. The fertility rate for Uttar Pradesh (National Family Health Survey, or NFHS-4) is 2.7, compared to 3.810 years ago (NFHS-3). This trend is correlated with improvements in health indicators for the State, such as infant mortality rate (IMR), maternal mortality ratio (MMR) and malnutrition, in the same period.

There are many States that have attained the replacement-level fertility rate of 2.1 by NFHS-4 such as Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, West Bengal (excluding Union Territories and some northeastern States); all of which have much better development indicators. For instance, by NFHS-4, child mortality rate in Uttar Pradesh is 78 compared to seven in Kerala

and 27 in Tamil Nadu. Women with 10 or more years of schooling stand at 33% in Uttar Pradesh compared to 72% in Kerala and 50% in Tamil Nadu. Thus, there is much scope for acceleration of population stabilisation through better delivery of health and education services.

### Issue of child sex ratios

Second, one of the greatest concerns with coercive policies such as the two-child norm is their potential impact upon child sex ratios in a society that has such a high preference for male children. That this concern is only too real is well demonstrated by the example of China that had to detract from its stringent one-child norm, first in favour of a two-child norm and then to remove targets altogether, after experiencing a disastrous reduction in its child sex ratio. Considering that Uttar Pradesh is amongst the worst across Indian States, with the lowest child sex ratio of 903 compared with 1,047 in Kerala and 954 in Tamil Nadu, and that, unlike other development indicators, this has deteriorated in NFHS-4 compared to NFHS-3, why it would want to take such a fool-

hardy misstep is hard to understand.

The correlation between poor socioeconomic status and family size also impacts the potentially discriminatory effect of the proposed measures upon communities that house the poorest of the poor, such as the religious minorities and Dalits, as already pointed out by many. Leaving these communities out of political and administrative spaces as well as curtailing their access to welfare is hardly likely to advance any kind of social justice or equity.

In our experience with poor communities that are often blamed for not exerting population control, a vast majority are keen to receive and actively seek contraceptive services. With an unmet need of 18% in Uttar Pradesh (as compared to, for example, 10% in Tamil Nadu), it is the State that is failing to provide a service at all to almost a fifth of its people that actively seek it, and services with quality to a far higher percentage. If the law has to be used to correct the situation, why do we not see a move to enact the 'Right to Healthcare' as being demanded by health groups for decades? And why do we not find penalties upon the State for failing to provide services on demand within a reasonable period of time within this law itself?

We still have memory of hundreds of lives needlessly lost and human rights violations in almost criminal sterilisation 'camps' that the Supreme Court of India had to step in to regulate (*Devika Biswas vs Union of India & Others, Petition*

No. 95 of 2012

. Most recently, a disabled man from a village in Uttar Pradesh was lured into going for a COVID-19 vaccination and was forcibly sterilised instead to fulfil targets.

### A wrong path to follow

Clearly, as is evident in so many antiquated 'control' measures the state has been displaying in recent times, the Government has no trust in the ability of its citizens to take well-reasoned steps for their own welfare. Rather than do its job as a supporter of these decisions, and a duty bearer towards their rights, the state visualises itself as a paternal figure that must 'control' a recalcitrant immature populace at best, and a policeman wielding the law as an instrument of imperiousness at worst. This irrational and ill-considered proposed Act should be retracted forthwith if the Uttar Pradesh government has any appreciation for the collective understanding based on decades of scientific evidence of what does and does not work for population stabilisation.

Instead, we are seeing other State governments displaying signs of following its lead. Clearly, it is easier for our governments to blame the victims of maldevelopment and apply penalties upon them than be held accountable for their own failures in delivering basic services of health and education.

*Vandana Prasad is an independent public health expert associated with the Public Health Resource Network. Dipa Sinha is a faculty member at Ambedkar University Delhi*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lettters emailed to [letters@thehindu.co.in](mailto:letters@thehindu.co.in) must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

### Audit of cases

Why not have an audit system to review cases booked by the NIA and the CBI? This could help and assist the judiciary function quicker and lessen the burden as there would have been initial scrutiny. Father Stan Swamy's case can serve as an indicator to reassess ground realities. In the implementation of laws, the humane angle should not be missed. Compassion also forms a vital ingredient of the justice system (Editorial page, "A strong Indian state must be humane too", July 16).

BALASUBRAMANIAM PAVANI,  
Secunderabad

### On astrology

The tug of war between astrology and astronomy perhaps began with the invention of the telescope and intensified with technological advancement of the instrument! It is also true that those who claim to be depending on core scientific principles look down upon astrology by calling it a pseudo-science (OpEd page, "No pseudoscience, please", July 15). There appears to be some lack of scientific approach in the criticism. *Prima facie*, astrology, in different forms, exists in all parts of the world. To my knowledge, astrological conclusions, to a large

extent, are based on trial and error. The results could be summed up only out of the experiences of thousands of people. After all, 'probability' is an accepted mathematical area. Naturally, results are also affected accordingly. Anyway, it gives mental comfort and confidence among a lot of people, just as modern psychiatry or psychology does. One real malady with astrology is that many of those who practise it are not well-versed in their own profession. Moreover, further research or study is needed to improve the reliability of the system. In any case, the right of other

persons to demand exclusion of astrology from mainstream subjects by universities can be considered to be only under their 'right to free speech', especially if there are course applicants.

P.R.V. RAJA,  
Pandalam, Kerala

■ This is the age of science and where there needs to be an incessant thirst for research and innovations. Therefore, it is strange that the premier institute, IGNOU, is launching a degree course in astrology. The government of the day would be furthering the cause of the nation's development only if it eschews

anti-scientific trends.

SESHAGIRI ROW KARRY,  
Hyderabad

■ There does not seem to be anything objectionable in IGNOU launching this degree course. A majority of Indians do consult astrologers before taking important decisions in their life. There are rites and rituals which do not have any scientific basis but still give hope and confidence to the believers. Let them exist with scientific principles.

RANI VARGHESE,  
Thiruvananthapuram

■ This pdf was originally uploaded to Brills Express Official ([https://t.me/The\\_Hindu\\_Express](https://t.me/The_Hindu_Express)) before anyone else. Don't forget to join backup channel Thehindu000



was interesting to know that there was an acute housing problem in Madras even in 1921 (OpEd page, 'From the Archives', July 16), which shows the usefulness of census data. It

# The vaccine scamster of Kolkata

Masquerading as an IAS officer, Debanjan Deb held several fake COVID-19 vaccination camps in the city, duping hundreds of people for money. **Shiv Sahay Singh** reports on Deb's carefully cultivated image and how his web of lies was finally unravelled



Students from the Left participate in a demonstration against the vaccination scam in Kolkata. (Below): A team of doctors check a victim of the scam at City College, Kolkata. • PTI

A hoarding in blue and white bearing the logo of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) hangs outside an office located on the third floor of a building in Kasba. Unlike the dingy, cramped offices that define the KMC, this space, in building referred to as the UCO Bank building, on Rajdanga Main Road, has a cheerful look. It is festooned with balloons in the official colours of the West Bengal government, blue and white. The hoarding lists in exhaustive detail the activities carried out by the civic body: 'Urban Planning and Development', 'I&PR' (Information and Public Relations), 'Urban Management', 'Environment and Heritage Department'. And so on.

These are all not what they appear to be – signs of a celebration; they are, in fact, the only remains of an audacious vaccination racket that has been carried out from these premises. In charge of the scam was a stocky man aged 28, Debanjan Deb, who had been masquerading as an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer for about a year. The fact that Deb managed to dupe businessmen, officials and people and carry out a racket while posing as a government servant has left the Mamata Banerjee government red-faced, investigating of ficers astounded and the people scared.

#### Acts of deceit

Deb had mastered more than just the art of putting up a fake hoarding. He had learned to use government logos and letterheads, email from fake government accounts, and even create bank accounts that sounded official to those interacting with him. While Deb mostly masqueraded as the Joint Commissioner of KMC (the post was vacant then), he also sometimes posed as the Secretary of the Information and Cultural Affairs Department.

Deb looked like an official in every sense to an untrained eye. He used a Toyota Innova SUV, bearing the registration number WBOGR-0999. The car was fitted with a blue beacon light, the symbol of power. It also had a flag, and logos and stickers representing the Government of West Bengal. Deb's Salt Lake residence had an 'IAS Officer' plaque on the gate. A 50-m area around the house was declared as a 'no vehicle zone'.

Deb's social media profiles provide a glimpse of how he created and cultivated this fake identity. The bio of his Twitter account (@DebanjanDeb07) describes him as a 'Public Servant'. He first posted from the account as a 'public servant' in October 2020. Among his initial posts was a photograph of him greeting the former Mayor of Kolkata and Chairman of the Board of Administrators, KMC, Firhad Hakim. Between October 2020 and April 2021, when he stopped tweeting, Deb posted several photographs with prominent personalities including Ministers and MPs of the Trinamool Congress. He retweeted information from the account of Egyie Bangla, the digital interface of the West



Bengal government. Many of his posts were about RT-PCR tests carried out at different centres of KMC and other activities related to managing COVID-19 in the city. A few tweets were also about the Central government. He put up about 50 tweets and retweets between October 2020 and April 2021, each designed to give the impression that he is a government servant. On Instagram, Deb's account describes him as a 'Film Lover, Music Lover, Food Lover and an inveterate traveller'.

#### Blowing the lid off the scam

For months, Deb organised awareness drives on COVID-19 and distributed masks and sanitisers. He took bribes from businessmen. He operated the vaccination scam from the heart of the city – no one suspected anything amiss. His latest fake COVID-19 vaccination camp would have gone unnoticed too had it not been for Trinamool Congress MP Mimi Chakraborty. Deb and his team invited the actor-turned-politician to the 'vaccination camp' organised at the Kasba office where Chakraborty decided to take a vaccine shot. Deb did not miss the opportunity to sit next to her and be photographed. He seemed calm and composed – the videos and photos clicked at the event betray no emotion.

But Chakraborty grew suspicious when she did not get a message after receiving her shot. "I was told that I would receive it shortly. I immediately asked my office to enquire whether the people present at the site had received registration messages. The people present there said they had not received any such message," she said. Chakraborty said she had agreed to go to the camp as she was told that people with disabilities were being vaccinated there. She brought the matter to the notice of the city police immediately. Deb was arrested the same evening.

"During the enquiry, several irregularities were noticed. It was revealed that the vaccination camp was running without any permission from the Kolkata Police, the Kolkata Municipal Corporation or any other government depart-

ment. It also came to light that Deb is not an IAS Officer...," reads the affidavit filed by the West Bengal government before the Calcutta High Court. Deb was detained and arrested on June 22. A couple of days after Deb's arrest, Kolkata Police Commissioner Soumen Mitra broke his silence and described the actions of the accused as "inhuman". "It can be nothing more than the workings of a distorted mind," he said.

#### The 'vaccines'

Once Deb was arrested, one of the biggest challenges for the investigators was to trace how he had procured COVID-19 vaccines. Once they recovered vials bearing the labels of 'Covishield' and 'Sputnik V', they began to examine whether the vaccines were genuine.

On hearing about the racket, hundreds of agitated people, who had been administered vaccines at the Kasba office, started to come forward claiming that they were feeling unwell. The KMC rushed a team of doctors on June 24 to check on these people. Scores of them came to get themselves checked, complaining of headache, body pain and general discomfort.

"I have been feeling unwell ever since I heard that the vaccines could be fake. I have headache and nausea," said Kaushik Das, a security guard at the Kasba New Market area. Das and several others who queued up at the KMC health facility were also worried about how they would get their second dose as they had not received the vaccination certificate after their first dose.

The first list prepared by the civic body suggested that 102 people, mostly shopkeepers at the Kasba New Market area, not far from Deb's office, were among the vaccinated. A medical officer of Borough XII, who was present at the camp, said that none of them had any serious symptoms. Most of them were suffering from panic attacks, he said.

Meanwhile, a team from the State Forensic Science Laboratory collected the vaccine vials from Deb's office. The results came as a shock. The report of the forensic team said that the 'Covishield' labels had been pasted on glass vials of Amikacin Sulphate, used to treat serious infections caused by bacteria such

as meningitis, while the 'Sputnik V' labels had been pasted on vials containing Triamcinolone Acetonide, which is used to treat inflammation, allergic reactions and various skin conditions.

The investigation turned a page when the police found that Deb had organised as many as six camps at his Kasba office between June 11 and June 22 and one camp at City College on Amherst Street on June 18. A total of 802 people had been administered these injections at these camps.

#### Fake accounts, orders, letters

How was Deb able to pull off such an outrageous operation? Not only did he organise seven 'COVID-19 vaccination camps' in the city in just 10 days but he also employed several people to work for him. Some of the people questioned claimed that they were recruited by the KMC and were paid regular salaries. A few of Deb's employees said they took a test and even paid a bribe to Deb, who had posed as the Joint Commissioner of KMC, to get the job.

Some of the employees said that their salaries had been credited from an account called 'WB FINCORP', which appeared to be official but was not. The account was similar to the KMC hoarding outside Deb's office at Kasba – it looked credible. The police have seized five accounts of Deb and two other accounts: M/s WB FINCORP and M/s KMC Planning & Development UPD Kasba.

The fact that Deb managed to open an account in the name of the KMC in a private bank surprised Hakim even more than his own photograph with the accused that Deb had tweeted. "How can someone open a fake account of the KMC with fake documents?" Hakim wondered. It turned out that Deb had used fake holograms of the KMC to get bank accounts in its name. For getting holograms for fake work orders, Deb had provided fake acceptance letters and approval letters from the 'KMC' to a businessman in the Dalhousie area.

As the investigation gathered pace, the police arrested some accomplices of Deb. Among those arrested was Kanchan Deb who posed as a high-level official of the KMC. Kanchan is Deb's cousin. Soon after his arrest, Kanchan

spoke to the media about how he was unaware of the things that Deb had done. He also falsely claimed that he and his family got vaccinated at one of the vaccination camps organised by Deb. Another accused, Sarat Patra, was arrested for impersonating a medical officer and injecting people at one of the camps. Days later, Deb's security officer, Aurobindo Baidya, was arrested. Deb had hired a private security guard who was instrumental in getting several people from the Sonarpur area to get vaccinated at the camps in Kasba.

By the end of June, the police had arrested nine people in connection with the vaccination scam. The Kolkata Police have set up a special investigation team comprising 17 members of the detective department. The investigation is being supervised by the Joint Commissioner of the Kolkata Police.

#### The motive

The obvious reason for Deb's elaborate plan seems to be financial gains, said investigators. Deb, they said, was disposed towards criminal activities even during his college days. A Zoology teacher, who liked acting, said that Deb had once duped him on the pretext of securing a 'technician card' for him to get work in the Bengali film and television industry.

The son of a retired Deputy Collector of the State Excise Department, Deb graduated in Zoology from Charuchandra College in Kolkata. He later got admission for a Master's course in Genetics at the University of Calcutta, which he never completed. According to his close friends and family, he appeared for the Civil Services Examination in 2014 and failed to crack it.

Once the scam was out in the open, several businessmen alleged that they had also been duped by him. Most of them had been promised tenders to supply COVID-19 essentials and other medicines to state-run facilities. Deb forged documents to make them appear as though they had been issued by the Government of West Bengal. He used fake stamps, fake seals and impressions, and operated from fake emails ids and bank accounts created in the name of the KMC. Not only in Kolkata but businessmen about 500 km north in Siliguri also said that Deb had taken money from them and promised to set up an office of the Tea Board in north Bengal.

"From the scrutiny of the bank account traced till date, it has been revealed that there has been a transaction of ₹2.80 crore (approx.) in the said accounts and a considerable portion of the said money have been found to be siphoned off in different accounts," reads the affidavit filed by the Kolkata Police in the Calcutta High Court. The police also pointed out that Deb, using forged documents, had deposited a sum of ₹77,13,000 in the accounts. According to Atin Ghosh, MLA and member, Board of Administrators, KMC, Deb even took a little over a lakh to vaccinate

about 100 employees of a non-governmental organisation.

#### A major embarrassment

The scam created ripples in the political circles in the State. While distancing her government from the issue, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee described the accused as being "worse than a terrorist". She said, "You should not publicise the names of cheats, thugs and impostors. If you don't take his name and ask about the impostor, then I will respond.... How can someone display such audacity. This has nothing to do with the government."

Deb's duplicity brought major embarrassment to the State government. Days after his arrest, a bust of Rabindranath Tagore in Kolkata's Taltala area, which was unveiled on February 26 this year, was located with the name of the impostor IAS officer on the plaque. The plaque had the names of a local MP, an MLA and a former Mayor of Kolkata, among others. The civic officials tried to cover his name with black ink. When that didn't work, they finally destroyed the plaque on June 25 in the presence of several television news cameras.

The Opposition parties, particularly the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), had a field day as the controversy continued to make headlines for days. Party members hit the streets, clashed with the police during a march to the KMC, and organised a law violation programme in Kolkata, where several leaders courted arrest. BJP leaders wrote to the Union Health Ministry seeking its intervention in the issue. By the first week of July, the Enforcement Directorate had started a probe into the scam.

A number of writ petitions were filed before the Calcutta High Court demanding a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The High Court said in its observation that the inquiry "does not show that there is any deficiency in the conduct of this investigation, the facts do not warrant investigation by the CBI". In its July 9 order, the court said that Deb along with his collaborators have been "able to deceive a large section of innocent people, lure them to take vaccination from him at a serious risk to their lives".

The story of Deb has had a snowball effect. In the last week of June and first two weeks of July, many impostors operating across the State were caught. They included a man claiming to be the CBI counsel, a youth claiming to be a CBI officer, and some pretending to be Crime Investigation Department officers and officers of the State Police. One of them even pretended to be a member of the National Human Rights Commission. All of them had a modus operandi similar to Deb's – they spun their own webs of lies and operated fake social media profiles.

While investigations continue, the city police are busy keeping a watch on the roads and noting down the numbers of vehicles that have beacons on top.



FROM PAGE ONE

## U.P. can't proceed with Kanwar Yatra, says SC

Senior advocate C.S. Vaidyanathan, for Uttar Pradesh, intervened, saying: "We only want a symbolic yatra". "Past experience shows that a total ban would be inappropriate," the senior lawyer submitted.

However, the court did not agree.

"Either we deliver the order directly or you [Uttar Pradesh] reconsider the physical yatra. The pandemic affects us all. There is a fear of a third wave hitting us. We are the citizens of India...

Article 21 applies to all of us. Mr. Vaidyanathan, go back and ask your authorities to reconsider the physical yatra... otherwise we will deliver whatever we have to deliver," Justice Nariman addressed Mr. Vaidyanathan.

He agreed to consult the authorities and file an additional affidavit by July 19.

Meanwhile, Uttarakhand informed the court that it had completely banned the yatra in an order on June 30, keeping in mind the pandemic.

## Case surge in Maharashtra, Kerala causing worry: PM

He termed vaccines a strategic tool for high infection areas and stressed the effective use of vaccination.

The Prime Minister made a special mention of need to protect children from being infected and make all possible arrangements in this regard. Out of the 332 PSA oxygen plants allocated to the States present at the meeting, 53 have been commissioned, he observed. He urged the Chief Ministers to expedite the completion of the plants.

Mr. Modi also noted with concern the rise in the number

of cases in Europe, America and Bangladesh, Indonesia, Thailand and many other countries. "This should alert us and the world," he said.

COVID-19 was not over, he asserted and expressed deep concern over the pictures that were coming post lockdown from different parts of the country, where COVID-19 appropriate behaviour was not being followed. He emphasised need to follow protocol and avoid crowding, especially in metropolitan cities with dense population.

## Jabs for children without trials will be disaster: HC

Additional Solicitor General Chetan Sharma, representing the Centre, said pharmaceutical company Zydus Cadila which is developing DNA vaccines has concluded its clinical trial for those between the age group of 12 to 18 years and subject to statutory permission, the same may be available in the near future for children of that age group.

The Centre said vaccination is the top most priority of the government and all efforts are being made to achieve an objective of 100% vaccination in the shortest time possible keeping the available resources in mind and availability of vaccine doses into consideration.

It said that on May 12, 2012, Drug Controller General of India has permitted Bharat Biotech to conduct clinical trials on the healthy

volunteers between 2 to 18 years of age for its vaccine, Covaxin.

The Centre said that as of now, the companies manufacturing COVID-19 vaccines in India have given only Emergency Use Authorisation for vaccinating people of 18 years age and above.

"This is also because of the fact that the clinical trial group during phase 1, phase 2 and phase 3 did not cover the persons/children below 18 years of age," the Centre said.

Senior advocate Kailash Vasudev, representing the petitioner, said vaccines are being administered to children of the age group of 8 to 18 years in various countries and the court may ask the authorities to conclude the process in a time-bound manner. The High Court has listed the case for further hearing on September 6.

## Indian photojournalist killed in Afghanistan

Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla has taken up the killing at the UN Security Council.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani in his message of condolence, expressed solidarity with the media and said his government is committed to upholding freedom of expression. "I am deeply saddened with the shocking reports that Reuters photojournalist Danish Siddiqui was killed while covering the Taliban atrocities in Kandahar," he said. Reuters has reported that Mr. Siddiqui was in the main market of Spin Boldak when he was caught in crossfire.

Tolo News has reported that a senior commander of the Afghan special forces Sehdiq Karzai too was killed in the same incident.

Sources have informed that the mortal remains of Mr. Siddiqui was handed over to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Indian Embassy in Kabul is coordinating with the Afghan authorities and ICRC to return them to his family.

Speaking at a briefing on protection of civilians in armed conflicts, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla, who is currently in New York took up the issue and said, "India condemns

the killing of Danish Siddiqui while he was on an assignment in Kandahar, Afghanistan. I extend our sincerest condolences to his bereaved family."

Mr. Siddiqui was travelling in an armoured Humvee with Afghan soldiers and he had shared videos over the past few days that showed the vehicle came under attack on several occasions.

**Compassionate lens**

Mr. Siddiqui was known for his compassionate photographic coverage of current developments in South Asia. In recent years his photographs of the Rohingya refugees who were displaced by the Myanmar military from the Rakhine province, drew global attention to the plight of the displaced community that is currently living in camps in Bangladesh. The photographs of the Rohingya refugees were recognised with a Pulitzer Prize.

Earlier this year, he used innovative methods like drone photography to capture the vast scale of the second wave of COVID-19 in India.

His photographs that showed funeral pyres in open spaces drew global attention to the tragedy that India faced during March-May 2021.

## Don't seek surrender of those on interim bail: SC

Court aims to keep prisons less congested during pandemic

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday directed the States to not, for the time being, ask for the surrender of prisoners released on interim bail during the second wave of the pandemic to decongest prisons.

"For the time being, they should not be asked to surrender until further orders," a Special Bench led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana ordered.

The CJI Bench ordered the NALSA and the State governments to submit a detailed report on the criteria/norms considered by the respective High Powered Committees for releasing prisoners on interim bail. Copies of the report should be served to the Union government and amicus curiae, senior advocate Dushyant Dave.

The court listed the case for hearing on Friday.

In early May, the court turned a humanitarian eye to the over four lakh prison population trapped inside overcrowded jails even as a surging second wave led to huge loss of lives. Then, a



Bench led by the CJI observed that "India has more than four lakh prison inmates. It is observed that some of the prisons in India are overburdened and are housing inmates beyond optimal capacity.... The requirement of decongestion is a matter concerning the health and right to life of both the prison inmates and the police personnel working".

### Limit arrests

The court had even ordered the police to limit arrests during the pandemic to prevent overcrowding of jails and urged magistrates to not order detention in a mechanical manner in cases involving the punishment of

less or up to seven years' imprisonment.

It had further ordered special committees or 'High-Powered Committees' constituted in most States and Union Territories to screen prisoners and release them on interim bail.

The order had also taken into consideration those released on interim bail in the first wave of the pandemic in 2020. The court had ordered them to be freed "forthwith". 90% of inmates released last year had returned to their prisons in February and March 2021.

More importantly, the court had also taken into consideration the plight of prisoners too scared to return home, though eligible for release on interim bail or parole, owing to their social circumstances or simply because they were afraid they would get infected with COVID-19 while outside.

In such cases, the court ordered proper medical facilities, immediate treatment and regular tests for both inmates and jail staff. It said maintenance of daily hygiene in prisons should be put at a premium.

## Manipur RTI activists in hiding seek support

They fear being 'silenced' by NSCN (I-M)

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI

Two Manipur Right to Information activists, in hiding for more than a year for seeking to know how the funds for a tribal council were spent, have sought the support of the people and the authorities before they are silenced by an extremist group.

In an open letter on Friday, P. Johnson Samo and P.R. Amose said they had been on the run from the local leaders of the Isak-Muivah faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland, or NSCN (I-M) for seeking information on utilisation of public money allocated by the Centre to the Autonomous District Council in Senapati district.

"The tremendous harassment and hardships faced by the RTI activists go beyond threats to their lives. The ways and means for earning their livelihoods have been choked too," they said, adding that the NSCN (I-M) restricted and stopped contract works of people who have not toed their line.

"We have appealed to some [Poumai and Mao Nagaland] civil society organisations and human rights organisations to help us but no one has come forward. We are suffering a lot from March 2020 to date. We may be killed but what about our future?" they said.

to withdraw their RTI applications or face stern action that "amounted to death threat."

### Abducted and tortured

Cadres of the NSCN (I-M) allegedly abducted and tortured another RTI activist, Kh. Enoch, and kept him in captivity until his family was forced to pay a hefty fine and agree not to use RTI.

Another RTI activist, Dauliunii, and 28 others from Senapati district's Phuba village were also fined for similar "audacity," the duo said.

"The tremendous harassment and hardships faced by the RTI activists go beyond threats to their lives. The ways and means for earning their livelihoods have been choked too," they said, adding that the NSCN (I-M) restricted and stopped contract works of people who have not toed their line.

"We have appealed to some [Poumai and Mao Nagaland] civil society organisations and human rights organisations to help us but no one has come forward. We are suffering a lot from March 2020 to date. We may be killed but what about our future?" they said.

Weed out 'ineffective' staff, J&K officials told

PEERZADA ASHIQ  
SRINAGAR

Days after 11 employees were terminated for their alleged "anti-national activities", the J&K administration on Friday asked the top officials to identify "ineffective" employees above the age of 48 years in the Union Territory (UT).

"All the Administrative Secretaries are impressed upon to initiate the exercise of reviewing the performance of each government servant who has completed 48 years of age or has 22 years of service, for identifying those who are ineffective in work and are not fit to continue in their post and have no utility for the purpose for which they are employed," J&K Chief Secretary, Arun Kumar Mehta, said in an order.

"The government departments shall follow the procedure as laid down in Article 226(2) of J&K Civil Services Regulations and place the cases of such employees before the review committee for consideration of the competent authority," the order said.

## IN BRIEF



Mallya case: ₹792.11 cr. realised by sale of shares

NEW DELHI  
The State Bank of India-led consortium on Friday realised ₹792.11 crore by sale of shares in the now defunct Kingfisher Airlines in the Vijay Mallya case. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) had handed over the shares to the consortium. In the cases involving Mr. Mallya, diamond merchant Nirav Modi and his uncle Mehul Choksi, the ED has so far transferred assets worth ₹12,762.25 crore to banks.

The accused have caused a total loss of ₹22,585.83 crore to them. As on date, assets worth 58% of the loss have been returned to the banks or confiscated in favour of the Central government.

### ED attaches assets worth ₹4.2 crore in graft probe

NEW DELHI  
The Enforcement Directorate has provisionally attached assets worth ₹4.2 crore linked to former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh and others in a money laundering case. The agency had earlier summoned him thrice for recording his statement, but he did not join the probe in person. The attached assets are held in the name of Mr. Deshmukh's wife, Aarti Deshmukh, and the company Premier Port Links Private Limited.

They include a residential flat in Mumbai's Worli area, and 25 land parcels worth ₹2.67 crore on paper, located in Raigarh, Maharashtra. The ED probe is based on a FIR registered by the CBI against Mr. Deshmukh and others, following a directive from the Bombay High Court.

## No word yet on role for Navjot Sidhu in Punjab

Former Minister meets Cong. chief

SANDEEP PHUKAN  
NEW DELHI

Former Punjab Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu on Friday met Congress president Sonia Gandhi at her residence, 10 Janpath, after the infighting in the State Congress intensified following reports that he will be made the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) chief.

In his speech at the plenary session, which was attended by the Foreign Ministers of Russia and China and senior officials from about 40 countries, including the U.S., the UK, EU and Iran, Mr. Jaishankar didn't refer directly to Pakistan or to China as he stressed the need for resilient supply chains in the post COVID-19 situation, as well as the problems of "one-way" trade.

After the hour-long meeting, Mr. Sidhu avoided speaking to the media but Mr. Rawat did. "I had come here to submit my report on Punjab to the Congress chief

and as soon as a decision is taken by the party president, I will come and share it with you," he said.

Congress sources said that Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh has written to Congress president Sonia Gandhi, saying that there could be an adverse impact on the party's prospects in the upcoming Assembly poll by ignoring the old guard.

(with PTI inputs)

cast. It is said her performance was noticed by none other than Ebrahim Alkazi and she was advised to join the National School of Drama," adds Prof. Sheerani.

### Theatre star

She excelled on stage and went on to win the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1989. "Along with Uttara Baikar, Surekha was the top draw in the Delhi theatre circuit in the 1980s. The audience used to come to watch their plays from neighbouring towns," remembers veteran theatre critic Diwan Singh Bajeli.

A new generation of audiences discovered Sikri's talent through *Balika Vadhu*

where she played Dadi Sa, a matriarch whose social outlook was formed by centuries of entrenched patriarchy. She again played a variant of her character in *Badhai Ho* (2018) that made her a darling among millennials. As the stern mother-in-law who is the first to accept the late pregnancy of her daughter-in-law, she exposed the hypocrisy that exists in society about sex and gender rights.

A brain stroke limited her movement but not one to give up, Sikri was terrific in her last performance as an ailing, bed-ridden old woman in Zoya Akhtar's segment of *Netflix's Ghost Stories*.

## Actor Surekha Sikri, winner of three National Awards, passes away

She will be remembered for her subtle and realistic performances

ANUJ KUMAR  
NEW DELHI

A strong pillar of meaningful cinema, actor Surekha Sikri passed away on Friday. She was 76. A three-time National Award winner for best performance in a supporting role, Sikri will be remembered for her realistic performances in *Tamas*, *Mammo* and *Badhai Ho*.

In Govind Nihalani's Partition saga *Tamas* (1988), she played Rajo, a Muslim woman who is worried about giving shelter to a Sikh couple for she doesn't know what her fanatic son could

do to them but eventually, she gets over her fear and stands up for them. It won her the first of the three National Awards.

In Shyam Benegal's *Mammo* (1994), she played the empathetic Fayyaz who has to deal with an inquisitive grandson and dominating sister who has arrived unannounced from Pakistan.

A product of composite culture, Sikri's mother was a teacher in Aligarh Muslim University's Abdulla Girls College and hence she spent her early days in a rich cul-

ture atmosphere. It was in AMU that her love for theatre and Urdu bloomed. "Those were the days when Aligarh was one of the centres of the Progressive Writers' Movement. Surekha ji performed extensively in plays staged in Abdulla College, and one of her co-actors used to be Na-

seruddin Shah," says F.S. Sheerani, coordinator, Cultural Education Centre, the hub of extra-curricular activity on the campus.

During that period, the National School Drama used to hold plays in Aligarh and in one such performance of *Macbeth*, Surekha ji was

cast. It is said her performance was noticed by none other than Ebrahim Alkazi and she was advised to join the National School of Drama," adds Prof. Sheerani.

surekha Sikri," says F.S. Sheerani, coordinator, Cultural Education Centre, the hub of extra-curricular activity on the campus.

During that period, the National School Drama used to hold plays in Aligarh and in one such performance of *Macbeth*, Surekha ji was

cast. It is said her performance was noticed by none other than Ebrahim Alkazi and she was advised to join the National School of Drama," adds Prof. Sheerani.

A product of composite culture, Sikri's mother was a teacher in Aligarh Muslim University's Abdulla Girls College and hence she spent her early days in a rich cul-

ture atmosphere. It was in AMU that her love for theatre and Urdu bloomed. "Those were the days when Aligarh was one of the centres of the Progressive Writers' Movement. Surekha ji performed extensively in plays staged in Abdulla College, and one of her co-actors used to be Na-

# Chandigarh bucks 'excess deaths' trend

Fewer deaths in 2020, but the second wave of COVID-19 contributed to a sudden spurt in the U.T.

**SRINIVASAN RAMANI**  
**VIKAS VASUDEVA**  
CHENNAI / CHANDIGARH

Similar to the trend in Kerala, the total number of deaths registered by the Civil Registration System (CRS) in the Union Territory of Chandigarh in 2020 was lower than the average annual number of deaths in the pre-pandemic period. The total number of deaths registered between April 2020 and May 2021—22,149 was an estimated 1,781 to 4,705 deaths lower than averages registered in the pre-pandemic period (2015–2019 for the first estimate and 2018–19 for the higher one).

Data on deaths registered monthwise from January 2015 to May 2021 in Chandigarh were sourced by *The Hindu* via an RTI.

The lowered mortality held true for the city in 2021 till the second wave hit in the months of April and May, resulting in 2,002 and 2,114 deaths registered in the period. These numbers resulted in an estimated 1,023 excess deaths compared to the baseline mortality – average number of deaths for the two months in the years 2018 and 2019 and 1,310 excess deaths

## Death count

Chandigarh's COVID-19 death toll in April and May 2021 was 374, amounting to an undercount factor ranging from 2.7 to 3.5. The table explores the excess deaths and undercount factors in the U.T. using various methods

Period	EXCESS DEATHS			UNDERCOUNT FACTOR			
	I	II	III	COVID-19 deaths	I	II	III
Apr.-Dec. '20	-2,605	-3,953	-11,247	317	-	-	-
2021	823	-753	-3,037	436	1.89	-	-
Apr. '20-May '21	-1,781	-4,705	-14,284	753	-	-	-
Apr. '21-May '21	1,310	1,023	419	374	3.50	2.74	1.12

**Method I:** Baseline mortality based on average number of deaths between 2015 and 2019

**Method II:** Baseline mortality based on average number of deaths between 2018 and 2019

**Method III:** Based on extrapolation of deaths assuming a linear growth from 2015 to 2019

compared to the baseline mortality for the same months from 2015 to 2019.

The COVID-19 death toll recorded in the UT in these two months was 374, amounting to an undercount factor ranging from 2.7 to 3.5. If instead of averages, excess deaths were calculated by extrapolating the annual number of deaths through a linear growth model, the undercount factor was even less at 1.1.

In sum, the officially registered COVID-19 deaths in the UT were not much lower than the "excess deaths" that we estimated using various methods. The pattern of

deaths registered in Chandigarh was comparable to what was observed in Thiruvananthapuram municipal corporation as well. There too, there were fewer registered deaths in 2020, but numbers went up in 2021 after excess deaths were observed during the second wave.

According to the Annual Report on Vital Statistics of India based on CRS 2019, the estimated deaths in Chandigarh were only 5,091 based on the death rate estimated by the Sample Registration System (SRS). But the CRS registered more than 20,000 deaths every year since 2017,

a number that fell to 18,370 in 2020. The discrepancy between the estimated number of deaths and the actual registered numbers is due to the fact that many of those who die come to the city's medical facilities for treatment of various illnesses and ailments from neighbouring areas.

Dr. V.K. Nagpal, Medical Superintendent at Government Multi Specialty Hospital (GMSH) in Chandigarh told *The Hindu* that there were fewer deaths during the first wave and especially during the lockdown months in comparison to the pre-COVID period. The reason, he said,

"The assumption surrounding the deaths as per SRS is correct as it is based on the population and residents of Chandigarh only and not the neighbouring areas," he added.

said, was reduced vehicular traffic during the lockdowns that resulted in a drop in accident cases. "Hospitals in Chandigarh, especially Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) serve referral cases from neighbouring places including Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu-Kashmir. So, when the referral and emergency, mainly road accident cases dropped then naturally the death numbers would also decline," he said.

Dr. Nagpal said as far as the estimates of SRS of the numbers of deaths is concerned it is based on the population of Chandigarh residents.

"If the number of [registered] deaths is above the estimate it's because the large number of people from outside Chandigarh visit the city hospitals for treatment and some of them die due to ailments, illnesses etc.," he said.

"The assumption surrounding the deaths as per SRS is correct as it is based on the population and residents of Chandigarh only and not the neighbouring areas," he added.

## Two militants killed in Srinagar

Duo was instrumental in motivating and recruiting youth to join terror fold

**PEERZADA ASHIQ**  
SRINAGAR

Two local militants of The Resistance Front (TRF) were killed in a pre-dawn operation on Friday in Srinagar's Almada Colony, taking the number of militants gunned down so far this year to 78.

"Acting on specific information, a joint cordon and search operation was launched at Almada Colony, Danmar area, Srinagar. Terrorists were given opportunities to surrender, however, they fired indiscriminately. Two terrorists of self-claimed TRF of the Lashkar-e-Taiba were killed," Inspector General of Police Vijay Kumar said.

The police identified the

slain militants as Irfan Ahmad Sofi and Bilal Ahmad Bhat, both residents of Natipora. "They were active since December, 2020," the police said.

The TRF recently shared

on the social media that Irfan Ahmad Sofi and Bilal Ahmad Bhat had left it and joined the Islamic State-J&K.

"The duo was behind the killing of the PSO of a Peoples Democratic Party leader

in 2020, killing of two CRPF jawans in 2021. Besides, they killed an on-leave police official, constable Javid Ahmad, near his residence at Saidpora on June 22, 2021 and Inspector Parvez Ahmad at Nowgam. They were behind the killing of a civilian, Umer Nazir Bhat, at his shop in Habba Kadal," the police said.

The duo was "instrumental in motivating and recruiting the youth to join terror folds in Srinagar and its adjoining areas".

The police recovered incriminating materials, arms and ammunition, including one AK-47 rifle, one pistol and four grenades, from the encounter site.

People are seen through a broken door of a house that was damaged during an encounter in Srinagar on Friday. ■REUTERS

in 2020, killing of two CRPF jawans in 2021. Besides, they killed an on-leave police official, constable Javid Ahmad, near his residence at Saidpora on June 22, 2021 and Inspector Parvez Ahmad at Nowgam. They were behind the killing of a civilian, Umer Nazir Bhat, at his shop in Habba Kadal," the police said.

The duo was "instrumental in motivating and recruiting the youth to join terror folds in Srinagar and its adjoining areas".

The police recovered incriminating materials, arms and ammunition, including one AK-47 rifle, one pistol and four grenades, from the encounter site.

in 2020, killing of two CRPF jawans in 2021. Besides, they killed an on-leave police official, constable Javid Ahmad, near his residence at Saidpora on June 22, 2021 and Inspector Parvez Ahmad at Nowgam. They were behind the killing of a civilian, Umer Nazir Bhat, at his shop in Habba Kadal," the police said.

The duo was "instrumental in motivating and recruiting the youth to join terror folds in Srinagar and its adjoining areas".

The police recovered incriminating materials, arms and ammunition, including one AK-47 rifle, one pistol and four grenades, from the encounter site.

in 2020, killing of two CRPF jawans in 2021. Besides, they killed an on-leave police official, constable Javid Ahmad, near his residence at Saidpora on June 22, 2021 and Inspector Parvez Ahmad at Nowgam. They were behind the killing of a civilian, Umer Nazir Bhat, at his shop in Habba Kadal," the police said.

The duo was "instrumental in motivating and recruiting the youth to join terror folds in Srinagar and its adjoining areas".

The police recovered incriminating materials, arms and ammunition, including one AK-47 rifle, one pistol and four grenades, from the encounter site.

in 2020, killing of two CRPF jawans in 2021. Besides, they killed an on-leave police official, constable Javid Ahmad, near his residence at Saidpora on June 22, 2021 and Inspector Parvez Ahmad at Nowgam. They were behind the killing of a civilian, Umer Nazir Bhat, at his shop in Habba Kadal," the police said.

The duo was "instrumental in motivating and recruiting the youth to join terror folds in Srinagar and its adjoining areas".

The police recovered incriminating materials, arms and ammunition, including one AK-47 rifle, one pistol and four grenades, from the encounter site.

in 2020, killing of two CRPF jawans in 2021. Besides, they killed an on-leave police official, constable Javid Ahmad, near his residence at Saidpora on June 22, 2021 and Inspector Parvez Ahmad at Nowgam. They were behind the killing of a civilian, Umer Nazir Bhat, at his shop in Habba Kadal," the police said.

The duo was "instrumental in motivating and recruiting the youth to join terror folds in Srinagar and its adjoining areas".

The police recovered incriminating materials, arms and ammunition, including one AK-47 rifle, one pistol and four grenades, from the encounter site.

in 2020, killing of two CRPF jawans in 2021. Besides, they killed an on-leave police official, constable Javid Ahmad, near his residence at Saidpora on June 22, 2021 and Inspector Parvez Ahmad at Nowgam. They were behind the killing of a civilian, Umer Nazir Bhat, at his shop in Habba Kadal," the police said.

The duo was "instrumental in motivating and recruiting the youth to join terror folds in Srinagar and its adjoining areas".

The police recovered incriminating materials, arms and ammunition, including one AK-47 rifle, one pistol and four grenades, from the encounter site.

in 2020, killing of two CRPF jawans in 2021. Besides, they killed an on-leave police official, constable Javid Ahmad, near his residence at Saidpora on June 22, 2021 and Inspector Parvez Ahmad at Nowgam. They were behind the killing of a civilian, Umer Nazir Bhat, at his shop in Habba Kadal," the police said.

The duo was "instrumental in motivating and recruiting the youth to join terror folds in Srinagar and its adjoining areas".

The police recovered incriminating materials, arms and ammunition, including one AK-47 rifle, one pistol and four grenades, from the encounter site.

in 2020, killing of two CRPF jawans in 2021. Besides, they killed an on-leave police official, constable Javid Ahmad, near his residence at Saidpora on June 22, 2021 and Inspector Parvez Ahmad at Nowgam. They were behind the killing of a civilian, Umer Nazir Bhat, at his shop in Habba Kadal," the police said.

The duo was "instrumental in motivating and recruiting the youth to join terror folds in Srinagar and its adjoining areas".

The police recovered incriminating materials, arms and ammunition, including one AK-47 rifle, one pistol and four grenades, from the encounter site.

in 2020, killing of two CRPF jawans in 2021. Besides, they killed an on-leave police official, constable Javid Ahmad, near his residence at Saidpora on June 22, 2021 and Inspector Parvez Ahmad at Nowgam. They were behind the killing of a civilian, Umer Nazir Bhat, at his shop in Habba Kadal," the police said.

The duo was "instrumental in motivating and recruiting the youth to join terror folds in Srinagar and its adjoining areas".

The police recovered incriminating materials, arms and ammunition, including one AK-47 rifle, one pistol and four grenades, from the encounter site.

in 2020, killing of two CRPF jawans in 2021. Besides, they killed an on-leave police official, constable Javid Ahmad, near his residence at Saidpora on June 22, 2021 and Inspector Parvez Ahmad at Nowgam. They were behind the killing of a civilian, Umer Nazir Bhat, at his shop in Habba Kadal," the police said.

The duo was "instrumental in motivating and recruiting the youth to join terror folds in Srinagar and its adjoining areas".

The police recovered incriminating materials, arms and ammunition, including one AK-47 rifle, one pistol and four grenades, from the encounter site.

in 2020, killing of two CRPF jawans in 2021. Besides, they killed an on-leave police official, constable Javid Ahmad, near his residence at Saidpora on June 22, 2021 and Inspector Parvez Ahmad at Nowgam. They were behind the killing of a civilian, Umer Nazir Bhat, at his shop in Habba Kadal," the police said.

The duo was "instrumental in motivating and recruiting the youth to join terror folds in Srinagar and its adjoining areas".

The police recovered incriminating materials, arms and ammunition, including one AK-47 rifle, one pistol and four grenades, from the encounter site.

in 2020, killing of two CRPF jawans in 2021. Besides, they killed an on-leave police official, constable Javid Ahmad, near his residence at Saidpora on June 22, 2021 and Inspector Parvez Ahmad at Nowgam. They were behind the killing of a civilian, Umer Nazir Bhat, at his shop in Habba Kadal," the police said.

The duo was "instrumental in motivating and recruiting the youth to join terror folds in Srinagar and its adjoining areas".

The police recovered incriminating materials, arms and ammunition, including one AK-47 rifle, one pistol and four grenades, from the encounter site.

in 2020, killing of two CRPF jawans in 2021. Besides, they killed an on-leave police official, constable Javid Ahmad, near his residence at Saidpora on June 22, 2021 and Inspector Parvez Ahmad at Nowgam. They were behind the killing of a civilian, Umer Nazir Bhat, at his shop in Habba Kadal," the police said.

The duo was "instrumental in motivating and recruiting the youth to join terror folds in Srinagar and its adjoining areas".

The police recovered incriminating materials, arms and ammunition, including one AK-47 rifle, one pistol and four grenades, from the encounter site.

in 2020, killing of two CRPF jawans in 2021. Besides, they killed an on-leave police official, constable Javid Ahmad, near his residence at Saidpora on June 22, 2021 and Inspector Parvez Ahmad at Nowgam. They were behind the killing of a civilian, Umer Nazir Bhat, at his shop in Habba Kadal," the police said.

The duo was "instrumental in motivating and recruiting the youth to join terror folds in Srinagar and its adjoining areas".

The police recovered incriminating materials, arms and ammunition, including one AK-47 rifle, one pistol and four grenades, from the encounter site.

in 2020, killing of two CRPF jawans in 2021. Besides, they killed an on-leave police official, constable Javid Ahmad, near his residence at Saidpora on June 22, 2021 and Inspector Parvez Ahmad at Nowgam. They were behind the killing of a civilian, Umer Nazir Bhat, at his shop in Habba Kadal," the police said.

The duo was "instrumental in motivating and recruiting the youth to join terror folds in Srinagar and its adjoining areas".

The police recovered incriminating materials, arms and ammunition, including one AK-47 rifle, one pistol and four grenades, from the encounter site.

in 2020, killing of two CRPF jawans in 2021. Besides, they killed an on-leave police official, constable Javid Ahmad, near his residence at Saidpora on June 22, 2021 and Inspector Parvez Ahmad at Nowgam. They were behind the killing of a civilian, Umer Nazir Bhat, at his shop in Habba Kadal," the police said.

The duo was "instrumental in motivating and recruiting the youth to join terror folds in Srinagar and its adjoining areas".

The police recovered incriminating materials, arms and ammunition, including one AK-47 rifle, one pistol and four grenades, from the encounter site.

in 2020, killing of two CRPF jawans in 2021. Besides, they killed an on-leave police official, constable Javid Ahmad, near his residence at Saidpora on June 22, 2021 and Inspector Parvez Ahmad at Nowgam. They were behind the killing of a civilian, Umer Nazir Bhat, at his shop in Habba Kadal," the police said.

The duo was "instrumental in motivating and recruiting the youth to join terror folds in S

## IN BRIEF



## Trainer aircraft crashes in Jalgao, one dead

MUMBAI A pilot was killed after a training aircraft crashed in Shirpur, according to the DGCA. Flight instructor Captain Lurul Amin was killed on the spot, and trainee Anshika Gurjar sustained injuries. The plane belonged to the Academy of Aviation of the Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies.

## Eight feared dead in hooch tragedy in Bihar

PATNA At least eight persons have been reportedly killed in two days in a suspected hooch tragedy in West Champaran district of Bihar. Officials denied that the deaths were due to liquor. Families of the victims are said to have quietly buried or cremated the bodies fearing police action, as trade, consumption and production of liquor is banned in the State.

## HC seeks response on plea by YouTuber's wife

NEW DELHI The Delhi High Court on July 16 sought the Centre's response on a plea by New Zealand-origin YouTuber Karl Rock's wife against the blacklisting and cancellation of her husband's Indian visa. Justice Rekha Palli said there should be justifiable reasons for the blacklisting, which should be communicated either to Mr. Rock or his wife Manisha Malik. In a video, Mr. Rock had stated that the Indian government had been "ignoring" his question on the reason behind his blacklisting.

## Educomp Group entities booked for bank fraud

NEW DELHI The CBI booked Educomp Infrastructure & School Management Limited (EISML), Educomp Solution Limited (ESL) and others in a ₹806.07-crore bank fraud case. In February, it registered a case against ESL and others for allegedly cheating a consortium of ₹1,955 crore. The alleged fraud was detected during a forensic audit of the transactions made from April 2014 to April 2018.

# Centre working on specifics to bring Moderna vaccine: Paul

'Slowing down of case decline is a warning sign'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Central government is working on specifics to bring in the Moderna vaccine", V.K. Paul, member (health), NITI Aayog, said on Friday.

At the Health Ministry press conference, he said people were still vulnerable to the COVID-19 virus, which was very much around. "We have to be alert. Our COVID case decline has slowed down and this is a warning sign," he said.

Dr. Paul said that the COVID-19 situation in most of the regions has turned from bad to worse. "Overall, the world is moving towards a third wave. World Health Organization's warning about the third COVID wave is a red flag," he said.

Speaking about the vaccination process in the country, Dr. Paul said a target to administer 50 crore doses before July had been set and



Ambitious target: India aims to administer 50 crore doses before July, said V.K. Paul. ■REUTERS

"we are on the path to achieving it".

## Routine vaccinations

Meanwhile, the Health Ministry has said that reports alleging that lakhs of Indian children may have missed their routine vaccinations due to disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to increased risk of future outbreaks and deaths, "are not based on facts and do not reflect the true picture".

"It is clarified that since the outbreak of the pandemic, the Ministry has been focused towards maintaining essential services, including immunisation under the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP). The Ministry, along with all States and UTs and development partners, has worked towards mitigating negative impacts of COVID-19 and taking urgent actions to ensure that children receive life-saving vaccines," said the Health Ministry in

its release. It added that in order to mitigate negative impacts of COVID-19 on vaccination services, many other steps have also been taken.

A national guideline to safely continue immunisation services during the COVID-19 pandemic, including polio Supplementary Immunisation Activities (SIAs), has been developed. In order to identify reasons for missed vaccine doses, monitoring & supervision is being done by State and district task forces for prompt corrective action. Also, high-risk groups/areas (e.g. children who missed vaccination during COVID-19 outbreaks, districts with high vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs), districts with low vaccine coverage, etc.) for risk mitigation have been identified," noted the Ministry.

The Ministry added that Intensified Mission Inradhanush identified 250 high-risk districts, where more than 9.5 lakh children and 2.24 lakh pregnant women were vaccinated.

# 'Over 86% of breakthrough infections caused by Delta'

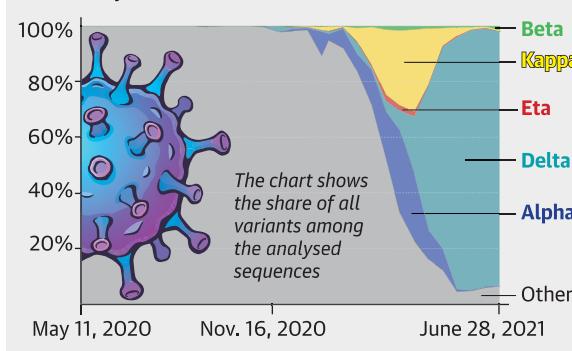
ICMR analysed 677 samples in nationwide study

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN  
NEW DELHI

A majority – over 86% – of the breakthrough infections after COVID-19 vaccination have been caused by the Delta variant, with hospitalisation of 9.8% of such cases and fatality observed in 0.4% of cases, according to the results of a nationwide study conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) on breakthrough COVID-19 infection. A breakthrough infection is a case of illness in which a vaccinated individual becomes sick from the same illness that the vaccine is meant to prevent.

For the study, "Clinical characterisation and Genomic analysis of COVID-19 breakthrough infections during second wave in different States of India", ICMR collected 677 clinical samples of individuals who have been partially or fully vacci-

**Delta wave** | Till June 28, 92% of all COVID-19 cases in India, for which sequences were analysed, were caused by the Delta variant of the virus



nated but contracted the infection.

The samples were collected from 17 States and Union Territories, including Maharashtra, Kerala, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Karnataka, Manipur, Assam, Jammu and Kashmir, Chandigarh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

The study found that a total of 482 cases (71%) were symptomatic with one or more symptoms, while 29% had asymptomatic infection. "Fever (69%) was the most consistent presentation fol-

lowed by bodyache, including headache and nausea (56%), cough (45%), sore throat (37%), loss of smell and taste (22%), diarrhoea (6%), breathlessness (6%) and 1% had ocular irritation and redness."

The southern, western, eastern and northwestern regions predominantly reported breakthrough infection mainly from Delta and then the Kappa variant. Alpha was predominant behind reinfection in the northern region, it stated.

## Assam Budget seeks to control cattle population

Govt. to ensure 90% calves are females

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

Assam's Budget for the 2021-22 fiscal aims to control cattle population through artificial insemination to ensure that up to 90% of the calves born in cattle and buffalo farms for higher milk yield.

The proposal follows the tabling of the Assam Cattle Protection Bill, which seeks to ban the transportation of cattle and sale of beef within 5 km of temples and other religious structures of non-beef consuming communities, as well as in areas of mixed populations. Presenting a ₹566.2-crore deficit Budget, Assam's Finance Minister Ajanta Neog said the government has proposed a

scheme to control the birth of scrub bulls up to 20% by procuring "high-genetic merit sex-sorted semen". The plan is to increase the number of hybrid female calves born in cattle and buffalo farms for higher milk yield.

The Union Law Ministry has given its nod to an amendment to Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989, which are expected to be notified by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways soon, according to a government official.

## Fifty years

According to the rules, all two-wheelers and four-wheelers, which have not undergone any substantial overhaul, will be defined as

retro rides: Under the new rules, vintage vehicles won't be permitted on road or for commercial purposes. ■RAGU

Vintage Motor Vehicles 50 years after the date of first registration. Vehicles that already carry a registration number would be allowed to retain it. However, classics

that are registered afresh, such as those that are imported into the country, would be assigned an identifier "VA" in the registration number. Vintage vehicles

Vehicles brought in using names of foreign diplomats

DEVESHEK PANDAY  
NEW DELHI

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) on Friday arrested three persons, including the chief executive officer of a Gurugram-based dealership in the sale of used luxury cars, for their alleged role in the smuggling of high-end vehicles into India in the names of foreign diplomats.

The accused have been identified as Liyakat Bachau Khan, Nipun Miglani and Su-

that Mr. Miglani was the chief executive officer of Big Boys Toys.

The racket was unearthed as part of an exercise code-named "Operation Monte Carlo", following a tip-off that a group had been smuggling high-end cars in the names of diplomats and diverting them to private persons, thereby evading Customs duty, said the agency in a statement.

"Imports made by foreign diplomats and Missions in India are governed by the Foreign Privileged Persons (Regulation of Customs Privileges) Rules, 1957. Motor cars

## Eleven bodies retrieved from well in M.P.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
VIDISHA

Eleven bodies were recovered and 19 persons were brought out alive from a well in which several people had fallen while trying to rescue a boy in Madhya Pradesh's Vidisha district.

All such antique vehicles would be exempted from the provisions of High Security Registration Plate recently made mandatory by the government.

The sale and purchase of such vehicles registered is permissible provided the buyer and seller inform respective State Transport Authorities, the rules said.

The rescue operation was over and all the missing persons were accounted for, said State Medical Education Minister Vishwas Sarang. The State announced that the families of the deceased would be given ₹5 lakh each, while the injured would be provided ₹50,000 each and free medical treatment.

## Railways flags cybercrime targeting pensioners

Ministry alerts banks; the fraudsters managed to access people's service records

S. VIJAY KUMAR  
CHENNAI

In a new online fraud, cyber-criminals have been targeting senior citizens by posing as pension-disbursing authorities calling to update Digital Life Certificate (Jeevan Praman Patr) online.

The Ministry of Railways has alerted all public sector banks about the *modus operandi* of the fraudsters, who managed to access the pensioners' service records.

The issue was first flagged by the Cyber Crime Cell of the Lucknow Police, who is-

sued an alert to all pensioners in Uttar Pradesh not to entertain any caller offering online update of Digital Life Certificate, which is a mandatory requirement for uninterrupted disbursement of pension.

## Personal details

According to the police alert shared by the Railway Board, the fraudsters managed to access details like the pensioners' date of appointment, date of retirement, pension pay order, Aadhar number, communication ad-

dress, email ID, among others.

"The fraudsters initiate a transfer and ask the pensioner to share the One Time Password (OTP) received on his/her mobile phone or email, saying that it was required to update the Digital Life Certificate. Once the OTP is shared, the funds get transferred to an unknown account," said a senior railway official.

The pensioners' details of the Indian Railways is maintained by the Human Resource Management System, an online platform. The information is shared with banks, which are the pension-disbursing authorities.

## DRI uncovers smuggling of luxury cars

Vehicles brought in using names of foreign diplomats



One of the vehicles smuggled by the accused.

riya Arjunan. Six vehicles have been recovered so far.

The agency suspects that the syndicate brought over 20 luxury vehicles into the country in the past five years using the same *modus operandi*, leading to duty evasion of over ₹25 crore.

A DRI official confirmed

that Mr. Miglani was the chief executive officer of Big Boys Toys.

The racket was unearthed as part of an exercise code-named "Operation Monte Carlo", following a tip-off that a group had been smuggling high-end cars in the names of diplomats and diverting them to private persons, thereby evading Customs duty, said the agency in a statement.

"Imports made by foreign diplomats and Missions in India are governed by the Foreign Privileged Persons (Regulation of Customs Privileges) Rules, 1957. Motor cars

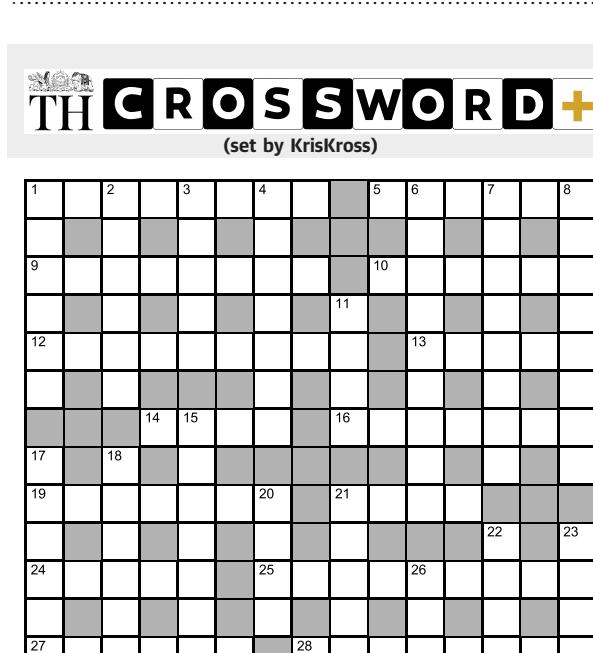
## FAITH

## Importance of Upanishads

The Vedas have portions which are referred to as Karma Kaanda. They tell us how to perform yagas, and what mantras are to be recited during these yagas. Each of these yagas is for a specific purpose. If one wants to reach svarga loka, one has to perform Jyotishthoma Yaga. If one desires wealth, one must perform Vaayavya Yaga. The Upanishads represent the Brahma Kaanda. When we say Vedanta, it indicates the Upanishads, said M.A. Venkatakrishnan in a discourse. 'Anta' means end. The Upanishads come towards the end of the Vedas and are therefore called Vedanta.

Sage Vyasa wrote the Brahma Sutra, elaborating on the doctrines of the Upanishads. Brahma Sutra has commentaries by different schools of philosophy. Ramanujacharya's commentary is called Sri Bhashyam. For prapanna, it is the Brahma Kaanda which is important. He seeks to be in Sri Vaikuntha, and is not interested in the material gains for which yagas are prescribed. He is not interested in sarga, where one's stay is temporary. So he will not do Jyotishthoma Yaga. He does not run after money, and so he will not perform Vaayavya Yaga. It is not that wealth per se is shunned. He earns what is needed to run his life smoothly. He is not greedy, and will not resort to illegal means to acquire wealth.

If the Karma Kaanda section is not that important to a prapanna, why do we praise the entire Vedas, including this portion? Although many devatas are praised in the mantras for the yagas, ultimately, whatever is offered goes to the Supreme One. Krishna makes this clear in the Gita. Whether it is the Karma Kaanda or the Brahma Kaanda, the Vedas are not easy to understand. To understand the Vedas, we need to study the Itihasas and Puranas.



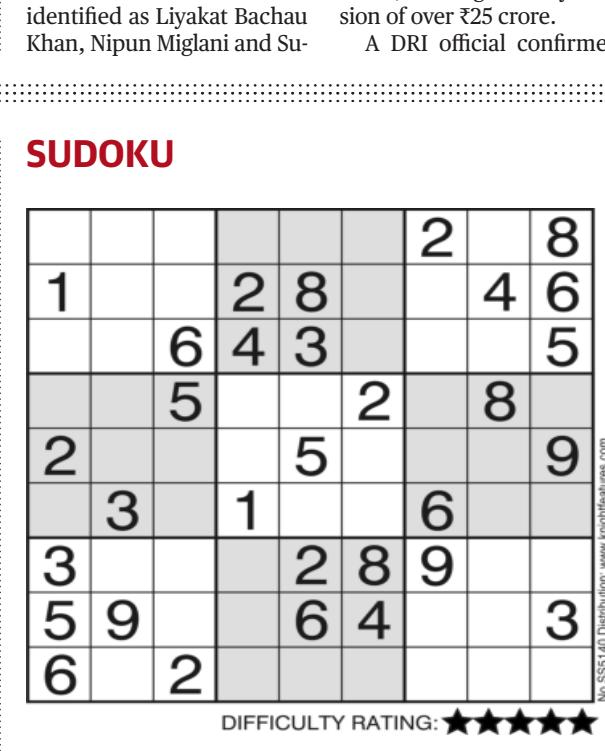
**ACROSS**

- 1 Wife wearing ornament that's impressive (8)
- 5 KrisKross pines for models (6)
- 9 Competition where participants try for a quick draw (8)
- 10 First stage of revolt by Rome (6)
- 12 Belief system of those people – "Saving nothing, shop around" (9)
- 13 Trend in supercomputers, say (5)
- 14 Prison fire (4)

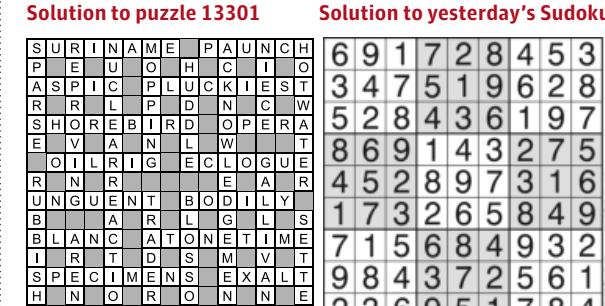
**DOWN**

- 1 Dress worn by acrobat, tense before cycling show (6)
- 2 Outlaw finally signed and indicated complicity (6)
- 3 Romeo helps attacks (5)
- 4 She is bound to lose her painting work after a rejection (2-5)
- 6 Funny play mostly about spirited India, say (9)
- 7 Surprising raid by rebel spies, surrounding bar somewhere in the Mediterranean (8)
- 8 Wise man penning note about early civilisation (5,3)
- 11 Chain seen in energy vehicles (4)
- 15 Web architect from Atlanta starts to update resume at work (9)
- 17 Covert operation over, remains in hiding (8)
- 18 Quiet, more embarrassed; one tearing up (8)
- 20 I leave racket for Bill (4)
- 21 Satellite starts to operate rather bizarrely – it flips again (7)
- 22 In Varanasi, Raju perhaps upset a priest (6)
- 23 Powerful yarn where one dies for love (6)
- 24 How people travel without restrictions – primarily those in South America (5)

## SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 13301      Solution to yesterday's Sudoku





## Instapick

**Space Jam:** Billionaire Richard Branson completed his trip aboard the Virgin Galactic spacecraft this week, beating fellow space tycoon Jeff Bezos by nine days. Yes, it's the time for billionaires in space. Come July 20, and Bezos' flight courtesy his company, Blue Origin, will mark NASA's Apollo moon landing anniversary. He is all set to fly with his brother, Mark, while SpaceX CEO Elon Musk is on a waitlist after buying a ticket at Virgin Galactic.



## Talking point

**Tokyo Olympics 2021:** The city's scenic Harumi waterfront district officially opened its doors this week to over 11,000 athletes from 205 National Olympic Committees. Eager to see India's 119 athletes, the country's largest ever contingent, battle it out in 85 medal events? The only thing is you will have to wake up early to watch the live action on TV! July 23 to August 8. [olympics.com](http://olympics.com)

## Pick of the week

**Virtual events, workshops and launches you just can't miss**



### The art tribe

The Circle Community at Rajasthan Studios is hosting a **food illustration** workshop this evening. Learn how to create everyday dishes on paper with Gayatri Patkar who will be hosting the session on Zoom. July 17 at 4 pm, ₹499. [insider.in](https://insider.in)

Goethe-Institut in Kolkata's fourth edition of Arts For Juniors is back. Today, German author **Gudrun Pausewang** will discuss *Fall-out*, his novel based on a 14-year-old girl who experiences the aftermath of a fictional nuclear disaster in Germany. 13+. Details: mail info@thinkarts.co.in

### Dine in and out

Newly rebooted in Khan Market's inner lane, is Klap, serving British, Italian, French, Indian, Mexican, Thai, Japanese, and Korean food. The restaurant is spread across two floors and terrace. The **focus is on food so light** it's almost palate cleansing. 11 am to 10 pm; for delivery and pick up [klap.dotpe.in](http://klap.dotpe.in). If you'd rather dine at home and are trying to cut down on animal products, then Blue Tribe ([bluetribefoods.com](http://bluetribefoods.com)) has **plant-based 'meat'** (nuggets and keema) to buy on a per-piece or subscription basis.

### Play with words

Neel Literature Festival, scheduled for September, has announced shortlists for their **Fourth Annual Neel Book Award 2021** under four categories for children's literature. Books include *Thatha's Pumpkin* by Lalita Iyer, *Oonga* by Devashish Makhija, etc. [neeliteraturefestival.org](http://neeliteraturefestival.org) If the spoken word is more your thing, **theatre artiste Zubin Vincent** is hosting a workshop on monologues. Limited to five guests, so go prepared with a two-minute English soliloquy. July 17 at 6.30 pm on Zoom. ₹250. [townscript.com](http://townscript.com)

### Meet and greet

Airbnb has launched a set of online experiences spanning 50 sports in 30 countries. These **will be hosted by over 200 competing and retired Olympian and Paralympian**, such as Scottie Pippen, Alice Dearing, Hunter Woodhall and Tara Davis. Athletes will connect with guests directly, talking of their stories and the passion for sport. [airbnb.com](http://airbnb.com); ₹2 upward. Another online 'outing': the Vegan India Conference at [veganindiaconference.com](http://veganindiaconference.com) connects with brands and people; July 24 to 27; ₹696.20. [welcomzestlounge.in](http://welcomzestlounge.in)

### Flavours from Sichuan

Whip up Sichuan favorites at this workshop with chef and author, **Marion Grasby**. The live hands-on cooking session features tips and tricks on prepping ingredients, live Q&A, and more. ₹2,699. August 3. [mariongrasby.on](http://mariongrasby.on) Facebook. In Chennai, **Gourmet Couch by ITC Hotels** Monsoon Edition features classics like the *dahi gujia*, *gosht tikka*, *khatti daal*, *adrak halwa* and more. Available on Swiggy and Zomato. To place your order, call 044-22200000. [welcomzestlounge.in](http://welcomzestlounge.in)

### Art biennale @ Macao

Earlier this week, the four-month Art Macao: **Macao International Art Biennale 2021** was inaugurated at the Macao Museum Art. Themed on 'Advance and Retreat of Globalization' the main exhibition is alongside three others. Look forward to 30 art exhibitions in 25 locations until October. [artmacao.mo](http://artmacao.mo). Closer home, **VGP Marine Kingdom** is now open for visits, and bookings are being taken for scuba diving, private group tours, stays at their cottages, and more. [vgpmarinekingdom.in](http://vgpmarinekingdom.in)

### The Bee Gees tribute

American rock band Foo Fighters' nod to legendary music group Bee Gees is all set to launch today. Released under the name, **The Dee Gees**, a nod to frontman Dave Grohl's initials, it is titled **'Hail Satin'**. The tribute album (with ten tracks) to be released in vinyl will be divided into two portions, and the first side will feature covers of Bee Gees classics ('Night Fever', 'Tragedy', 'More Than A Woman', 'You Should Be Dancing', etc.). Don't miss the costumes. [foofighters.com](http://foofighters.com)

# Farhan Akhtar in the ring

KARISHMA UPADHYAY

Plan-A doesn't always work out. And, it's not always a bad thing. Director Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra's *Toofaan*, in which Farhan Akhtar plays boxer Aziz Ali, was slated to hit theatres last October, but the pandemic struck and circumstances changed.

Written by Anjum Rajabali and Vijay Maurya, and based on an idea by Akhtar, the film dropped on Amazon Prime Video a week before the beginning of the Tokyo Olympics. "This is a film about sports and we have a very promising contingent of athletes who are going to Tokyo, including nine boxers. They all did really well at the Asian Championships (in Dubai) and won a lot of medals," says Akhtar over a Zoom call.

formation of Aziz Ali aka Ajju Bhai, a henchman from Dongri, to a national level pugilist. While the story might be fictional, Akhtar believes it does mirror the reality of boxers the world over.

Echoing boxing legend Sugar Ray Leonard who said 'boxing is a poor man's sport', the writer-musician says, "Most boxers have come from underprivileged backgrounds; they've come from a life of systematic discrimination, crime and poverty. Life hasn't dealt them a fair hand, and the only way for them to create a life for themselves is by using their bodies and their fists. Even if you look at boxers in India, they are predominantly from the North East, villages of Haryana – they're fighting for something more than just a medal."

Akhtar isn't wrong. Across boxing history, there's a pattern of players coming from the streets or disenfranchised groups. "There is a lot of money for a series of ex-

in boxing, but rich people don't ask their kids to become boxers. I was recently listening to a podcast of Mike Tyson, and they asked him about his son getting into boxing now. With this big smile on his face, Tyson said he had asked his son 'Why are you doing this? You don't need to, you're going to a private school. You're going to meet some animal in the ring like me who'll want to bust your face in,' he adds.

#### Boxing fan forever

The 47-year-old says he was introduced to boxing way back in the early 80s when Mohammad Ali first visited India for a series of ex-

Clocking 20 years in the industry, the actor-director talks about his sports drama *Toofaan* coinciding with Tokyo Olympics and the brutal beauty of boxing

hibition matches. "One heard stories from people who were lucky enough to meet him. Also, there was *Rocky* (1976) that put boxing on the cinematic map for everyone." Though Akhtar never stepped into the ring himself, he was fascinated by the sport. "I always found something very visceral about the sport. It is a test of character and strength – it's brutal but there's beauty to it, and it's captivating to see two people in a ring trying to out-think, outlast and outpunch each other."

Ali might have introduced Akhtar to the sport but he belongs more to the 'Mike Tyson' generation'. As his interest in the sport increased, he expanded his knowledge to include former greats like Joe Frazier and Jack Johnson and the more contemporary athletes like Manny Pacquiao.

#### Starting from scratch

This film marks Akhtar's second collaboration with Mehra. Their first was the biopic *Bhaag Milkha Bhaag* (2013), which won him a National Award. To portray the late Milkha Singh, the actor trained for five to six hours a day for months. It was no different for *Toofaan*. "As much as I enjoy watching boxing and boxing films, getting in there and actually learning to do it is way tougher than you'd imagine." Un-

like *BMB*, this film required him to learn a whole sport from the beginning. "Boxing is a lot more demanding than track and field. Also, running wasn't new to me as I had competed in school." For *Toofaan*, he trained for three months first to look like a boxer and then an out-of-shape father of one.

Produced by Excel Entertainment, a production house Akhtar founded along with Ritesh Sidhwani in 1999, *Toofaan* is also the actor's first film to go straight to streaming. He describes the OTT space as a 'level playing field'. "You can't hide behind star power, glitz and glamour, good music or a great location. If the story is not engaging, you'll press that button on your remote and move on."

#### Back as director?

Akhtar's plans for keeping viewers glued to seats are almost all in place. As a producer there is *Phone Bhoot*, a horror comedy starring Katrina Kaif, and Rishi Kapoor's last film *Sharmaji Namkeen*.

There is also a documentary where he's collaborating with sister Zoya and Salman Khan on their lyricist fathers Javed Akhtar and Salim Khan.

There have also been stories of him joining the cast of *Ms Marvel* from the Marvel Cinematic Universe but he's keeping mum for now. "My only confirmed plan is to do a film with Ashutosh Gowarikar. Given the pandemic situation though, only time will tell when we'll start," says the actor who started his cinematic journey as a director almost exactly two decades ago with *Dil Chahta Hai*.

*Toofaan* is now streaming on Amazon Prime Video

Watch the actor in conversation with Karishma Upadhyay on [weekend.thehindu.com](http://weekend.thehindu.com)

## VIEW



### Never Have I Ever returns

Mindy Kaling's Netflix desi drama, *Never Have I Ever*, returns for a funnier season two and two actors Richa Moorjani and Poorna Jagannathan get candid in an interview with The Hindu. Here's what Moorjani has to say about continuing to play a woman of colour in STEM (Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) in the hit teen comedy:

"When I was doing this storyline for season two (where Kamala pursues her PhD at CalTech), I learned a lot about what women of colour in STEM fields go through. It is a real systemic problem where they are not given credit for their work. Granted, what we see Kamala goes through is through a comedic lens, but I read a lot of articles about how women of colour in STEM are not represented in media at all."

Watch the two actors in conversation with Divya Kala Bhavani on [weekend.thehindu.co.in](http://weekend.thehindu.co.in)



Stills from *Toofaan*

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



■ SREEJITH R KUMAR

dictated to you. By 'trained classical singer', you mean you listened to an M S Subbulakshmi tape on an electric train.

And, as far as I remember, your only Vietnam connection is that your father worked as an extra in Sivaji Ganesan's *Vietnam Veedu*. Also, just because you beat up your old boyfriend once with a can of Nerolac paint doesn't make you a painter. Or a self-defence instructor.

No stop it. Stop it, I say. All of you.

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

### SPIT TAKE

# I think not

You say you could have been the next Shah Rukh Khan?

KRISHNA SHASTRI DEVULAPALLI

I think it was Winston Churchill who said 'No pair of glasses is rosier tinted than the ones we wear to look in the mirror.' It was either him or my *istriwallah*, Marimuthu. He smokes cigars, too, from time to time, so my confusion is understandable.

Anyway, given below are a couple of examples that prove the point emphatically.

We've all met this guy. Or a version of him. He's had a cushy life, he's sent off two thankless kids to some dubious university in Australia or Rwanda. His wife, the poor thing, is searching for a humane way to bump him off. And you have to listen to him because he's paying for the drinks. It's only a matter of time before he rubs his belly affectionately as he laments the passion he gave up on as a young man.

You remember, no? he says with a faraway look. 'How I absolutely loved cricket [it could just as easily be music, cycling, wig-making or proctology], and totally lived for it. My only regret in life is giving it up. And all because of Dad, sigh. He said he'd commit suicide if I didn't take over the family business. If only I'd kept at it, I would

have played for India. Pucca.'

Notice how anyone who gave up his 'passion' is always the guy who could have been the next Sunil Gavaskar, Shah Rukh Khan, Vijayanthalimala Bali or Milan Kundera? Never the next Rohan Gavaskar/Kamaal R Khan/Yogeeta Bali/Sirish Kundera.

I want to interrupt at this point, but you don't because he's serving good single malt. You want to say 'I think not. That's not how I remember it. If memory serves me right, you were astoundingly bad at cricket. In fact, you were 13th man in a team that didn't have a 12th man. Which means, if one of the eleven couldn't make it, they'd have picked Pankajam Mami, in whose compound we used to play, ahead of you, to open the attack. What family business? Your daddy was a loan shark. You were recruited as his henchman. You 'gave up' your 'passion' because you are a greedy and lazy and used to be called *thevangu* in school. And had you continued pursuing your 'passion', the highest you could have made it would have been dry-cleaner of Team India's uniforms. Now calm down and pour me another drink.'

Similarly, I'm totally done with these author bios that you see on book covers, blogs and social media pages. I came across this one the other day conjured up by a woman I used to know.

spare time.'

No, you're not.

Your real name is Muniyamma. You made up your current name by choosing random names from Hoichoi and Mallu movies and stringing them together. You couldn't write your own laundry list if it was

# Tokyo drift: Stadium to screen

Ahead of the spectator-less and sterile 32nd Summer Olympics that begins next week, a sports journalist recalls the simple joys of previous editions

KAMESH SRINIVASAN

It was August 2016. At the historic Maracanã Stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Japan promised to host an "innovative" Games in 2020, during the closing ceremony of the 31st Olympic Games. Shinzo Abe, the then Japanese Prime Minister, created a stir as he popped out of a green drainpipe, dressed as Super Mario, the star of the Nintendo video game series. To reach Rio in time, he was assisted by the beloved blue Doraemon cat with a pocket full of magic gadgets.

Japan was optimistic about using technology to the hilt to host a memorable Games. And we felt lucky at the Maracanã to soak in the atmosphere. As athletes cheered and danced, and rain drenched the arena, Rio said, 'Obrigado.'

do' and Japan said, "See you in Tokyo".

Then came July 2020, when the coronavirus swept aside technology and human power. As the world stayed home and socially-distanced, the Olympics was postponed (pushing it closer to Paris 2024). And Japan got new prime minister, Yoshihide Suga, to face the challenges.

Now, a year on, even as we finish watching the Wimbledon on television in disbelief – shocked at spectators without masks, thanks to vaccinations and virus testing – Japan has rocked the world by announcing that it will host the Games without spectators.

The virus is causing havoc, triggering an emergency in Tokyo (only 15% of the Japanese have been fully vaccinated). In its attempt to deliver a "safe and secure Games", Japan has wracked the heart out of the Games.

## Quick stats

- Number of times Japan has hosted the Summer Olympics 2
- The Games will unfold across 33 competition venues
- Expect 339 events representing 46 different sports
- 11,329 athletes will take part, representing 205 countries
- The New National Stadium has a capacity of 68,000, but will stand empty this year
- \$15.4 billion has been invested in the Games

## FOOD SPOT

# From Amritsar, with love and water



The kulcha that's special because of its ingredients



RAHUL VERMA

I was in central Delhi the other day when I recalled a wedding reception I'd attended in one of the bungalows there. An army of experts had come from Punjab to cook for the guests. Not only did they arrive with old recipes and some special ingredients, they even carried huge jars of water from Amritsar. It's the water that gives the dishes a special taste, one of the *ustads* had told me as he started making Amritsari *kulchas* by carefully placing the rolled out dough in a blazing tandoor.

Since then, the Amritsari *kulcha* has been on my mind. This regional speciality, unlike its counterparts from other parts of the north, is not soft all over but is crisp, with a smooth core. It is also stuffed with boiled potatoes, onions, and some other ingredients, smeared with a dollop of butter, and then served.

Last week I thought we would order some for a nice rainy day lunch. I found a place called Amritsari Kulcha Hub at Delhi's Geeta Colony (phone no: 7011157374) and asked for an onion paneer *kulcha* (₹30), a mixed *kulcha* (₹110) and *aloo pyaz churchar naan* (₹40). These came with *chholey* and onion chutney. The *kulchas* were indeed crisp on the outside and soft within. Though they tasted similar, I enjoyed the mixed *kulcha* the most. The stuffing consisted of boiled potatoes, cottage cheese and onions, all mixed with some masalas.

What was remarkable, however, was the *chholey*, which had been cooked with a light hand. The *chholey* gravy – runny, mildly spiced and cooked in hardly any oil – went well with the somewhat heavy *kulcha*.

The chutney was rather good, too – again not the thick kind of chutney as we know it, but almost like a light dish of chopped onions in a tart and thin sauce flavoured with tamarind.

The eatery, I am told, was set up about two years ago and delivers through Zomato. They have a cheese stuffing section too. It offers *aloo cheese kulcha* (₹40), *aloo pyaz cheese kulcha* (₹60), and *mixed cheese kulcha* (₹80). For those who can't have enough of paneer and cheese, there is even a paneer cheese *kulcha* (₹20).

What makes Amritsari *kulcha* special is the fact that it is baked in an open fire, or a tandoor. As a child in Delhi, I remember all the tandoors, called Sanjha Chulha, set up in residential areas. People would line up there with kneaded dough, and a man would make a stack of rotis in the tandoor. The *kulcha* uses the same technique, though the stuffing, butter, and masalas give it a special taste.

I don't know if Amritsari Kulcha Hub used local water or had it transported from Amritsar, but it sure did hit the right spot.

*The writer is a seasoned food critic*



(Clockwise from left)  
Kamesh Srinivasan with  
shooter Abhinav Bindra,  
and images from the 2021  
Olympic Village • SPECIAL  
ARRANGEMENT AND GETTY IMAGES

who captured the imagination of the world. His wins, and his most-imitated victory pose, always turned packed stadiums into melting pots of colour, noise and emotions.

It is impossible to imagine a Bolt or Phelps performing in front of empty stands, with only television cameras to keep them company.

For me, today's virus-ruled virtual world triggers endless memories of the golden past. Of Bolt with his hand on my friend (former *Deccan Herald* sports editor)

Rajeev Kolasseri's shoulder, discussing cricket and Sachin Tendulkar, after a press conference in Beijing in 2008 – where the sprinter completed the 100 metres with a mind-blowing world record of 9.58 seconds.

Or the day after when sport shooter Abhinav Bindra won

India's only individual gold in Beijing. We shared a taxi, going for lunch from the shooting range. Afterwards, Bindra had a photo shoot for *Deccan Herald* proprietor-photographer KN Shanth Kumar on the streets of Beijing – with the backdrop of the Bird's Nest and the Water Cube, the iconic athletics and swimming venues. The Chinese people were happy to greet him and take photos with him. Such ease of interaction, between the athlete, the public and the media is impossible to imagine these days.

The Olympic aura is unmatched. We had the privilege to watch the best of athletes, as we travelled to the various venues, and sent back reports while literally on the move. It was hard, but it was joyous.

We often changed our plans too, in an instant. I remember when wrestler Sushil Kumar won the bronze in Beijing, it was unexpected. He had lost early, and we had lost interest. But then there was a repêchage, and when we learnt that he was fighting his way back to win a medal, we dropped everything, grabbed a taxi, and rushed to the venue.

## A subdued Olympic Village?

Athletes are being asked to check in five days before their event, and are required to leave within 48 hours of either winning or losing. Daily Covid tests, an app to check whether communal areas, like the dining hall, are full, and dedicated buses (no sightseeing and public transport this time) mean camaraderie is in check, too.

Now, journalists have been asked to list their entire plan even before they reach Tokyo, and no changes will be entertained.

## Is it all worth it?

"In terms of organisation, Beijing was the best Games. But for sheer participation of sports-minded people, warm and friendly, Sydney (2000) was my favourite," recalls Bindra, who has competed in the last five Games.

Or the day after when sport shooter Abhinav Bindra won India's only individual gold in Beijing. We shared a taxi, going for lunch from the shooting range. Afterwards, Bindra had a photo shoot for *Deccan Herald* proprietor-photographer KN Shanth Kumar on the streets of Beijing – with the backdrop of the Bird's Nest and the Water Cube, the iconic athletics and swimming venues. The Chinese people were happy to greet him and take photos with him. Such ease of interaction, between the athlete, the public and the media is impossible to imagine these days.

The Olympic aura is unmatched. We had the privilege to watch the best of athletes, as we travelled to the various venues, and sent back reports while literally on the move. It was hard, but it was joyous.

We often changed our plans too, in an instant. I remember when wrestler Sushil Kumar won the bronze in Beijing, it was unexpected. He had lost early, and we had lost interest. But then there was a repêchage, and when we learnt that he was fighting his way back to win a medal, we dropped everything, grabbed a taxi, and rushed to the venue.

For the athletes, who have waited five years to showcase their prowess, it is worth the trouble. For the people of Japan, whose tax money has played a significant role in putting the Games together, it is a sad blow to be kept out of the enthralling exercise.

# Omega at the finish line



The brand's 29<sup>th</sup> outing as Olympic timekeeper sees innovation for sports like Speed Climbing, and a new gold watch, the Seamaster Aqua Terra

## Tokyo on the wrist

Omega has released three special timepieces to mark this year's Olympics. They include a Seamaster Aqua Terra Tokyo with a ceramic blue dial and the Tokyo 2020 logo on the caseback; a white Seamaster Planet Ocean Tokyo 2020 Limited Edition (of only 2,020 pieces); and a Seamaster Diver 300M Tokyo 2020. The Aqua Terra features an 18k gold dial and its co-axial escapement includes a 60-hour power reserve and a self-winding mechanism. The Omega Seamaster Aqua Terra (approx ₹13,85,100 on the website) is available at select Omega boutiques around the country.



(Clockwise from right) Alain Zobrist, the Seamaster Aqua Terra, the 1948 'Magic Eye', timekeeping at the 1932 Olympics, and an image from their archives • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## By the numbers

530	Time keepers	400	tonnes of equipment	200	km of cables and wires	350	sports specific scoreboards	85	public scoreboards
-----	--------------	-----	---------------------	-----	------------------------	-----	-----------------------------	----	--------------------



as well as any finish of the race, and now with our new sensor technologies we'll be able to understand also what happens in between, during the entire performance of an athlete." Consequently, we'll be able to see how athletes got to their results. Where did they lose time, where did they gain time? Where did they lose or gain points?"

This data, which will allow athletes and their teams to train smarter, will also be used by broadcasters in their on-screen graphics.

Biel-based Omega has brought innovation

to each new Games since its association began in 1932. That includes devices that 'film time' like the Magic Eye (or the Racend Omega Timer), which has seen its photoelectric cell count increase to four for the 2016 games. This year, the excitement is around Speed Climbing, one of five new sports being introduced at Tokyo. About it, Zobrist says, "It's going to be the second sport now after swimming, where the athletes are going to be able to stop their times themselves," with the help of touchpads at the end of the course.

## Tracking athletics

It's still athletics that is the most challenging sport to track. Multiple athletes on the track at once requires additional coordination between the time keepers on the field, the timing room and the data handling room.

Finally, what does this innovation spell for Omega, the watchmaker better known for being on the wrist of James Bond? Zobrist explains, "It really is two different worlds today. Mechanically or watch-making is fundamentally different from time-keeping of sports events. But the roots are the same, with the stop watches that Omega used in 1932." And there is a sharing of values

– "precision, accuracy and attention to detail".



## INTERVIEW | ZALMAY KHALILZAD

# Won't recognise Taliban govt. that takes power by force: U.S. Special Envoy

Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad says there is no ultimate military solution and there has to be a political settlement for lasting peace

## SUHASINI HAIDAR

TASHKENT

**The U.S. will not recognise a Taliban government that takes power by force, said U.S. special Representative for Afghanistan reconciliation, Zalmay Khalilzad, striking a difference from the British Defence Minister, who suggested this week that the U.K. would engage with any government in power in Afghanistan. In an interaction, Mr. Khalilzad also said Pakistan must fulfil its "special responsibility" towards peace in Afghanistan**

The Taliban do not seem to be waiting for the outcome of intra-Afghan talks, and are making advances on cities. We heard from the Afghan First Vice-President yesterday that Pakistan is threatening to use missiles, if the Afghan Air Force acts against the Taliban. What, if anything, is the U.S. prepared to do if the Taliban forcibly take power in

Kabul, and try to take over the country?

■ Well, there is no ultimate military solution, there has to be a political settlement for lasting peace in Afghanistan, and it has been made clear to the Taliban that not only ourselves, but many countries in the region and beyond will not recognise, will not assist the govern-

ment that takes power by force. For an agreement that can produce stability, and peace and progress for Afghan people, we need two key features – it has to be broadly accepted by the Afghan people. And it has to have the support and acceptance of the neighbours and donors and other countries around the world.

And for those two things to happen, there is a need for a political dispensation, for a political agreement, for political arrangements that produce an inclusive government that reflects the diversity of Afghanistan, and that government respects the fundamental rights of all Afghans, men, women. People of Afghanistan must be given the opportunity to have a say



**C**Afghans must be given the opportunity to have a say in the choice of how they're governed and who governs them

And so I know that there are military movements and developments, but ultimately what is needed is a political settlement for these aspirations for peace and development to be achieved.

But what if that doesn't happen? What is the U.S., if anything, prepared to do?

■ We will continue to support the Afghan government. We have said that while forces withdraw, yes, that is on

going. But we will support the Afghan security forces where the [U.S.] President's budget has asked for \$3.3 billion in assistance for the Afghan security forces. We will provide economic support, we will provide humanitarian support. And at the same time, we will work with others to press for these objectives that I described.

You said the neighbours are on board, yet we see this threat apparently from Pakistan, saying they will practically give a cover to the Taliban if the Afghan Air Force were to act against them in Spin Boldak.

■ India, of course, is a very important country in the region, with a long history with Afghanistan. And we had a good discussion with the Foreign Minister [S. Jaishankar], covering mostly Af-

ghanistan. And we agree despite the challenges that exist, and we have to address those challenges, that a political settlement of the kind I described is the ultimate solution. There is really no military solution.

Some may have the illusion that there may be a military solution. But the costs of pushing for a military solution will be very high, and it will not achieve the objectives that I described. The Taliban said they [don't want to be shunned] and want to be accepted by the neighbours and by the international community as a legitimate actor, partner in the future. And those are aspirations that cannot be achieved if the military solution is sought.

# Russia slams U.S.'s 'hasty' Afghan pullout

'There is huge uncertainty around the future of the political and military situation in Afghanistan'

## AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

MOSCOW

Russia on Friday blamed the "hasty withdrawal" of U.S. and NATO troops for a rapid deterioration in Afghanistan's security and warned of instability spreading to neighbouring countries.

Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan have capitalised on the last stages of the withdrawal of foreign troops to launch offensives, capturing a swath of districts and border crossings, and encircling provincial capitals.

The White House had tried to paint the drawdown of foreign troops in "the most positive colours", Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Friday.

"But everyone understands that the mission failed," he told reporters at a conference in Uzbekistan's capital Tashkent.

"In recent days we have unfortunately seen a rapid deterioration of the situation



Danger zone: Members of the Afghan Special Forces under heavy fire during a rescue mission in Kandahar province on July 13. ■ REUTERS/ DANISH SIDDIQUI

in Afghanistan," Mr. Lavrov said. "In light of the hasty withdrawal of the U.S. and NATO troops, there is huge uncertainty around the future of the political and mili-

tary situation in this country," he added.

Russia hosted Taliban representatives in Moscow last week, where the insurgent group claimed to have con-

trol over some 85% of Afghanistan.

Moscow is closely watching the Taliban's advance and concerned about the potential for instability reaching

neighboring Central Asian countries of the former Soviet Union where Russia maintains military bases.

**Risk of instability**

Mr. Lavrov said the crisis had increased the threat of terrorism and worsened problems surrounding drug trafficking, which he said had reached "an unprecedented level".

"It's clear that, in this situation, there is a real risk of instability spreading to neighbouring countries," he said, according to the TASS news agency.

Earlier this week, ex-Soviet Tajikistan said nearly 350 Afghan refugees had crossed its border fleeing Taliban advances.

Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon conducted inspections at border guard posts on Friday, having earlier called up 20,000 reservists to bolster defences along the border.

# Bring to justice those behind terror attack, China tells Pak.

Li urges Imran Khan to take steps to avoid similar incidents

## ANANTH KRISHNAN

Underlining China's growing concern over Wednesday's bus blast in Pakistan that killed nine Chinese workers, Premier and second-ranked leader Li Keqiang on Friday called on his Pakistani counterpart Imran Khan to ensure those behind the attack were brought to justice.

Mr. Li in a phone call said "China hopes Pakistan can provide assistance and use all necessary means to investigate the attack and bring the terrorists involved to justice," the Communist Party-run *Global Times* reported, adding Premier Li "urged Pakistan to take effective measures to enhance the protection of Chinese personnel and organisations in Pakistan to avoid similar incidents."

He also "stressed the Chi-

nese government pays high attention to the security of Chinese citizens and organisations overseas".

+

Pakistani officials had initially described the incident that claimed the lives of nine Chinese nationals, who were working at the Dasu hydro-power project, part of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor, and four Pakistanis as an accident, before subsequently saying traces of explosives had been detected.

Chinese experts have speculated that the Pakistani Taliban or Balochistan outfits were likely behind the attack. Qian Feng, director of the research department at the National Strategy Institute at Tsinghua University, told the *Global Times* "Balochistan terrorists and the Pakistani Taliban were possible sponsors".

He said the group "in recent years targeted Chinese projects in the country, and launched attacks on Chinese tourists, as well as businesspeople, as they know that Pakistan attaches great importance to China-Pakistan ties, and they aim to use such attacks to sabotage bilateral relations."

# China to send more vaccines to Sri Lanka

Nearly 8% of adults vaccinated

## MEERA SRINIVASAN

COLOMBO

China will gift Sri Lanka an additional 1.6 million doses of Sinopharm, the country's Embassy here has said, while the island nation expands its COVID-19 vaccine coverage, with the aim of welcoming tourists and urgently boosting revenue-inflow.

The move takes the total vaccines gifted by China to Sri Lanka to 2.7 million doses. Additionally, Sri Lanka has procured 6 million from China so far. Another 2 million procured doses are scheduled to arrive during the third week of July, while Colombo plans to purchase a further two million in the last week of July, a spokesman of the Chinese Embassy told *The Hindu*. By the end of the month, Sri Lanka would have purchased a total of 10 million Sinopharm vaccines.

Amid Sri Lanka's persisting third wave of the pandemic – 1,484 cases and 50 deaths reported on Thursday – President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has instructed officials to expand vaccination coverage, his office said.

Sri Lanka also reopened the country for tourists, further easing restrictions on Friday for fully vaccinated travellers, except from India, and select African and South American countries, from where passengers are still barred entry into Sri Lanka.

**Vaccine coverage**  
According to government sources, the island nation is counting on the possible revival of its tourism sector to face its severe economic crisis, of draining foreign reserves in the face of a daunting debt repayment



A woman receiving the Sinopharm vaccine in Colombo. ■ AFP/FILE

schedule in the coming months.

Beginning in January this year, Sri Lanka has been administering Covishield, Sinopharm, Sputnik and Pfizer vaccines, and a majority of those vaccinated has got Sinopharm jabs.

Data published by the Epidemiology Unit of the Ministry of Health showed that, as of Thursday, more than 51 lakh people have obtained their first shot, with nearly 80% of them receiving Sinopharm.

Over 16 lakh people – or nearly 8% of the adult population – have received both doses, and over 70% of them took Sinopharm.

**Japan to send doses**  
Meanwhile, with some 5 lakh people awaiting their second dose of AstraZeneca, Colombo has been trying to tap other sources, after India stopped exporting vaccines.

Earlier this week, Japan said it would provide 1.45 million doses of AstraZeneca Vaccine Manufactured in Japan to Sri Lanka.

On Friday, the country received 1.5 million doses of the Moderna vaccine from the United States, through the 'COVAX Facility'.

## Riots in Tripoli amid Western push for peace

## ASSOCIATED PRESS BEIRUT

Tension intensified in Lebanon on Friday, with riots leaving more than two dozen people injured in the northern city of Tripoli, including five soldiers who were attacked with a hand grenade.

France, the European Union and the U.S. in the meantime called on Lebanese politicians to urgently form a Cabinet and planned an international conference to help stabilise Lebanon after a series of crises.

"All concerned parties need to work with urgency to put in place a government that's able to implement reforms immediately," tweeted U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

Residents were caught completely off guard by the torrent, dubbed the "flood of death" by Germany's top-selling daily *Bild*.

Streets and houses were submerged by water in some areas, while cars were left overturned on soaked streets after flood waters passed.

Some districts were completely cut off from the outside world. "Everything was under water within 15 minutes," Agron Berisha, a 21-year-old said.

Several people were feared dead in a landslide in northern Germany.

At least 24 people were confirmed dead in Euskirchen, one of the worst-affect-

ed towns just to the north.

"I fear that we will only see the full extent of the disaster in the coming days," Chancellor Angela Merkel said from Washington, where she met with President Joe Biden.

The number of casualties in Rhineland-Palatinate has reached 60, bringing the na-

tionality toll to at least 103, authorities said.

In Ahrweiler, around 1,300 people were unaccounted for, although local authorities told *Bild* the high number was likely due to damaged phone networks.

Luxembourg and the Netherlands were also hammered by heavy rains.

Some parts of western Europe received up to two months' worth of rainfall in two days, according to the World Meteorological Organization.

## Russian plane lands in field, 18 aboard safe

## ASSOCIATED PRESS MOSCOW

A small Russian passenger plane with 18 people on board made an emergency landing on Friday in Siberia after both engines failed, with the captain breaking his leg but no one else suffering serious injuries, authorities said.

Soon after the An-28 plane disappeared in the Tomsk region of western Siberia, rescue helicopters spotted it in a field. The plane landed with its gear extended but then overturned. A video from the site showed it lying upside down.

A rescue helicopter flew the passengers and crew to the city of Tomsk.

## Europe reels from worst floods in years, 126 dead

## AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE SCHULD

The death toll from devastating floods in Europe soared to at least 126 on Friday, most in western Germany where emergency responders were frantically searching for missing people.

Residents were caught completely off guard by the torrent, dubbed the "flood of death" by Germany's top-selling daily *Bild*.

Several people were feared dead in a landslide in northern Germany.

Streets and houses were submerged by water in some areas, while cars were left overturned on soaked streets after flood waters passed.

Some districts were completely cut off from the outside world. "Everything was under water within 15 minutes," Agron Berisha, a 21-year-old said.

Several people were feared dead in a landslide in northern Germany.

At least 24 people were confirmed dead in Euskirchen, one of the worst-affect-

ed towns just to the north.

"I fear that we will only

see the full extent of the disaster in the coming days," Chancellor Angela Merkel said from Washington, where she met with President Joe Biden.

The number of casualties in Rhineland-Palatinate has reached 60, bringing the na-

tionality toll to at least 103, authorities said.

In Ahrweiler, around 1,300 people were unaccounted for, although local authorities told *Bild* the high number was likely due to damaged phone networks.

Luxembourg and the Netherlands were also hammered by heavy rains.

Some parts of western Europe received up to two months' worth of rainfall in two days, according to the World Meteorological Organization.

## KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD Bengaluru Rural Co-ordinating Unit, Ground Floor, E-Block, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru.

No: KHB/EE/B.Lore Rural/Sira/Vadhagara/67/2021-22 Date: 15-07-2021

**Invitation Calling for Quotation**

Karnataka Housing Board invite quotations from Suppliers/Vendors/ Agencies for Non-SR Items for preparation of estimate purpose only for Proposed Construction of Modern Slaughter House at Cheelanahalli Village, Sira Taluk, Tumkur District.

Last Date for Submission of Quotation : 31-07-2021 upto 4.00 PM.

Please refer schedule of sealed particulars/Non-SR Items in the KHB website For Further information, contact below mentioned office Address.

Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru Rural Co-ordinating Unit, E-Block, Ground Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Telephone No: 080-22213511/080-2210077, AEE-9845600099 & EE-9448671002 Website : [https://khb.karnataka.gov.in](http://khb.karnataka.gov.in)

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Co-ordinating Unit Office, Bengaluru Rural.

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

6 Feet

Wear Mask

Follow Physical Distancing

Maintain Hand Hygiene

## Government of Odisha - "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE WORKS DEPARTMENT Bid Identification No.C.C.E.K.C., Keonjhar No. 06 / 2021-22

email - [sekcpwd\\_keonjhar@yahoo.com](mailto:sekcpwd_keonjhar@yahoo.com)

Letter No.2785, dt.14.07.2021

- 1. No of the work : 03 No. Bridge

## MARKET WATCH

	16-07-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	53,140	-0.04
US Dollar	74.57	-0.04
Gold	47,319	-0.26
Brent oil	72.74	-0.18

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	687.60	-11.50
Asian Paints	2989.30	5.70
Axis Bank	771.15	-3.00
Bajaj Auto	3931.95	-8.05
Bajaj Finserv	12745.70	-213.25
Bajaj Finance	6125.45	-4.25
Bharti Airtel	541.15	15.70
BPCL	448.00	0.95
Britannia Ind	3441.00	-19.85
Cipla	977.15	3.55
Coal India	145.55	-1.15
Divis Lab	4757.60	150.30
Dr Reddys Lab	5406.55	12.90
Eicher Motors	2617.25	-50.25
Grafix Ind	1572.30	15.05
HCL Tech	1005.00	-34.75
HDPC	2536.90	-3.20
HDFC Bank	1522.35	1.65
HDFC Life	698.00	4.35
Hero MotoCorp	2904.70	20.05
Hindustan	405.50	4.05
Hind Unilever	2417.40	5.05
ICICI Bank	660.30	-7.15
IndusInd Bank	1044.30	-10.80
Infosys	1555.45	-25.35
Indian Oil Corp	106.10	-0.20
ITC	207.90	1.65
JSW Steel	703.60	4.50
Kotak Bank	1749.50	-0.55
L&T	1618.75	9.40
M&M	779.80	-0.10
Maruti Suzuki	7303.55	-3.45
Nestle India Ltd.	17654.20	32.35
NTPC	119.10	-1.20
ONGC	116.80	-0.10
PowerGrid Corp	233.85	3.45
Reliance Ind	2112.40	30.05
SBI Life	1050.25	-2.70
State Bank	430.00	-1.70
Shree Cement	28096.15	-331.30
Sun Pharma	688.60	5.60
Tata Consumer Products Ltd.	763.00	-0.95
Tata Motors	311.25	1.00
Tata Steel	1278.45	22.50
TCS	3194.80	-8.15
Tech Mahindra	1103.15	-9.30
Titan	1695.35	-6.20
UltraTech Cement	7334.55	144.90
UPL	837.55	1.30
Wipro	577.75	1.85

## EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	74.36	74.68
Euro	87.76	88.14
British Pound	102.66	103.10
Japanese Yen (100)	67.46	67.75
Chinese Yuan	11.50	11.55
Swiss Franc	80.82	81.18
Singapore Dollar	54.87	55.13
Canadian Dollar	59.05	59.33
Malaysian Ringgit	17.68	17.77

Source: Indian Bank

## IN BRIEF



## Zomato IPO closes, subscribed 38 times

NEW DELHI  
Zomato's mega initial public offering (IPO) ended with 38 times subscription as institutional investors poured money to get a piece of the hottest online food delivery platform. Zomato got bids for 2,751.25 crore shares against 71.92 crore shares on offer, exchange data showed. The only category that wasn't fully subscribed was the shares reserved for the company's employees. PTI

## FedEx Express to invest \$100 mn in Delhi

MUMBAI  
FedEx Express, a subsidiary of leading global express transportation firm FedEx Corp., will invest \$100 million in e-commerce logistics platform Delhivery. FedEx Express will focus on international export and imports to and from India, and Delhivery will sell FedEx Express international products and services and provide pick-up and delivery services across India. PTI

## OYO raises \$660 million from global investors

NEW DELHI  
Hospitality firm OYO on Friday said it has raised TLB funding of \$660 million (almost ₹4,920 crore) from global institutional investors and the capital will be used for paring debt and other business investments. The offer was oversubscribed by 1.7 times, OYO said. TLB refers to a tranche of senior secured syndicated credit facility from global institutional investors. PTI

## Five Kirloskar firms plan customer-centric pivot

MUMBAI  
Five Kirloskar companies, led by brothers Atul and Rahul Kirloskar, said they would undergo a transformation in a bid to make them future ready and customer centric, with innovation being at the core of the group's business philosophy. The five companies are Kirloskar Oil Engines, Kirloskar Chillers, Kirloskar Pneumatic, Kirloskar Ferrous Industries and Kirloskar Industries.

# India's June oil imports hit their lowest in nine months

Demand was muted in April, May after earlier uptick, leading to high inventories

REUTERS  
NEW DELHI

India's crude oil imports in June fell to their lowest in nine months, as refiners curtailed purchases amid higher fuel inventories due to low consumption and renewed COVID-19 lockdowns in the previous two months.

The world's third-biggest oil importer and consumer, India shipped in about 3.9 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude last month, about 7% down from May, but 22% higher from year-earlier levels, tanker arrival data obtained from trade sources showed. India is the second major importer in Asia, after China, to post a slump in last month's crude imports.



Piling up: Refiners had enough inventory of refined fuel leaving little scope to raise crude imports. ■REUTERS

After an uptick in India's fuel demand in February and March, the country's refiners cranked up crude processing and oil imports, said an Indian refining official who declined to be named as

he is not authorised to speak to media. However, fuel demand fell sharply in April and May after the government imposed restrictions to curb a second wave of infections, leaving refiners with

high fuel inventories.

"We had enough inventory of refined fuel so there was little scope to raise crude imports," the source said, adding that exports were unattractive as profits were low.

Crude imports between April and June, however, rose 11.7% year-on-year to 4.1 million bpd as the lockdown curbs were not as severe as last year when COVID-19 first hit the nation.

Last month, Iraq stayed as the top oil supplier to India, followed by Saudi Arabia. The United Arab Emirates climbed four notches to emerge as third-biggest supplier while Nigeria rose from No.4 to No.5 in May.

## Paytm parent files with SEBI for ₹16,600-cr. IPO

One97 to issue ₹8,300 cr. fresh shares

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

One97 Communications, the parent company of digital payment services provider Paytm, has filed a draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with markets regulator SEBI for an initial public offering of ₹16,600 crore.

The firm would issue fresh shares worth ₹8,300 crore with a face value of ₹1 each. Existing shareholders, including founder and CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma, Antfin (Netherlands) Holdings and Alibaba.com Singapore E-commerce Pvt. Ltd. would offload stakes worth ₹8,300 crore.

From the net proceeds, the company proposes to in-



vest ₹4,300 crore in growing and strengthening the Paytm ecosystem. Further, ₹2,000 crore would be invested in new business initiatives, acquisitions and strategic partnerships.

The company's loss for FY21 narrowed to ₹1,701 crore compared with a loss of ₹2,942 crore for FY20. Total income dropped almost 10% to ₹3,186 crore.

## 'Curbs on Mastercard to hit card issuance by five banks'

Axis, Yes, IndusInd, RBL among affected banks: Nomura

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Five private sector banks, including Axis Bank, Yes Bank, and IndusInd Bank, are to be impacted by the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) decision to ban Mastercard from issuing new cards for not complying with local data storage guidelines, according to a report.

HDFC Bank would also have been affected but the lender is already facing restrictions by the RBI on issuance of new cards (debit, credit or prepaid). Besides, Bajaj Finserv and SBI Card may face problems as they were also issuing cards of

this payment gateway.

As per the report by global brokerage Nomura, in all, seven financial institutions would not be able to issue new cards as they sourced significant numbers from Mastercard. Issuance of new cards via another payment gateway would



## U.S. June retail sales post surprise rebound

Vaccines, stimulus help buoy buying

REUTERS  
WASHINGTON

U.S. retail sales unexpectedly increased in June as demand for goods remained strong even as spending is shifting back to services, bolstering expectations that economic growth accelerated in the second quarter.

The rebound in sales reported by the Commerce Department on Friday was despite purchases of motor vehicles declining again because of a lack of supply caused by a global semiconductor shortage. The scarcity of new motor vehicles is boosting demand for used cars and trucks, helping to fuel inflation.

Vaccinations, low interest rates and the fiscal stimulus underpinned retail sales.

"Many retailers are benefiting from increased traffic in stores as well as higher



prices for items on the shelves, a much-needed bounce back for many service sector businesses," said Ben Ayers, senior economist at Nationwide.

## RIL arm to buy ₹3,497-cr. stake in Just Dial

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd., an arm of Reliance Industries Ltd., is set to acquire a 41% stake in search and database firm Just Dial Ltd. for ₹3,497 crore.

Under the deal, Just Dial would make a preferential allotment of 2.12 crore equity shares (equivalent to 25.33% post-preferential share capital) to RRVL at ₹1,022.25 a share and RRVL would acquire 1.31 crore equity shares (15.62%) from Just Dial MD V.S.S. Mani at ₹1,020 apiece.

RRVL will also make an open offer to buy an additional 26% stake of Just Dial from public shareholders.

"The capital infused by RRVL will help drive the growth of Just Dial into a comprehensive local listing and commerce platform," RRVL said.



## Enhance Your Olympics Quotient

with

THE HINDU  
Youngworld

TREASURE IN YOUR HANDS

## OLYMPICS SPECIAL ISSUE

Releasing on 23rd July 2021

### OLYMPICS 2021

History | New sports | Future prospects  
Lesser-known facts | Unbroken records  
Stats, venues & events | Olympic Day Run

### INDIAN OLYMPIC STARS

Anecdotes | Biographies  
Sports people to look out for

### FUN CORNER

Books | Quiz | Crossword | Movies



SCAN FOR  
MORE DETAILS

## PRE-BOOK YOUR COPY WITH YOUR NEWSAGENT TODAY

to receive this special issue along with your copy of The Hindu

For further queries, call 1800 102 1878 | For bulk bookings, email reach.youngworld@thehindu.co.in

For Print Subscription, visit [www.thehindu.com/youngworld](http://www.thehindu.com/youngworld)

Collector's Edition @  
Rs. ₹10\*  
Per Copy

This pdf was originally uploaded to Brills Express Official ([https://t.me/The\\_Hindu\\_Express](https://t.me/The_Hindu_Express)) before anyone else. Don't forget to join backup channel Thehindu000

THE HINDU  
SATURDAY, JULY 17, 2021

Items and Conditions apply

# Fearless Indians have Tokyo in their sights

The unflinching ability to hit the bull's eye in finals has helped the squad dominate in recent years



Gunning for gold: The Manu-Saurabh and Elavenil-Divyansh pairs will be keen to showcase their potential while Apurvi, centre, will be eager to fire. ■ FILE PHOTOS

## TOKYO OLYMPICS SHOOTING

KAMESH SRINIVASAN

India's shooters have the bonus of bagging a rich haul of medals in Tokyo, after having drawn a blank in Rio.

In recent years, they have gained in strength and consolidated their dominance, topping the medals table in a series of World Cups from 2019, especially in rifle and pistol, in awe-inspiring fashion.

Even in the last World Cup, when the medals were hard to come by for the Indian team that was training in Osijek, Croatia, Asian Games gold medallist Rahi Sarnobat delivered a resounding gold in 25-metre sports pistol.

It is her second Olympics after London 2012, and the

30-year-old Rahi has the maturity and the technical acumen to silence the world in the fascinating event that demands accuracy at high speed.

The strength of the current Indian squad is its ability to shoot high scores in qualification and unflinchingly hit the bull's eye in the finals.

### Staying in the moment

The youngsters, such as Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary have no fear, as they stay in the moment and execute their technique, without allowing the pressure of expectations to weigh them down.

Manu has three chances to win medals in her maiden Olympics, while Saurabh has two. In the mixed event, introduced in this Olympics, they have been unbeatable, save for one instance, since

2019. In the shadow of Asian Games gold medallist Saurabh, lawyer Abhishek Verma has made remarkable progress. In 2019, Saurabh and Abhishek shared the gold in the four World Cups, two apiece.

Iranian Javad Foroughi has won two World Cup gold medals in air pistol this year to shift the focus away from the Indians breathing down his neck. The Chinese have stayed away from competition this season and could strike with a vengeance in the Olympics.

Apurvi Chandela and Elavenil Varalivan have been equally dominant in women's air rifle, making the gold an Indian preserve in three World Cups and a World Cup Final. Both have not been that sharp this season, and that will make them hungry to be at their best in Tokyo.

Divyansh Singh Panwar had finished 2019 as World No. 1 along with Saurabh and Elavenil. He had won the mixed gold with Elavenil in the Delhi World Cup in March, apart from individual bronze.

Yashaswini Singh Deswal is World No. 1 in women's air pistol and can make it lively with Abhishek in the mixed event as well.

World Championship silver medalist Anjum Moudgil, former World champion Tejaswini Sawant, two-time Olympian Sanjeev Rajput, Asian Games silver medalist Deepak Kumar and dynamic youngster Aishwary Pratap Tomar, who won gold in the demanding rifle 3-position event in the Delhi World Cup, have the ability to rise to the occasion.

In Tokyo, hope will spring every day when the Indian shooters are in action.

### The squad

#### ■ Men

**10m Air Rifle:** Divyansh Singh Panwar, Deepak Kumar. **10m Air Pistol:** Saurabh Chaudhary, Abhishek Verma. **50m Rifle 3 Position:**

Sanjeev Rajput, Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar.

**Skeet:** Angad Vir Singh Bajwa, Mairaj Ahmad Khan

#### ■ Women

**10m Air Rifle:** Apurvi Chandela, Elavenil Varalivan. **10m Air Pistol:**

Manu Bhaker, Yashaswini Singh Deswal. **25m Sports Pistol:**

Rahi Sarnobat, Manu Bhaker. **50m Rifle 3 Position:**

Anjum Moudgil, Tejaswini Sawant

**10m Air Rifle Mixed Team:**

Divyansh Singh Panwar and Elavenil Varalivan, Deepak Kumar and Anjum Moudgil

**10m Air Pistol Mixed Team:**

Saurabh Chaudhary and Manu Bhaker, Abhishek Verma and Yashaswini Singh Deswal

# Abhinav – lone individual to live the golden dream

India has won two silver and a bronze in last four Games

## REWIND

KAMESH SRINIVASAN

It was the unquenchable desire to excel, a systematic approach and the military discipline that fired Rajayvardhan Singh Rathore to the silver medal in the 2004 Athens Olympics.

With the nation having gained the confidence of reaching the Olympic podium after the bronze by tennis ace Leander Paes (Atlanta, 1996) and weightlifter Karnam Malleswari (Sydney, 2000), Rathore helped India take a bigger leap of faith with his prowess in double trap.

An unstable wooden flooring had robbed air rifle shooter Abhinav Bindra of a medal in Athens. Rathore had said then that Abhinav would be a World champion one day.

Abhinav, who became a World champion in 2006 in Zagreb, beat defending champion Zhu Qinian in his backyard for the gold in the Beijing Olympics in 2008.

The Athens experience had helped Abhinav to be detached about the result, and prepare to be the best. A misaligned rifle before the final could have shaken the hardest of competitors, but Abhinav tuned it in no time to deliver 10 best shots that helped him overcome a two-point deficit before the final!

At London in 2012, Vijay Kumar captured the rapid fire silver medal, while Gagan Narang narrowly missed the silver in air rifle.

Two medals had given hopes of a bright future. However, it was not to be in Rio, in 2016. India drew a blank in shooting.

Abhinav missed a medal by 0.1 point. Jitu Rai made the air pistol final and narrowly missed the free pistol final.

Gurpreet Singh missed the rapid fire final after placing seventh. Mairaj Ahmad Khan missed the skeet final



On the podium: Abhinav struck gold at Beijing 2008, Rathore (2004) and Vijay (2012) silver and Gagan bronze in 2012.

## Roll of honour

**Gold:** Abhinav Bindra (10m Air Rifle), 2008 Beijing

**Silver:** Rajayvardhan Singh Rathore (Double Trap), 2004 Athens; Vijay Kumar (25m Rapid Fire Pistol), 2012 London

**Bronze:** Gagan Narang (10m Air Rifle), 2012 London

in the shoot-off.

It is time to revisit the glorious past, and enhance the glory in Tokyo.

# Hamilton pips Verstappen in qualifying

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE SILVERSTONE

World champion Lewis Hamilton edged out title rival Max Verstappen in British Grand Prix qualifying on Friday to take the top spot on the grid for the sport's first ever sprint race.

Hamilton clocked 1m 6.134s in his Mercedes to beat Red Bull's Verstappen, the championship leader, with Valtteri Bottas third fastest in the second Mercedes.

Saturday's inaugural sprint race, the first of three this season, will be over 100km and will decide the starting positions for Sunday's main event.

# 'Impossible to wear mask all the time'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA MUSCAT

BCCI president Sourav Ganguly said it is "physically impossible" to wear a mask all the time since protocols in the United Kingdom have been relaxed, as he backed the Indian contingent after Rishabh Pant contracted the virus.

"We have seen Euro and Wimbledon in England. Rules have changed (with crowd being allowed inside venues). They were on leave and it's physically impossible to wear mask all the time," Ganguly told News18.

ing to become the first debutant after Ben Curtis in 2003 to win the British Open.

Phil Mickelson will miss the weekend after a poor show (10-over & two-over).



## TOKYO TITBITS



Mirabai Chanu arrives for the Olympics

TOKYO Ace Indian weightlifter Saikhou Mirabai Chanu on Friday arrived in Tokyo for the Olympic Games. Mirabai underwent a 50-day training in the United States, under the watchful eyes of national coach Vijay Sharma and assistant coach Sandip Kumar, which was sanctioned by the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), as per Olympics.com. The 49kg category weightlifter is accompanied by coaches Vijay, Sandip and Pramod Sharma, and physio Alap Jayadekar for the mega event. ANI

Djokovic says he will play Olympics 'with much pride' PARIS World No. 1 Novak Djokovic said on Thursday he will play at the Tokyo Olympics, giving him the opportunity to achieve the first calendar Golden Slam by a male player. "I booked my flight for Tokyo and will proudly be joining #TeamSerbia for the Olympics," tweeted Djokovic in English. "With much pride I'm packing for Tokyo and joining our national team in the fight for the brightest medals at the Olympic arenas," he then tweeted in Serbian. AFP



# Oosthuizen stays on top; Morikawa makes waves

## BRITISH OPEN

REUTERS SANDWICH (UK)

Louis Oosthuizen had another perfect day as his five-under in the second round kept him on top at the 149th British Open at Royal St. George's on Friday.

The 38-year-old South African, who had started with a six-under, was 11-under overall, two clear of American Collin Morikawa.

The latter showed no signs of inexperience as he climbed to the second spot with a six-under. Morikawa is making his first appearance at the Open and is trying

to become the first debutant after Ben Curtis in 2003 to win the British Open.

Phil Mickelson will miss the weekend after a poor show (10-over & two-over).

# India, Pakistan clubbed together for mega event

## T20 WORLD CUP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA DUBAI

Rivals India and Pakistan have been drawn in the same group at this year's T20 World Cup, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced on Friday.

They will be joined in Group 2 of the Super 12s (second round) by World Test champion New Zealand and Afghanistan as well as two qualifiers from round one.

The tournament is set to take place in Oman and the United Arab Emirates from October 17 to November 14. BCCI remains the 'host'.

**The groupings:**

**Round 1: Group A:** Sri Lanka, Ireland, Netherlands, Namibia;

**Group B:** Bangladesh, Scotland, Papua New Guinea, Oman

**Super 12s: Group 1:** England, Australia, South Africa, West Indies, A1, and B2.

**Group 2:** India, Pakistan, New Zealand, Afghanistan, A2, and B1.

Adhiban (Adhiban wins 2-0); Aravindh Chithambaram lost to Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb); Abdusattorov wins 1.5-0.5); Sanan Sjugirov (Rus) lost to Nihal Sarim (Nihal wins 1.5-0.5); P. Harikrishna bt Yasser Quesada Perez (Cub); (Harikrishna wins 1.5-0.5); Gabriel Sargisian (Arm) lost to R. Praggnanandhaa; (Praggnanandhaa wins 2-0).

**Women:** Natalia Pogonina (Rus) bt Bhakti Kulkarni (Pogonina wins 1.5-0.5); D. Harika w/o. Medina Warda Aulia (Inda) (Harika wins 2-0); Padmini Rout drew with Sarasadat Khamdemasharieh (Iri); R. Vaishnavi lost to Bela Khotenashvili (Geo) (Bela wins 2-0).

# Pragg progresses

## CHESS WC

RAKESH RAO NEW DELHI

Continuing his impressive display, R. Praggnanandhaa knocked out higher-rated Armenian Grandmaster Gabriel Sargissian 2-0 for a place in the third round of World Cup chess in Sochi on Friday.

**Indian results (second round, game 2):** Men: Daniil Dubov (Rus) drew with D. Gukesh; Evgeny Tomashevsky (Rus) bt P. Iniyar (Tomashevsky wins 2-0); Vidit Gujrathi drew with Alexander Fier (Bra); Neuris Delgado Ramirez (Par) lost to B.

**Women:** Natalia Pogonina (Rus) bt Bhakti Kulkarni (Pogonina wins 1.5-0.5); D. Harika w/o. Medina Warda Aulia (Inda) (Harika wins 2-0); Padmini Rout drew with Sarasadat Khamdemasharieh (Iri); R. Vaishnavi lost to Bela Khotenashvili (Geo) (Bela wins 2-0).

## IN BRIEF



Shanaka to lead Lanka

COLOMBO Dasun Shanaka has replaced the injured Kusal Perera as skipper for white-ball series against India, starting here on July 18.

**The squad:** Dasun Shanaka (Capt.), Dhananjaya De Silva (vice-capt.), Avishka Fernando, Bhanuka Rajapaksa, Pathum Nissanka, Charith Asalanka, Wanindu Hasaranga, Ashen Bandara, Minod Bhanuka, Lahiru Uda, Ramesh Mendis, Chamika Karunaratne, Dushmantha Chameera, Lakshan Sandakan, Akila Dhananjaya, Shiran Fernando, Dhananjaya Lakshman, Ishan Jayaratne, Praveen Jayawickrama, Asith Fernando, Kasun Rajitha, Lahiru Kumara and Isuru Udana. PTI

**Liton, Shakib star in Bangladesh's big win**

HARARE Bangladesh opening batsman and wicketkeeper Liton Das' century set up a 155-run victory over Zimbabwe on Friday in the first of three ODIs. The tourists made 276 for nine off 50 overs before left-arm spinner Shakib Al Hasan took five for 30 as Zimbabwe were all out for 121.

**The scores:** Bangladesh 276/9 in 50 overs (Liton Das 102, Afif Hossain 45) bt Zimbabwe 121 in 28.5 overs (Regis Chakabva 54, Shakib Al Hasan 5/30).

This pdf was originally uploaded to Brills Express Official ([https://t.me/The\\_Hindu\\_Express](https://t.me/The_Hindu_Express)) before anyone else. Don't forget to join backup channel Thehindu000

A ND-NDE

## TV PICKS

**Golf:** The Open Championship, Eurosport (SD & HD), 2.30 p.m. & 9.45 p.m.  
**F1:** Silverstone GP (Qualifying), SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.; **Sprint Qualifying,** SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 9 p.m.  
**Tour de France:** Eurosport (SD & HD), 8 p.m.  
**NBA:** SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 6.30 a.m. (Sunday)

## IN BRIEF



Arthur Melo to miss start of Serie A season

**TURIN** Juventus FC midfielder Arthur Melo will miss the start of the new Serie A season after he was slated for surgery to resolve an injury that has been dragging on since February. The Brazil international will be forced to sit on the sidelines across the next two months, ruling him out of the Bianconeri's domestic openers. ANI

**William Saliba joins Marseille on loan**

**LONDON** Arsenal defender William Saliba is set for his third loan spell after Ligue 1 side Olympique de Marseille signed him for the 2021-22 season, the Premier League club said on Thursday. REUTERS

**Spezia gets two-year transfer ban**

**ZURICH** American-owned Italian club Spezia was hit with a two-year transfer ban by FIFA on Friday for breaking transfer rules when it recruited young players from Africa. FIFA said the case involved the Serie A club "bringing several Nigerian minors into Italy using a scheme aimed at circumventing (transfer of minor rules) as well as national immigration law." AP

# Bach visits Hiroshima to mark first day of Olympic Truce

Protestors raise slogans against holding the event in pandemic-affected time

## TOKYO OLYMPICS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**HIROSHIMA** IOC President Thomas Bach got a mixed reception in his visit on Friday to Hiroshima to mark the first day of the so-called Olympic Truce.

Bach's vice president John Coates also appeared on Friday in Nagasaki, the second city that was hit by an American atomic bomb in 1945.

Bach and Coates have been meeting daily with Japanese officials from Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga to Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike, repeating their message that the Olympics will be "safe and secure." He was accompanied to Hiroshima by Seiko Hashimoto, the president of the Tokyo Olympic organising committee.

Bach laid a wreath and ob-



**Solemn moment:** IOC president Thomas Bach pays his respects after laying a wreath at the Peace Memorial Park cenotaph in Hiroshima. ■ REUTERS

served a minute of silence in the rain in front of the Peace Memorial Park cenotaph. Faint voices of protesters, who were kept at a distance, could be heard shouting "go home Bach" and "you're not welcome here."

Dozens of protesters were seen near the Atomic Bomb Dome with signs that read "Cancel The Olympics" and "No Bach."

"You should understand you are not welcome here," one protester said, speaking

into a microphone.

"The COVID-19 situation is getting worse, it hasn't come to an end, and I wonder why this has to go ahead," said Sayuri Yamada, who identified herself as a medical worker. She was not among the protesters.

## Unnecessary risks

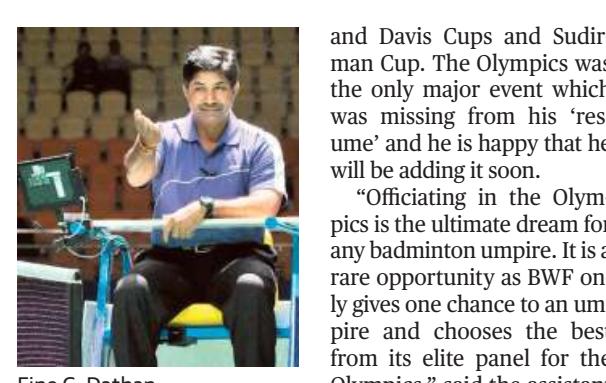
She said she did not oppose Bach's visit, but raised questions about running unnecessary risks for the Olympics. "It's not that I don't want him to come absolutely," she said. "But rather, thinking about the safety of people, including the athletes, my opinion is like he doesn't have to do this at a time when the risk is high."

Takayoshi Kayano, who said he was an office worker, respected Bach's right to visit but raised other issues.

vile. The BWF grades its umpire and I must have got the maximum grading points to make the cut for Olympics."

A former Kerala University player, Fine passed the NIS diploma course and also coached the Kerala Schools badminton team for almost eight years. Fine, who started his umpiring career in 1994, is thankful to KBA's former secretary S. Muralidharan in mentoring him.

"It is a great gesture from KBA to grant me a financial assistance of ₹1 lakh. It feels good to be recognised at home. I wish to thank Murali sir for guiding me in my career," he said.



Fine C. Dathan. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

umpire after having officiated in practically all major tournaments including the Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, World Championships, Super Series, Thomas

and Davis Cups and Sudirman Cup. The Olympics was the only major event which was missing from his 'resume' and he is happy that he will be adding it soon.

"Officiating in the Olympics is the ultimate dream for any badminton umpire. It is a rare opportunity as BWF only gives one chance to an umpire and chooses the best from its elite panel for the Olympics," said the assistant professor of physical education.

"I became a BWF elite panel umpire in 2014 and I have officiated in all major tournaments around the world and witnessed some memorable matches from close. It is a privilege. The BWF grades its

umpire and I must have got the maximum grading points to make the cut for Olympics."

A former Kerala University player, Fine passed the NIS diploma course and also coached the Kerala Schools badminton team for almost eight years. Fine, who started his umpiring career in 1994, is thankful to KBA's former secretary S. Muralidharan in mentoring him.

"It is a great gesture from KBA to grant me a financial assistance of ₹1 lakh. It feels good to be recognised at home. I wish to thank Murali sir for guiding me in my career," he said.

## Umpire Fine on the threshold of history

Has been nominated by BWF to officiate at the Summer Games

## BADMINTON

M.R. PRAVEEN CHANDRAN  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

It is nearly two years since he last officiated a badminton match, but international umpire Fine C. Dathan is not worried.

He is the only umpire from India who has been nominated by Badminton World Federation (BWF) to officiate in the Tokyo Olympics. Fine C. Dathan is confident of his ability and COVID-19 induced restrictions, which forced him to miss a few international tournaments, doesn't bother him.

Fine is on the threshold of an unique achievement as an

umpire after having officiated in practically all major tournaments including the Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, World Championships, Super Series, Thomas

and Davis Cups and Sudirman Cup. The Olympics was the only major event which was missing from his 'resume' and he is happy that he will be adding it soon.

"Officiating in the Olympics is the ultimate dream for any badminton umpire. It is a rare opportunity as BWF only gives one chance to an umpire and chooses the best from its elite panel for the Olympics," said the assistant professor of physical education.

"I became a BWF elite panel umpire in 2014 and I have officiated in all major tournaments around the world and witnessed some memorable matches from close. It is a

privilege. The BWF grades its

umpire and I must have got the maximum grading points to make the cut for Olympics."

A former Kerala University player, Fine passed the NIS diploma course and also coached the Kerala Schools badminton team for almost eight years. Fine, who started his umpiring career in 1994, is thankful to KBA's former secretary S. Muralidharan in mentoring him.

"It is a great gesture from KBA to grant me a financial assistance of ₹1 lakh. It feels good to be recognised at home. I wish to thank Murali sir for guiding me in my career," he said.

## Lando Norris not in 'perfect condition'

Was mugged after Euro 2020 final

## BRITISH GP

ANI  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

McLaren Racing's Lando Norris admits he is "not in the perfect condition" for the British GP after he was mugged following the Euro 2020 final at Wembley last weekend.

The 21-year-old had his £40,000 watch stolen en route to his McLaren sports car just outside Wembley. The British motor racing team then revealed that a police investigation is underway and, although Lando was left unhurt, he was still in shock after the incident.

Norris was one of many sporting figures and celebrities present at Sunday's showpiece alongside former England's player David Beckham and Hollywood star Tom Cruise. Speaking to Sky Sports, four days after the incident at Silverstone on Thursday, Norris opened up on a physically and men-



Lando Norris. ■ GETTY IMAGES

tally tough experience, also admitting he had been struggling to sleep since.

"I'm fine... but I've been better, I can say that. I'm not in perfect condition, I'm not going to lie," said Norris, home favourite for this weekend's F1 race.

McLaren Racing can confirm that Lando Norris was involved in an incident, after the Euro 2020 final match at Wembley, during which the watch he was wearing was taken," McLaren stated in a release on Monday.

## Kane 'our player' says new Spurs boss Nuno

Shoots off a stern warning to clubs looking to woo the striker

## FOOTBALL

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
LONDON

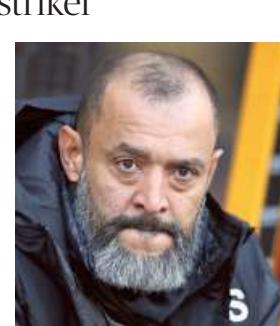
Tottenham manager Nuno Espírito Santo issued a hands off warning to clubs interested in Harry Kane on Friday amid speculation over the England captain's future.

Kane is reportedly keen to leave his boyhood club this summer in the search for the first silverware of his career.

Premier League champion Manchester City has been strongly linked with a move for Kane as it looks to replace all-time top goalscorer Sergio Aguero, who has moved to Barcelona on a free transfer.

But former Wolves boss Nuno, who was appointed as José Mourinho's successor, is expecting his prized asset to return to Tottenham for pre-season training.

"Harry is our player. That is period. No need to talk



Nuno Espírito Santo. ■ FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

about anything else," said the Portuguese, who was finally appointed on June 30, over two months on from Mourinho's sacking.

"Now is the moment for Harry to recover his energy and when Harry comes again we will have time to speak and have good conversations. I am looking forward to him joining the group and start working together. Harry is one of the best players in the world, that is all there is to say."

## Vijender flags former athletes' employment issue

'They were stars at the peak of their careers and should get what they deserve'

## GENERAL

Y.B. SARANGI  
KOLKATA

Olympics and World championships medallist boxer Vijender Singh has highlighted the concern of some famous former athletes, who have been employed with Haryana Police for several years.

Vijender, who has taken to social media to raise the issue, said these athletes should be treated with respect.

"On one hand you are promoting 'Cheer For India' and on the other hand you are not giving them promotions. They were stars at the



Vijender Singh. ■ FILE PHOTO

peak of their careers. They should get what they deserve," said Vijender.

"They fulfil all terms and conditions. Someone like (hockey player) Manita Kharab was appointed in 2007 and (wrestler) Geetika Jak-

har in 2008 but they have not got promotions yet.

"In Punjab, (shooter) Harveen Srao and (hockey player) Jugraj Singh have been promoted. It's about respecting an athlete who has performed at the highest level," said Vijender.

Nine sportspersons, most of them Arjuna award winners, were appointed as Deputy Superintendents of Police between 2007 and 2010.

They include inaugural World T20 cricket star Jignesh Sharma, former hockey captain Sardar Singh, boxers Akhil Kumar and Jitender Kumar, World championships medalist wrestler Ramesh Gulia, hockey player

Surinder Kaur and mountaineer Mamta Sodha apart from Mamta Kharab and Geetika Jakhar.

Olympic medallists Vijender and Yogeshwar Dutt and hockey player Sandeep Singh, who is now a minister in the Haryana government, were also in the list until they resigned from their jobs to join politics.

"Most of them were employed with the Railways and other top organisations before switching jobs and would have reached higher ranks (had they continued today)," said Vijender, adding that such apathy would only discourage up-and-coming athletes.

## de Minaur tests COVID positive; withdraws

## TENNIS

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
TOKYO

Australian tennis player Alex de Minaur has tested positive for COVID-19 and has withdrawn from the Tokyo Olympics.

The Australian Olympic team's chef de mission Ian Chesterman told media in Tokyo on Friday that de Minaur was "shattered" over the news.

"We are very disappointed for Alex," Chesterman said. "It has been his dream to represent Australia at the Olympic Games since he was a child." De Minaur, Australia's top-ranked men's player at No. 17, was scheduled to play both singles and doubles. It was unclear if de Minaur's doubles partner John Pearce would maintain his spot on the team.

"Alex undertook both the 96-hour and 72-hour PCR test as required by the Japanese authorities and unfortunately both returned a positive result," the Australian Olympic Committee said in a statement from Sydney.

"He was due to fly to Tokyo on July 18 from his base in Spain. Alex has not been in contact with other members of the Australian Olympic team since returning a negative test on July 5th."

Chesterman said de Minaur returned a negative test at Wimbledon.



Alex de Minaur. ■ AFP

## Ugandan weightlifter goes missing

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
TOKYO

Local officials were searching for an Ugandan weightlifter Julius Ssekitleko, who went missing in western Japan on Friday in a case raising questions over Japanese organisers' oversight of Olympic participants amid local coronavirus concerns.

The missing 20-year-old man was training as part of the nine-member Ugandan team in Izumisano, Osaka prefecture, city officials said.

Teammates realised the athlete was absent around noon on Friday when his saliva test sample was not delivered and they found his hotel room empty, city officials said.

After failing to find him inside the hotel, officials notified police for a broader search. There was no 24-hour monitoring at the hotel officials said.

## Mohoric pedals to stage 19 win

His team Bahrain Victorious subjected to search on Thursday

## TOUR DE FRANCE

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE  
LIBOURNE

Bahrain Victorious' Slovenian rider Matej Mohoric won stage 19 of the Tour de France on Friday, a day after his team hotel and bus were subjected to a huge police swoop.

It was Mohoric's second win on this edition of the Tour, and was achieved after he joined an early break and then broke clear for a solo win at Libourne, with the main peloton several minutes adrift.

Mohoric made a gesture at the finish line running a finger across his lips horizontally after the team's third victory of this year's race.

The Bahrain Victorious rider has vehemently denied



Matej Mohoric cooling off after his win. ■ REUTERS

any anti-doping offences and instead insisted his Tour preparations had been hit by missing out on a massage and meal after the overnight Wednesday police raid. No charges have been announced as yet although legal proceedings are underway.