



Jairam Ramesh calls for a transparent policy in allocating vaccines

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Take action against illegal adoption of orphans, says SC

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BRICS opposes exceptionalism, says China's Wang Wenbin

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Unseeded Zidansek makes it to semifinals, to meet Pavlyuchenkova

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## NEARBY



Active COVID cases fall below 5,000 in Delhi

NEW DELHI  
The downward trend in COVID-19 cases continued in Delhi with active cases falling below 5,000 on Tuesday, said a health bulletin released by the government. The city reported 316 new cases over 24 hours, taking the total to 14,29,791.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

Involve RWAs in vaccine drive, HC tells Centre

NEW DELHI  
The Delhi High Court has asked the Centre to "seriously consider" involving Residents' Welfare Associations in organising vaccination drives within their respective colonies. "The Centre should seriously consider this proposal at the earliest," the court said.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

Ladakh reserves all jobs for local residents

Srinagar  
All jobs in the Union Territory of Ladakh have been reserved for local residents, stated an order issued on Tuesday. "No person shall be qualified for appointment to the service unless the person is a resident of the UT of Ladakh," read the order issued by L-G R.K. Mathur.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 8

OPPORTUNITIES ▶ BACK PAGE

# Centre places fresh orders for 44 cr. COVID-19 vaccine doses

Govt. also books 30 crore doses of vaccine under trial

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Centre has placed fresh orders for 44 crore vaccine doses of Covishield and Covaxin, which will be available from August-December. It has also placed an order for 30 crore doses of Corbevax, produced by Hyderabad-based Biological E

### Plan of Action

- In addition to 25 crore doses of Covishield and 19 crore doses of Covaxin, the Health Ministry has also placed an order for 30 crore doses of Corbevax, produced by Hyderabad-based Biological E
- It has released 30% as advance to these manufacturers and 74 crore doses are expected to be rolled out between August and December
- Corbevax is a protein sub-unit vaccine developed by the U.S.-based Baylor College of Medicine and Dynavax, a biopharmaceutical company. Biological E will be testing the vaccine in phase-3 clinical trials
- India has a target adult population of 94 crore that is eligible for vaccination, and 28.5 crore doses have already been administered

already administered – were expected from Serum Institute of India and Bharat Biotech.

If all the estimates were to come to fruition, it would mean 127 crore doses could be available, enough to en-

sure India's estimated population of about 94 crore gets one dose of vaccine.

However, a lot depends on the speed at which vaccines are disbursed.

After a lacklustre May that saw vaccine stocks and im-

### Price cap on jabs at private hospitals

The maximum price chargeable for Covishield is ₹780, for Covaxin ₹1,410 and for Sputnik V ₹1,145, the Union Health Ministry said on Tuesday. The Centre said it would continue to give the "highest priority" to healthcare workers for vaccination. ▶ PAGE 10

munisation plummet, the number of daily doses have started to rise after May 29, touching over 30 lakh on several days.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

MORE REPORTS PAGES ▶ 5, 9 & 10

# Nepal stops distribution of Coronil kits

Order says procedures not followed during procurement

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE  
NEW DELHI

Nepal's Department of Ayurveda and Alternative Medicines on Monday stopped distribution of Coronil kits that were gifted by the Patanjali group of Indian yoga teacher and businessman Ramdev.

Kathmandu's order cited

that proper procedures were not followed while procuring the 1,500 kits of Coronil that Patanjali claims are useful in dealing with the COVID-19 infection.

**Move to 'delink'**  
The issue has drawn attention as it is being interpreted as a move to delink the lead-

ing Madhesi political families from the Indian group.

The latest order of the Government of Nepal says, the tablets and nasal oil that are part of the Coronil kit are not equivalent to medicines to defeat COVID-19 virus.

Rumours about COVID-19 vaccines causing impotency and microchips being injected through them have de-

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

### New Election Commissioner appointed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind on Tuesday appointed Anup Chandra Pandey, a retired Uttar Pradesh-cadre IAS officer, to the post of Election Commissioner. The Law Ministry notified the appointment late on Tuesday evening.

Following the elevation of Sushil Chandra as the CEC, the position of an EC was vacant since April 13.

### JNU in list of top 1,000 varsities

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

JNU has entered the top 1,000 of the QS World University rankings for the first time, as its new undergraduate engineering programme now makes it eligible for the rating.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 8

## Mammoth task



**Safety first:** Nasal swab being collected from an elephant at a camp in Tamil Nadu's Mudumalai Tiger Reserve to test for COVID-19. A lioness died of suspected coronavirus infection in Vandular zoo, prompting the forest department to conduct more tests. ▶ M. SATHYAMOORTHY

# I thank Your Honour, schoolgirl tells CJI

She cites steps to handle pandemic; CJI lauds letter

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

A 10-year-old Kerala schoolgirl has written to Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana, saying how "happy and proud" she felt to see the Supreme Court make vital interventions to alleviate the sufferings of her fellow citizens in the grip of the pandemic.

"I am happy and feel proud your honourable court has moved orders for supply of oxygen and saved many lives. I understood your honourable court has initiated effective steps in bringing down COVID-19 and death rate in our country, especially in Delhi. I thank Your Ho-



**Thoughtful gesture:** The illustration that accompanied 10-year-old Lidwina Joseph's letter. ▶ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

nour for this. Now I feel very proud and happy," Lidwina Joseph, a Class V student from Thrissur in Kerala, wrote in the letter that the Supreme Court received towards May-end.

The handwritten letter, in the form of a scroll, is accompanied by a colourful illustration showing a bespectacled

judge using his gavel to give the coronavirus a knock on its head. A portrait of the Mahatma hangs from a wall behind the judge.

Chief Justice Ramana replied to Lidwina, saying "I have received your beautiful letter along with a heart-warming illustration of the judge at work". He conveyed that she was impressed by the way she kept track of the happenings in the country.

He particularly took note of the student's concern for the well-being of her compatriots. "I am sure you will grow up into an alert, informed and responsible citizen who will contribute immensely towards nation-building," he said.

Chief Justice Ramana also sent her a signed copy of the Constitution.

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## 'Ensure no break in studies of children hit by pandemic'

Supreme Court accepts amicus curiae's suggestion

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has ordered the States and the Union Territories to ensure there is no break in the education of children orphaned due to COVID-19.

"The State governments/Union Territories are directed to make provisions for continuance of education of the children both in government as well as in private schools," a Bench of Justices L. Nageswara Rao and Aniruddha Bose ordered.

Mr. Agrawal had recommended the court to intervene and direct the States to make sure that the children impacted by the pandemic continue in the same school.

The order, published on Tuesday, came after amicus curiae, advocate Gaurav Agrawal, voiced concerns that even children studying in private schools should continue in the same institutions for at least the next six months until some further



arrangements could be worked out.

"We accept the suggestion made by the amicus curiae. The State government/Union Territory administrations should ensure that there is no break in the education of children who have become orphans or lost either parent during the pandemic," the Supreme Court ordered.

The Bench said it would examine other issues related to COVID-19 impacted children, including protection of their property rights of the children, their further education and employment opportunities and special care to be taken in respect of the girl child. These issues would be taken up in the next hearing on June 27.

# Free rice offer boosts vaccination drive

Circle officer in Arunachal hit upon idea to push those above 45 years to take jab

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

An administrative circle in Arunachal Pradesh has scaled up vaccination among those above 45 years of age with a free rice offer.

terred many in the North-east, specifically those above 45 years, from taking the jab. Requests and threats have not worked in districts such as Baksa in Assam, which have among the lowest vaccination coverage in India.

Tashi Wangchuk Thongdok, the circle officer of Yaza-li in Lower Subansiri district

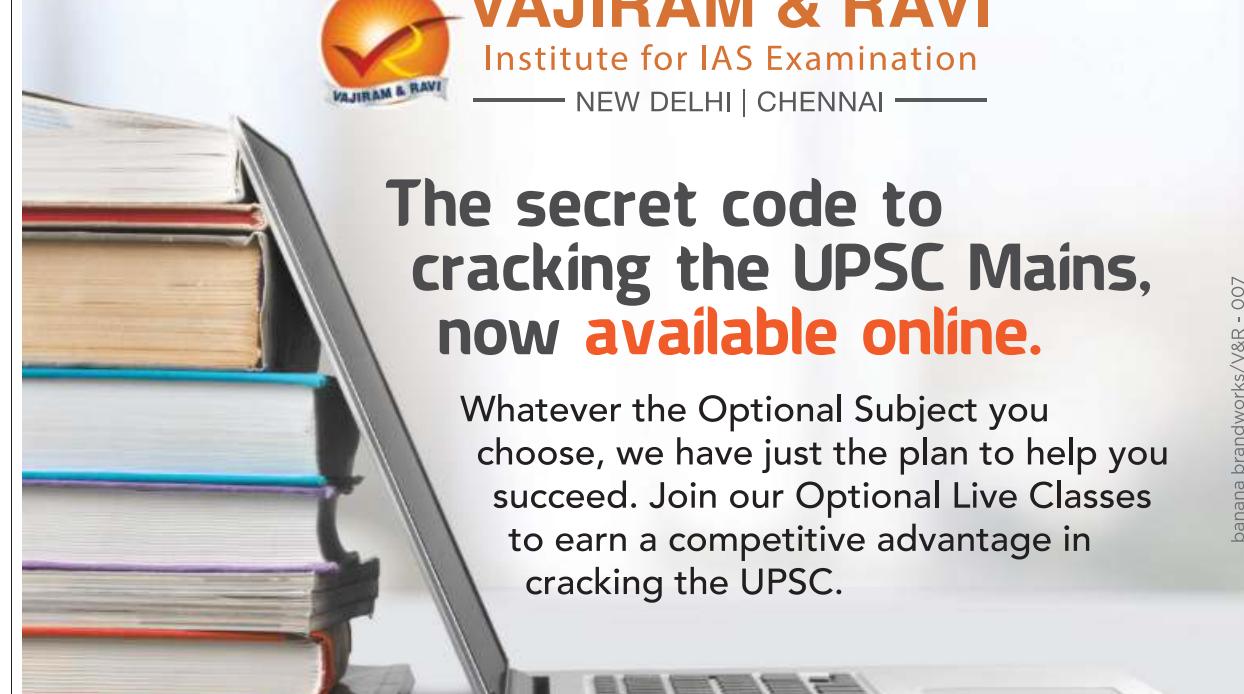
the vaccination coverage in the Yazali circle. We wish to continue giving away free rice until we achieve 100% coverage by June 20," Mr. Thongdok, a 2016-batch officer of Arunachal Pradesh Civil Service, said. He thanked two local activists – Taba Nagu and Lich Birbal – for donating the rice for distribution.

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**Eyewitness in wrestler case moves HC for protection**

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

An eyewitness in the wrestler Sagar Dhankar case has moved a writ petition in Delhi High Court, seeking protection for him and his family.

The witness claimed that nine accused have been arrested in the present case, so far.

The accused – Mohit, Bhupender, Manjeet and Gulab – have previous involvements in heinous cases; all of them are from Haryana. They were called by accused Sushil Kumar during the brawl.

During investigation, it is learnt that some of the accused persons are members of dreaded gangs operating in Delhi and adjoining States.

On June 2, the HC gave directions to take steps under the witness protection scheme, 2018 before the competent authority.

**'Sushil is influential'**  
The witness claimed that the accused, Sushil Kumar, is an international wrestler, rich and is an influential person. There is an apprehension that the accused may cause harm to the victims/witnesses in the case. The case is very sensitive and widely covered by the media.

In view of the above, there is very much apprehension that the accused persons may cause any harm to the above-mentioned star witnesses of the case. It is, therefore, requested that adequate security may please be provided to the above-mentioned victims of the case as per the provisions of Delhi Witness Protection Scheme, 2018, as per Delhi HC order.

## Sushil Kumar seeks special food in jail

Court to pronounce its order today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court will pronounce its order on Olympic medalist wrestler Sushil Kumar's application seeking special food and supplements in the prison, where he is lodged in connection with the alleged murder of a young wrestler, on Wednesday.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Satvir Singh Lamba reserved the order after hearing the contentions of prosecution and defence at length. Sushil, who is facing charges of murder, culpable homicide and kidnapping, is currently lodged in Delhi's Mandoli jail.

In the plea, Sushil's counsels advocate Pradeep Rana, Kumar Vaibhaw and Satwik Misra stated that their client takes supplements like isolate whey protein, omega 3 capsules, jointment capsules, pre-workout C4 and Hyde, multivitamin GNC, exercise bands etc.

The application added that denial of these basic re-



Wrestler Sushil Kumar on his way to court. ■ FILE PHOTO

quirements will have a huge implication on his career, as the special nutrition diet and supplements are extremely necessary for him to maintain his health and performance.

However, the jail authorities in their reply to the court have stated that Sushil's medical condition does not require food supplements or an extra protein diet as an "additional diet".

Advocate Rana said that the special diet and supplements have been sought at Sushil's personal expenses and not of the jail authorities.

## Policemen find it tough to ensure social distancing in busy markets

District police also deployed to manage traffic; over 1,200 fined on Day 1 of 'unlock'

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The police on Tuesday said they are finding it "tough" to ensure social distancing in busy markets since the unlock process, which began on Monday.

"We are finding it tough to maintain social distancing in busy markets. Shopkeepers are making all efforts to maintain social distancing, but vendors are not following rules. We are imposing fines on them but people also need to be aware of the rules and follow them," said an officer.

The police said traffic has also increased.

### Barricades removed

"Apart from traffic police, District police have also been deployed in traffic management. During morning and evening hours, traffic jam was reported on several stretches," said the officer, adding that they had to remove barricades at ma-



Office-goers boarding a bus from the Seemapuri bus depot on Tuesday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

ny places to ensure smooth movement of vehicles.

Police personnel was de-

ployed at liquor shops as well to maintain social distancing.

On Monday, the police fined over 1,200 people for not adhering to COVID guidelines. According to data shared by the police, a total of 1,285 challans were issued on Monday. Of them, 1,053 were for not wearing masks,

229 for not maintaining social distancing and three against the large public gatherings or congregations.

"The process of unlocking has begun, and we urge people to follow the COVID-appropriate behaviour. Use face mask when you step out of your house, maintain social distancing and regularly sanitise hands. People should not step out of their homes unnecessarily," said

Delhi Police Additional Public Relations Officer (PRO) Anil Mittal.

A total of 1,24,196 challans have been issued from April 19 to June 7, the data showed.

While 1,04,440 people were fined for not wearing face masks, 18,034 were penalised for not maintaining social distancing, 1,529 for large public gatherings or congregations, 72 for spitting and 121 for consumption of liquor, pan, tobacco etc., it stated.

On the first day of unlock, Delhi Police and market associations had made announcements and also distributed pamphlets to visitors, urging them to follow the guidelines.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday had announced various relaxations in the ongoing lockdown that was imposed on April 19, saying the COVID situation was improving, and the economy needs to be revived.

**Liquor vends told to deploy marshals**

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has directed all liquor vends in the city to deploy marshals and staff to strictly ensure COVID-appropriate behaviour.

"All the four Government Corporations viz. DSIDC, DTTDC, DSCSC and DCCSC shall deploy adequate marshals at all their vends [L-6 & L-8] and private licensees [L-7, L-9 & L-10] shall deploy their staff to ensure that COVID-appropriate behaviour viz. wearing of masks, maintaining social distancing, regular use of sanitiser, no consumption of liquor, pan, gutkha, tobacco, etc. shall be ensured in all the liquor shops/vends/licensees," the Excise Department said in an order issued on June 6. It also directed them to coordinate with the local administration and police to maintain security.

The department has asked all vends to follow the orders issued by the DDMA.

## Jamia student gets bail to take B.A. examination

**HC sets detailed conditions for the riots accused**

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has granted interim bail to Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) student Asif Iqbal Tanha, arrested in connection with the northeast Delhi riots, to allow him to take his three remaining backlog examinations to complete his B.A. (Hons.) (Persian).

A Bench of Justices Siddharth Mridul and Anup Jai-

ram Bhamhani also attached a string of conditions for Mr. Tanha to comply with, including banning him from deleting or tampering with his browsing history/cookies on the computer, or any SMS or call records from the phone, during the interim bail period.

The 25-year old was arrested in May last year for allegedly being part of a "pre-meditated conspiracy" in the riots. He has been charged under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

The HC ordered that Mr. Tanha be released on inter-

rim custody bail on June 13 by 9 a.m. and shall be brought back to prison by 6 p.m. on June 26.

During this period, Mr. Tanha will stay at a hotel in Kalkaji under the custody of two prison guards who would be deputed by the Jail Superintendent.

Mr. Tanha will have to bear all charges, costs and expenses for two rooms at the hotel, one to be occupied by him and the other to be occupied by the two deputed prison guards.

As food is not available at the hotel because of CO-

VID-19 restrictions, food for Mr. Tanha as well as for the deputed prison guards will be arranged through online apps/websites by or on behalf of Mr. Tanha at his cost and expense.

"During the period of interim custody bail, Mr. Tanha shall not invite to the said facility any visitors or guests, including family members, friends, classmates or any other person," the HC ordered.

A laptop and a basic mobile phone, which will be used during the period, will first be checked by the pol-

ice. Mr. Tanha has also been directed to provide details of the IMEI number and the name of the manufacturer service provider of dongle/mobile hotspot, to the Special Cell officials.

The HC took note that Mr. Tanha has undertaken that he will not use the laptop or the phone or the dongle/mobile hotspot device for any purpose other than for study, preparations and taking of the exams.

Mr. Tanha will be entitled to make phone calls to his family and counsel for up to a total of 10 minutes per day.

## BJP names candidates for mayoral elections

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The BJP, with a clear majority in the three municipal corporations in Delhi, on Tuesday nominated its candidates for various posts in the civic bodies.

Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta said Sardar Raaja Iqbal Singh and Archana Dilip Singh filed their nominations for the posts of Mayor and Deputy Mayor, respectively, of the North Delhi Municipal Corporation; Jogiram Jain for Chairman of Standing Committee, Vijay Kumar Bhagat for Vice Chairman and Shail Bihari Goswami for Leader of the House.

For the East Delhi Municipal Corporation, Shyam Sunder Agarwal and Kiran Vaid filed papers for Mayor and Deputy Mayor, Veer Singh Pawar for Standing Committee Chairman, Deepak Malhotra for Vice Chairman and Satyapal Singh for Leader of the House.

For the South body, Mukesh Suryan and Pawan Sharma filed their nominations for Mayor and Deputy Mayor, Colonel B.K. Oberoi and Poonam Bhati for Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee and Inderjit Sherawat for Leader of the House.

All the BJP candidates are set to be elected on June 16.

## Constables served show-cause notices for 'amusement videos'

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A woman head constable and a male constable – posted in Model Town police station – have been served show-cause notices for uploading amusement videos in uniforms on social media, the police said on Tuesday.

The notice, served by DCP (North-West) Usha Rangnani,

said the two officials prepared amusement videos while on duty during the lockdown and also flouted COVID guidelines by not wearing masks. "Being members of a disciplined force, their conduct appears to be unprofessional in the discharge of their official duties," the order read. The officials told to explain their conduct in the next 15 days.

## IP University starts online admissions

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The IP University on Tuesday started online admission process for the upcoming academic session and also added five new programmes. The university has over 40,000 seats available in around 150 different programmes ranging from undergraduate to research-level.

The new courses that the university has launched will be offered at its new East Delhi campus in Surajmal Vihar. The new courses include B. Tech in Artificial Intelligence & Data Science, B. Tech in Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning, B. Tech in Industrial Internet of Things and B. Tech in Automation & Robotics, under the newly created school – University School of Automation & Robotics (USAR), the university said.

The fifth course it is launching is a Bachelor of Design under another newly created school – the University School of Design & Innovation (USDI). The admission to the programme will be given on the basis of Nation Level Test - UCEED/NID.

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A revised Date and Time for Bid Submission and Technical Bid Opening is as follows:

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1	Name of Work	Supply, Installation, Operation and FMS of AMI System for consumers having load above 10 KW in JBVNL. Estimated cost Rs. 20 Crores (Rs. Twenty Two Crores)
3	Last Date / Time for receipt of bids	05.07.2021 at 04:00 PM
4	Date and Time for Opening of Technical bid	05.07.2021 at 05:00 PM

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6. निविदा प्राप्ति (ऑन-लाइन विडिओ) की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय 21.06.2021 को 05:00 बजे अपराह्न में
7. पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता यांत्रिक नागरिक प्रमंडल, रौची में परिमाण विप्रत का मूल्य एवं अग्रधन की राशि की मूल प्रति जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय 22.06.2021 को 02:00 बजे अपराह्न में
8. तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय 23.06.2021 को 02:00 बजे अपराह्न में

निविदा का विवरण :-

क्रम सं०	कार्य का नाम	प्रावकलित राशि (रु० में)	अग्रधन की राशि (रु० में)	परिमाण विप्रत का मूल्य (रु० में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1.	Supplying, installation and commissioning of Horizontal split casing centrifugal pump of Kirloskar Jyoti/ WPL/ Mather & Platt make capable of discharging 1704 m <sup>3</sup> /hr, against a total head of 76 meters and mounted on common base plate by suitable coupling with TEFC squirrel cage induction motor of ABB/ BHEL/ Kirloskar/ Jyoti Crompton Greaves make operated on 11 KV±15%, 3 phase, 50 c/s A.C. supply having speed 950-1500 rpm including C.I.D.F. S/V and Z/V valve with RCC foundation at Clear Water (Old) Pumping Plant Rukka – 2 nos. pump sets. Supplying and laying 400 mm <sup>3</sup> core Al. XLPE armoured cable from pole to VCB panel – 150 mtr. with termination kit and 185 mm <sup>3</sup> core XLPE armoured cable – 175 meters with termination kit from VCB to motor for above pump sets. Supplying, installation and testing 11 KV, indoor floor mounted VCB horizontal draw out type 630 Amp, 11 KV, 25 KA for 1 sec (1 no. incoming and 2 nos. outgoing) – 1 No.	1,40,58,122.29	2,81,500.00	10,000.00 (Non-refundable)	Six months

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THE HINDU

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IN BRIEF

Days after cocktail therapy, 2 test negative

NEXT DELHI

Two COVID-19 patients, who were given 'Monoclonal Antibody Therapy', tested negative eight days after developing symptoms. Max Healthcare said in a statement on Tuesday. "They were administered Antibody Cocktail Therapy within three days of testing positive. This is the fastest ever recovery reported in patients, particularly senior citizens suffering from comorbidities," the hospital said. The Antibody Cocktail Therapy costs around ₹60,000.

In the works



Construction work of the Central Vista project in full swing in New Delhi. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

## Kejriwal writes to PM seeking approval for doorstep ration

'Was not legally bound, yet sought govt.'s nod five times'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

When did the Central and Delhi governments become separate units if it was a matter of people's welfare, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a letter, seeking his nod for the doorstep delivery of ration to the poor, here on Tuesday.

Was it prudent, Mr. Kejriwal asked, to have separate schemes entailing separate budgetary expenditure related to the same issue, in this case that of dry ration, especially when the ration in question "belonged neither to political leaders nor the Aam Aadmi Party or the BJP" but to the people instead.

"The home delivery of ra-

tion was about to begin. The scheme would have allowed a poor person to get properly packed ration delivered at home instead of being pushed around in lines outside [ration] shops... but suddenly, just two days before it was supposed to be implemented, it was stalled. People are asking why you did so," Mr. Kejriwal asked in the letter.

Ration mafia

Residents have, over the last 75 years, been targeted consistently by the 'ration mafia' and while the ration was supposedly delivered to them on paper, most of it was siphoned off, he alleged.

"It is being said that we did not seek the Centre's approval for the scheme. This

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## Administer 6 lakh doses daily, Yogi tells officials

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday asked officials to increase the pace of vaccination in the State and attempt to administer 6 lakh doses daily.

From July 1, this should be further increased to 10 lakh doses per day, the CM said after an official meet on tackling the pandemic.



NIT No.: JUIDCO Ltd/RFP/FSMS-8 ULBs/2021-380 Date: 07.06.2021

Tender ID: 2021\_UDD\_49640\_1

PR No.: 246532

**CORIGENDUM/ADDITIONUM-02**

All bidders are hereby announced that corrigendum/addendum-02 is released for tender of NIT Ref No.: JUIDCO Ltd/RFP/FSMS-8 ULBs/2021-380 and Tender ID 2021\_UDD\_49640\_1 for "Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Consultant for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) and providing Project Management Consultancy (PMC) services for Fecal Sludge Management Scheme of Hussainabad, Bishrampur, Lohardaga, Garhwa, Chattarpur, Khunti, Chatra and Latehar". The bidders are advised to take in to account the same before submission of their bids against the tender.

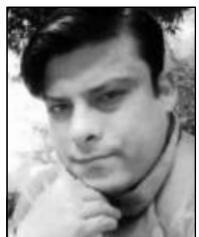
NOTE: Corrigendum/Addendum-02(including date extension) and all other information can be referred from the e-tender site of Govt. of Jharkhand i.e. (<http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>)

Sd/-

Project Director (T)

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**

General public is hereby informed that one person namely **Vipin S/o Vinod Kumar** R/o H.No. B-492, GD Colony, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped from his house since 20.04.2021. In this regard, a case **GD No. 25A Dated 30.05.2021** has been registered at P.S. Gazipur, Delhi. The description of the missing person is as under:



**VIPIN**  
Age: 30 Years. Complexion: Fair, Height: 5' 3", Face: Round, Built: Medium, Wearing: Black colour T-shirt, blue colour jeans and white colour sports shoes in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out him but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing/ kidnapped person then please inform P.S. Gazipur, Delhi at following Tel No./e-mail: cic@cbl.gov.in and Website: <http://cbl.nic.in>

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641

Fax No. 011-24368639

DP/535/ED/2021

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**

General public is hereby informed that a lady **Supriya, W/o Dilip Kumar R/o Gali No. 7, Khode Colony, Badarpur, New Delhi** has been missing from New Delhi Railway Station. In this regard, DD No. 15-A dated 02.06.2021 has been registered at P.S. New Delhi Railway Station, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing lady but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing lady is as under:

Name: Supriya, Gender: Female, Age: 21 years, Height: 5'3", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Strong, Wearing: Green colour suit, black colour leggings and sandals on her feet.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing lady, kindly inform SHO/ New Delhi Railway Station, Delhi.

E-mail: cic@cbl.gov.in

Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641

Fax: 011-24368639

P.S. New Delhi Railway Station, Delhi.

DP/156/RLY/2021

**Bihar School Examination Board****NOTICE INVITING SHORT-TERM e-TENDER**(Through e-procurement mode only over <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>)

Tender Notice No. PR\_75/2021

Bihar School Examination Board, Patna invites e-tenders under two bid systems from the reputed, experienced & technologically sound Firms /Companies/ Agencies/ Societies/ Service Provider having adequate infrastructure and Experience of handling the works of "Selection of agency to provide (1:1) Internet Lease Line Connectivity on OFC media (Overhead Fiber) at offices of Bihar School Examination Board (Main Building at Sinha Library Road, Patna & Academic Building, Budh Marg, Patna), as per the decision of BSEB".

Scope of work : Selection of agency to provide (1:1) Internet Lease Line Connectivity on OFC media (Over head Fiber) to Bihar School Examination Board, Patna.

Cost of Tender Document (In Rupees)	Tender Processing Fee (Non Refundable)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)
(Inclusive of GST @18.00%) to be paid through e-payment mode (i.e. NEFT/RTGS/Credit Card/Debit card) (in Rupees)		

**Tender Schedule/ Programme:**

Date and Time for Activity Date/Time: Duration

Online Submission Start Date 10/06/2021 (11:00 Hrs.) (<https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>)

Pre-Bid meeting 16/06/2021 up to 14.15 Hrs. (Bihar School Examination Board, Sinha Library Road, Patna-800017))

Last Date/Time for submission /uploading of offer/Bid 01/07/2021 (14:00 Hrs.) (<https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>)

Submission of EMD in Hard copy/ Original only in case of Bank Guarantee 01/07/2021 upto 14:30 Hrs. (Bihar School Examination Board, Sinha Library Road, Patna-800017)

Date & time for opening of Technical Bid 01/07/2021 at 15:00 Hrs. (<https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>) (Bihar School Examination Board, Sinha Library Road, Patna-800017)

Financial Bid Opening Date and Time Date to be announced later by competent authority

**\* Tender document fee & tender processing fee to be submitted only via Online mode. EMD to be submitted Offline only in case of Bank Guarantee.**

• Detailed descriptions of the items and instructions for submitting your offer can be downloaded from e-tender website <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>.

• For support related to e-tendering process, Bidders may contact at e- Procurement HELP DESK Address : Mjunction services limited RJ Complex, 2nd Floor, Canara Bank Campus, Khajuria, Ashiana Road, P.S. - Shastri Nagar, Patna 800 014, Bihar First" or may visit the link "Vendor Info" at <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>. Bidders may also raise their concern by following means :

• Toll Free Number: 1800 572 6571 (Working Hours: 8 AM to 7 PM, All days in week except few selected state holidays)

• Email ID: [eproc2support@bihar.gov.in](mailto:eproc2support@bihar.gov.in)

• Corrigendum / Addendum, if any, will be published on e-Procurement Portal, Bihar <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>.

• Contact Details : Sh. Vinod Kumar Singh, Nodal officer - +91 629923095, E-Mail ID - [eproc-bseb-bih@gov.in](mailto:eproc-bseb-bih@gov.in)

• Note - Bihar School Examination Board reserves the right to accept/reject/reschedule any or all tenders without assigning any reasons.

Secretary

CM YK

## Now, Akhilesh says he will take the jab

He cites PM Modi's statement on vaccine procurement for change in stance

OMAR RASHID  
LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, who had said he would not get vaccinated for COVID-19 as he did not trust the "BJP's vaccine", announced he would get the shot following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement of reverting to centralised procurement of vaccines.

"I was against the 'BJP's tika' but welcome the 'tika' of the Indian government". I will also get the vaccine shots and would appeal those who could not get vaccinated due to shortage



Akhilesh Yadav.

of vaccine to get the shots," Mr. Yadav said.

Taking to Twitter, he stated that due to public outrage, the Centre had to announce that they would get the vaccination done in-

stead of "politicising it".

**BJP hits out at Akhilesh**

BJP leader and Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya targeted Mr. Yadav for his earlier comments and accused him of insulting the scientists of the country who had developed vaccine and blamed him for the incidents involving health workers due to resistance to vaccination.

"He should get vaccinated, we welcome that. But till he apologises, he is guilty of the insults of and the attacks [on health workers

and scientists]," said Mr. Maurya.

Mr. Yadav's announcement came a day after his father and SP founder Mulayam Singh Yadav got his first dose. Due to Mr. Akhilesh Yadav's earlier comments on the vaccine, the BJP leaders taunted him after his father received the vaccine.

Mr. Yadav on Sunday thanked Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav for taking the "swadeshi vaccine". His (Akhilesh) comment was "proof" that he had "spread rumours" about the vaccine, Mr. Maurya added.

## Rajasthan extends crop loan repayment date

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
JAIPUR

In a major relief to the farmers during the COVID-19 pandemic, Rajasthan has extended the last date for repayment of crop loans for the rabi season in 2020-21 from June 30 to August 31.

The State government has also decided to speed up disbursement of short-term loans for the kharif crop cycle.

Cooperative Minister Uday Lal Anjana said here on Tuesday that the decision would benefit lakhs of farmers affected by the pandemic. "The Cooperative De-

partment has set the target for disbursing ₹16,000 crore in loans this year and has already released ₹2,550 crore in credit," he said.

As many as 9.71 lakh farmers were connected with the agricultural credit facility during 2019-20 and 3.91 farmers in 2020-21. Mr. Anjana said the condition for loan repayment within a maximum of one year had been dispensed with.

The State government would sanction more projects for food processing, cold storage and warehouses for the benefit of agriculturists this year.

## Five-year-old girl dies of thirst in Rajasthan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
JODHPUR

A five-year-old girl died of thirst while her grandmother fell unconscious in Ranivara in Jalore district of Rajasthan, the police said on Tuesday.

The incident took place on Sunday afternoon when Sukhi (60) and Manju (5) were going on foot to see a

family member in Roda village, SHO Padma Ram said. On the way, they felt thirsty but could not find water, he said. Later, some shepherds spotted them and informed the village sarpanch who informed the police.

The police took both to a hospital where Manju was declared dead while Sukhi was undergoing treatment.

## Panchkula development authority to be set up

It will ensure timely, swift execution of integrated development plan: Haryana CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal on Tuesday announced setting up of the Panchkula Metropolitan Development Authority (PMDA) to ensure timely and swift execution of the integrated development plan made for the city.

"The PMDA would ensure

sustained and balanced growth. The authority would work on the similar lines of the Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority and the Faridabad Metropolitan Development Authority," said Mr. Lal here at a press conference.

He said to ensure that the people of the State along with the Panchkula residents

are aware of the development planned for the city, an extensive Information Education Communication campaigning would be prepared.

"A map identifying every corner of Panchkula would be prepared and hoardings displaying the information about completed projects and in progress would be installed across the city," said

Mr. Lal.

The Chief Minister said after Panchkula, a similar integrated development plan would be chalked out for Karnal, Hisar and other districts of the State. Mr. Lal also lauded the efforts of the officers who helped Haryana bag the first position in NITI Aayog's think-tank Sustainable Development Goals.

## OPD services resume at Gurugram hospital

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GURUGRAM With a decline in COVID-19 cases, normal outdoor-patient services (OPD) resumed at Civil Hospital in Sector 10 here on Tuesday.

Giving details, Deputy Civil Surgeon Maneesh Rathore said the Health department had decided to resume normal OPD services after the rate of COVID-19 infection had gone down. He added all OPD services were resumed with normal timings.

The OPD services for dental, ENT and dermatology departments were shut and the timings for the other OPD services were curtailed to three hours till 11 a.m. in April-end given the sudden spike in COVID-19 cases.

Dr. Rathore said there were directions from the headquarters now to resume the normal OPD services. He added that the services were run for the normal timings from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesday and 1,200 people availed the facility.

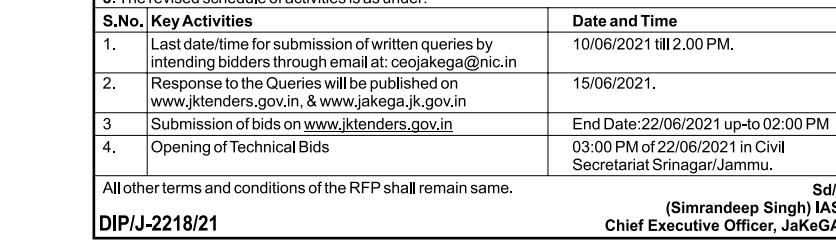
However, the flu OPD services are being run round-the-clock to examine patients with symptoms of cough, cold and fever in view of the COVID-19 infection. He added that all patients coming for the OPD services were required to adhere to COVID protocol to minimise the possibility of contraction of infection.

## Assam govt. institutes a series of annual awards

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI The Assam government has instituted a series of annual awards similar to the Bharat Ratna and Padma awards entailing a slew of benefits for the awardees. The decision in this regard was taken at a Cabinet meeting headed by the Chief Minister on Tuesday.

While the Assam Ratna would be presented to one person who has made a significant contribution to society, the Assam Bibhushan would be presented to three, the Assam Bhushan to two and the Assam Shree to 10 persons every year. The awards will carry ₹5 lakh, ₹3 lakh, ₹2 lakh and ₹1 lakh respectively with benefits such as free treatment and free stay at Assam Bhawans across the country.



**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**  
Jammu & Kashmir e-Governance Agency Civil Secretariat, Jammu/Srinagar  
Subject :- Corrigendum for Selection of Implementation Agency for Design, Development, Implementation, Operation and Maintenance of UT Dashboard, Government of J&K thereof.  
**CORIGENDUM NO 01 to Notification No 16-JaKeGa of 2021**  
DATED: 01-06-2021

This is in reference to the tender published vide Notification No: 16-JaKeGa of 2021 dated 26-05-2021 regarding "Selection of Implementation Agency for Design, Development, Implementation, Operation and Maintenance of UT Dashboard, Government of JK". The following clauses of the RFP are hereby amended as under:-

1. Technical Bid Evaluation Criteria Clause No 4.8.1, Sub Clause (f) Certifications, is amended as under:  
S.No Basic Requirement Specific Requirement Documents required  
f) Certifications The bidder must have a valid a) CMII Level 3 or above Certification b) ISO 27001 Certification OR ISO 9001 Certification
2. Application Maintenance Clause No 5.1.29.1, Sub Clause (h), is amended as under:-  
The IA has to provide the following manpower (onsite) for a period of one year after go-Live for the disposal of JaKeGa:  
a. Team Lead (01 No.) - Qualification: Master Degree with minimum 05 years' experience in IT Industry.  
b. MIS Expert (01 No.) - Qual

IN BRIEF



Huzurabud will teach a lesson to TRS: Eatala

**HYDERABAD**  
Telangana former Minister and rebel TRS MLA Eatala Rajender said a new agitation for a democratic Telangana will start from Huzurabud and the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) will get a befitting reply for failing the spirit of the statehood movement.

**A.P. to help small traders with interest-free loans**

**GUNTUR**  
The Andhra Pradesh government credited ₹370 crore to 3.7 lakh small traders towards interest-free loans, under the second phase of Jagananna Thodu scheme. Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy said that small and petty vendors, artisans needn't approach private parties for loans, as they can take loans from banks under Jagananna Thodu scheme to cater to their working capital.

**One of Kuthiran tunnels to be opened on August 1**

**THIRISSUR**  
One of the twin tunnels at Kuthiran on the Thrissur-Palakkad National Highway will be opened on August 1. After a high-level meeting to review the progress of the work on Tuesday, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan asked the authorities to make arrangements to open one of the tunnels for vehicle traffic.

**Former Minister C.M. Udas passes away**

**BENGALURU**  
Six-time legislator and former Minister C.M. Udas, 85, passed away on Tuesday at a private hospital here due to age-related illness. He is survived by wife, a daughter, and son Shivakumar Udas, a BJP MP. A former Minister for Public Works in the B.S. Yediyurappa Cabinet in 2008, he was popular due to his easy access to people.

# Govt. staff in Lakshadweep worried

They are set to be given intelligence gathering job

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOCHEE**

The Lakshadweep Government Employees' Union has objected to the island administration's decision to deploy government staff aboard fishing vessels for intelligence gathering.

In a letter to the Director of Port, Shipping and Aviation, union general secretary Fathahudheen said that the decision had made government servants who are members of the union 'nervous'. He urged the union territory administration to desist from such a move.

There were agencies such as the police, the marine force, Coast Guard and the Navy to guard India's territorial waters and beyond. For a government servant, other than those working in the field of fishing, being asked to work for eight to 10 hours on fishing boats would only unnerve them, Mr.



UDF members staging a protest, demanding withdrawal of the proposed 'anti-people laws' in Lakshadweep. ■ PTI

There were State and Central Intelligence agencies too working to detect security threats.

In another development, following up on a letter written by T. Abdul Khader, chairperson of the Village (Dweep) panchayat in Kavaratti, its members, along with two members of the district panchayat, met the District Collector Asker Ali to re-

Fathahudheen said.

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# Plea for providing food to needy islanders

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOCHEE**

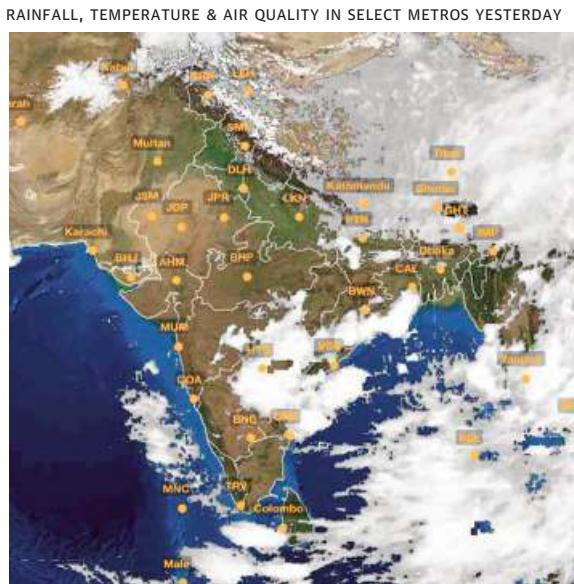
A writ petition was filed in the Kerala High Court on Tuesday seeking a directive to the Centre and Lakshadweep administration to provide food kits to needy islanders and transfer cash into their account till the lockdown is

lifted. The petition was filed by Nasih K.K. of Amini island.

According to the petitioner, 80% of the islanders depend on fishing, coconut cultivation, and coir twisting.

Most of them were jobless following the imposition of lockdown and curfew.

**WEATHER WATCH**



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD; POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP; INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

**Forecast for Wednesday:** Thunderstorm with lightning and gusty winds (speed reaching 40-50 kmph) at isolated places very likely over West Bengal, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Telangana, Kerala, Bihar, Jharkhand, Sikkim, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, central Maharashtra, Goa, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	30...	29.4...	25.0	Kozhikode	...	34.0...	25.4
Ahmedabad	39...	31...	28.5	Kurnool	...	37.4...	26.6
Aizawl	25...	25.8...	23.5	Lucknow	...	39...	27.8
Altafabad	40...	40.4...	28.5	Madurai	...	36.8...	26.8
Bengaluru	31...	21.9	—	Mangaluru	...	30.5...	23.4
Bhopal	6.2...	39.5...	24.5	Mumbai	21...	32.1...	25.5
Bhubaneswar	36.7...	25.6	—	Mysuru	...	33.0...	21.4
Chandigarh	40...	28.3	—	New Delhi	...	41.7...	28.6
Chennai	47...	37.1...	22.5	Patna	...	40.0...	27.0
Coimbatore	35...	25.4	—	Port Blair	25...	30.7...	24.9
Dehradun	36.9...	25.3	—	Puducherry	...	35.2...	26.6
Gangtok	6...	22.3...	17.7	Pune	...	31.4...	22.5
Goa	7.4...	30.6...	24.5	Raipur	...	40.8...	29.2
Guwahati	6...	31.3...	24.0	Ranchi	0.8...	34.6...	24.1
Hubballi	29.0...	22.0	—	Shillong	...	28.1...	16.5
Hyderabad	35.6...	25.5	—	Shimla	...	30.7...	22.9
Imphal	2...	30.0...	21.0	Srinagar	...	34.3...	18.6
Jaipur	31.4...	30.5	—	Thiruvananthapuram	1...	32.1...	25.5
Kochi	31.8...	25.4	—	Tiruchi	...	38.6...	26.6
Kohima	2...	27.8...	18.0	Vijayawada	...	39.4...	27.0
Kolkata	40...	36.1...	24.3	Visakhapatnam	...	37.6...	29.2

(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
Ahmedabad	.3	45	130	47	...65	■■■■■
Bengaluru	.3	52	21	28	...59	■■■■■
Chennai	.7	5.5	45	33	...69	■■■■■
Delhi	.2	46	—	128	400	■■■■■
Hyderabad	.2	70	—	32	62	■■■■■
Kolkata	.5	12	22	46	...48	■■■■■
Lucknow	11	39	89	128	127	■■■■■
Mumbai	.59	21	26	—	53	■■■■■
Pune	.6	8	50	87	58	■■■■■
Visakhapatnam	17	47	19	57	—	■■■■■

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sonipat, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 312, indicating unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 19

**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 in people with heart or lung disease

# Sudhakaran is president of Congress in Kerala

Information was given by Rahul Gandhi



K. Sudhakaran

with powerful social groups by naming V.D. Satheeshan as Leader of the Opposition and now, Mr. Sudhakaran as the party's State president.

It had weighed several names for the post, including Kodikunnil Suresh, MP. It was likely to retain Mr. Suresh as working president.

The firing took place outside the beauty parlour on December 15, 2018.

# 'More people involved in parlour firing'

**KOCHI BUREAU  
KOCHI**

More people beyond the six accused are suspected to have links to the beauty parlour firing case being probed by the Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS). So far, four have been arrested.

The agency has reached such a conclusion after grilling gangster Ravi Pujari during his nine-day-long custody, which ended on Tuesday.

"More people are involved in the case going by the confessions of Pujari. But that information will have to be verified before they can be arraigned in as accused," said ATS sources.

In a statement issued by Dandakaranya South Sub-Zonal bureau, the party condemned the "killing of Madhukar by police".

The bureau's official representative Samatha said the party appealed to all democratic activists not to be

# Maoists say police killed Madhukar

'But they claim he died of COVID-19'

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD**

Communist Party of India (Maoist) on Tuesday alleged that Telangana police were carrying out a false campaign that its activist Gadmadhukar alias Shobh Rai died of ill health after Sirupur squad of Maoists at the age of 16 in 1999.

The party's official representative said Telangana police had themselves declared that Madhukar was caught on June 1 when he was going to a hospital. Five days later, they announced that he died of COVID-19.

The CPI (Maoist) representative charged the police with torturing Madhukar to torture from June 1 to 6 without extending him any medical treatment.

# Pune fire: case registered against owner

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

PUNE

A day after 17 workers, most of them women, were killed in a fire at a chemical plant in Pune district, a case of

culpable homicide was registered against one of its owners on Tuesday.

Fire safety measures such as installation of emergency exits had not been taken at the plant, the police alleged. A case was registered against Nikunj Shah, one of the owners of SVS Aqua Technologies, said Abhinav Deshmukh, SP, Pune rural.

## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES)

### HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (INDIA)

**Assignment Title:** Consultancy Services for providing Independent Quality Check Squads (IQCS) for all line departments/corporations and other agencies of the Government of Himachal Pradesh.

**Introduction**

There is a huge road network of around 38035 Km. in Himachal Pradesh, comprising of 2592 Kms. of National Highways, 4681 Kms. of Major District Roads and 30762 Kms. of Rural Roads. The H.P. Public Works Department is responsible for planning, construction, up-gradation, maintenance and overall management of this road network with liberal allocation of funds from the Govt. of India against various schemes like PMGSY, Central Road Fund, EAPs' and also from the State Government. The quality of road works except PMGSY and World Bank funded HP State Road Project, has been a serious concern for the GoHP for quite some time. The ever increasing road accidents, failure of bridge and road works draw public criticism reflecting poorly the image of Govt. of the day. Though there is a separate in-house Quality Control wing in the department headed by Engineer-in-Chief (Project) which is mainly catering for second tier quality assurance for PMGSY works, but due to certain administrative constraints it has no representation at Circle/Division level so as to exercise proper quality control over all major road/bridge works being executed by the HPPWD. As stated above quality of PMGSY and HPSRP roads is far better as compared to other state works. It is primarily because of the mandatory provision of Third Tier quality assurance setup for both these Projects. Similarly there are several other civil/other infrastructure related works being executed by other departments/corporations like HP Jal Shakti Vibhag, HPSEB, Urban Development, Tourism, Forest, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj Department & HPSIDC etc. There is no central Independent Quality Control Mechanism at the state level to ensure that all such works undertaken by various departments/corporations etc. are executed strictly as per the prescribed quality/standards/norms. The new dispensation has decided to implement the concept of Independent Quality Control mechanism in the state.

**PURPOSE**  
The CC cell of Hon'ble CM office shall assign specific works to the consultant from time to time; the executing and implementing agencies have to take adequate and proper steps to ensure control of quality and the work has to be executed as per specifications. It



## A necessary reversion

The changes in vaccine policy should help improve India's response to the pandemic

The Centre has announced a much-needed course correction in India's vaccination policy with Prime Minister Narendra Modi taking the podium to announce that the month-old decision to leave States to procure vaccines on their own for their 18-44 population would be ending in two weeks. States were allowed to procure 25% of the vaccines manufactured and the Centre 50%, a policy that the Supreme Court termed "irrational and arbitrary". The Court's comments have had a salutary effect. From June 21, the Centre will be procuring 75% and States will no longer have to pay vaccine companies for the same. Vaccines will continue to be free for all those who choose to get their shot at government centres. The 25% vaccines that were allotted to private hospitals will continue too, though the service charges that they charge will be capped at ₹150. This ceiling price on vaccines in hospitals will bring predictability and be hugely beneficial to citizens. The Centre, which controlled all supply of vaccines and had negotiated prices and orders with Bharat Biotech and the Serum Institute saw itself desperately short of supply right in the middle of India's deadly second wave. The hospital emergencies worsened the Centre's panic and so it chose a path that no country had undertaken, of devolving the responsibility of buying vaccines to States. Health has traditionally been within the purview of States, and it stands to reason that they would invariably have to deal with the challenges that vaccination throws up. This includes vaccine hesitancy, the problem of transportation, the availability of trained personnel and the existing capacity at health-care sites. Faced with the intensity of the second wave, States demanded more vaccines and autonomy in deciding how to administer them. What resulted were frequent public spats, with the Centre blaming States for inefficiently using available stocks and yet demanding more.

Though there are substantial numbers of senior citizens yet to be vaccinated, particularly with a second dose, it is clear that the foreseeable demand will be in the sub-45 category. The Government appears more confident of getting a steady stream of supply from Bharat Biotech and the Serum Institute and, in a bold move, has ordered 30 crore doses of an untested vaccine from the Hyderabad-based Biological E. Assuming that a third wave is not in the vicinity, these changes in total could be the beginning of a smoother, more efficient vaccine roll-out. Mr. Modi's announcement was preceded by a truculent defence of himself and his government and passing on blame to a variety of actors, including governments before 2014, for India's very real shortcomings on vaccination. However, the path to positive change is often meandering, and surviving the pandemic and being wiser from mistakes must be the spirit in which these policy changes are adopted.

## This time for Male

Maldives and India have an opportunity to work for changing power structures at the UN

The election of Maldives Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid as the President of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly, that begins in September for 2021-22, is a major boost for the island-nation's international profile. The election marks the first time a Maldivian will hold the post in the UN's history, and his margin of victory, 143 to his challenger's 48, indicating support from nearly three fourths of all countries at the UN, is significant. Maldives also sees it as a win for the 52-member Small Island Developing States (SIDS), which are battling climate change vulnerability and other developmental challenges. In addition, in a year when events in Afghanistan will draw attention as U.S. forces begin to pullout, Mr. Shahid's victory over his surprise opponent, former Afghanistan Foreign Minister Zalmay Rassoul, is remarkable. For India too, that helped Maldives canvass support, the outcome is welcome, not only because of its close ties with Male but also the high regard for Mr. Shahid, a key member of the Solih government. In a break from the norm of not announcing one's choice for an election by secret ballot, Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla had announced India's support for the Maldives in November 2020, South Block's explanation being that Afghanistan had not yet announced Mr. Rassoul's candidature – which it did in January 2021. New Delhi should now ensure that the Afghan government carries no hard feelings, as some in Kabul had even hinted that India might wish to support Afghanistan as it had sacrificed its turn at the UNSC for India's current term there. It would also be important to analyse why Kabul decided to field a candidate late in the race, and not withdraw despite it being clear that its South Asian neighbour was ahead, and did not consult India closely on the process.

The focus now shifts to his tenure and South Asian issues such as the impact of the coronavirus pandemic and equitable access to vaccines. Cooperation is close and Mr. Shahid is in discussions to appoint an Indian diplomat as his chief aide. Given that the previous President of the General Assembly, from Turkey, had ruffled feathers with his remarks in Islamabad that Pakistan was "duty" bound to raise the Jammu and Kashmir dispute "more strongly" at the UN, Mr. Shahid's tenure is expected to see a far smoother term for India, especially as the Modi government focuses on showcasing the country at the UN during India's 75th Independence anniversary next year. Above all, it is hoped that India in the UNSC and the Maldivian President of the General Assembly will work in tandem as New Delhi pursues its goals for multilateral reform, and re-energise the dormant process of effecting change in the old power structures in the global body.

# Bring genomic sequencing into the pandemic fight

Emerging variants, with evidence of higher transmissibility and immune escape, demand re-strategised responses



CHANDRAKANT LAHARIYA

If there is one tool in the COVID-19 pandemic response, which India has been slow in adoption and has used sub-optimally, it is genomic sequencing. An effective COVID-19 pandemic response requires, *inter alia*, keeping track of emerging variants (total 10 till now including variants of interest and concern) and then conducting further studies about their transmissibility, immune escape and potential to cause severe disease. Therefore, genomic sequencing becomes one of the first steps in this important process. When the success of the United States and the United Kingdom in containing the virus is discussed, a lot of credit is being given to the increasing vaccination coverage; however, it is often forgotten that alongside, these countries have scaled up genomic sequencing, tracked the emerging variants and used that evidence for timely actions. India seems to be faltering on both expanding vaccination coverage and genomic sequencing. Unfortunately, there is not enough attention to scale up genomic sequencing, which as per the original plan was supposed to cover 5% of confirmed COVID-19 cases (<https://bit.ly/3x76vVC>).

Though the procedural steps such as setting up the Indian SARS-CoV2 Genomic Consortia, or INSA-COG (<https://bit.ly/3uWpf8Y>) have been taken, the sequencing has remained at a very low level of a few thousand cases only. It is no surprise that we understand the Delta variant (B.1.617.2, the original lineage B.1.617 was first reported

from Maharashtra, India in October 2020) far less than the Alpha variant (B.1.1.7, first reported from Kent, England in September 2020) reported just month before Delta. The challenge of insufficient genomic sequencing is further compounded by the pace at which data is being shared, especially when the emergence of strains is so vital in tracking and responding to a pandemic. Reportedly, the Indian government took two weeks, from early March – when research scientists submitted information on new variants – to issue a public announcement on the variants on March 24, 2021 (<https://reut.rs/3cnhLWO>).

### The Delta strain

Amidst this, the release of findings of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Institute of Genomics; Integrative Biology and National Centre for Disease Control and Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research study, tracking variants of SARS-CoV-2 in Delhi; on a pre-print server (yet to be peer reviewed) is a welcome change and provides new insights (<https://bit.ly/3z9jd8j>).

Based upon the analysis of nearly 3,600 genomic sequence samples from November 2020 to April 2021, the authors have reported that by April 2021, the Delta variant became the most circulating variant in Delhi and was found in nearly 60% of the samples analysed; is 50% more transmissible than the Alpha variant (which already had 70% higher transmissibility over the ancestral virus); is likely to be associated with high viral load, as reflected by the declining Ct value (for RT-PCR) over the study period and resulted in a higher proportion of breakthrough infection (people already vaccinated getting infected). Based upon these findings, the authors attribute the Delta variant respon-



sible for the pandemic wave (which was fourth for the city state) in Delhi in April-May 2021. However, the authors did not find any difference in severity of disease or case fatality rate due to the Delta variant and suggested the need for further studies.

This is the first detailed study of SARS-CoV-2 genomic sequencing data from any Indian State and provides very useful insight on the behaviour and impact of Delta variants. Around the same time, Public Health England (PHE) reported that the Delta variant has become the most common circulating strain in the U.K., replacing Alpha. The early data from the PHE has interpreted that the Delta variant may be responsible for more severe disease and higher rate of hospitalisation compared to all previous variants. A week before this data, on May 27, the PHE reported that the effectiveness of a single dose of vaccine (amongst symptomatic patients) was lower against the Delta strain. On June 3, medical journal *The Lancet* published research findings from laboratory studies which examined the neutralising capacity of antibodies from individuals vaccinated with two doses of Pfizer-BioNTech, which was nearly 5.8 fold lower against Delta variants and 2.6 fold less against the Alpha variant, when compared with the ancestor virus (<https://bit.ly/2RzisV7>).

Our scientific knowledge and

understanding about emerging strains is going to be the key to deploy public health interventions (vaccines included) to fight the pandemic. The emerging variants – with early evidence of higher transmissibility, immune escape and breakthrough infections – demand continuous re-thinking and re-strategising of the pandemic response by every country. Scientific research would make a difference only if it results in informed policy decisions. There are a few steps Indian policy makers should consider as urgent.

### The steps ahead

First, India needs to scale up genomic sequencing across all States. There should be sufficient and representative samples collected for genomic sequencing to track district-level trends in circulating variants. More genomic sequencing is needed from large urban agglomerations. A national-level analysis of collated genomic sequencing data should be done on a regular basis and findings shared publicly.

Second, the Indian government needs to invest and support more scientific and operational research on vaccine effectiveness. The data should be analysed on a regular basis and should include various stratifiers such as age, gender and comorbid conditions, etc.

Third, there are early indications of immune escape and reduced vaccine effectiveness against the Delta variant (especially after one shot). India, till the end of May, has administered at least one dose of vaccines to 43% of people older than 60 years and 37% of those older than 45 years. Does it mean the focus of vaccination should be to achieve saturation coverage of the high-risk population, with both shots, than one shot to everyone? Does it mandate a need for a reduced gap between

two doses of Covishield for anyone older than 45 years? Should vaccination of those 18-44 years be put on hold till vaccine supply is assured or should it be done only in districts where the Delta strain is predominant? These are the questions which experts need to deliberate and come up with the answers.

The data from genomic sequencing has both policy and operational implications. The State and district officials should engage the epidemiologists in coming up with practical and operational implications and strategies. As Indian States plan to open up after COVID-19 restrictions, the settings with predominantly the Delta variant in circulation (which has higher transmissibility) should aim for far stricter adherence to COVID appropriate behaviour, in public places.

### Use evidence for actions

Continuation of many unproven and ineffective therapies in COVID-19 treatment guidelines is proof that India is not quick in adopting evidence to the practice.

There is a need for rapidly expanding genomic sequencing, sharing related data in a timely and transparent manner, and understanding of the impact of new variants on transmissibility, severity and vaccine effectiveness. The only assured way to fight the pandemic is to use scientific evidence to decide policies, modify strategies and take corrective actions. As India prepares for the third wave, increasing genomic sequencing and use of scientific evidence for decision making are not a choice but an absolute essential.

*Dr. Chandrakant Lahariya, a medical epidemiologist, is a public policy and health systems expert and co-author of 'Till We Win: India's Fight Against The COVID-19 Pandemic'*

## State interventions, Lakshadweep's future

The archipelago's integration into the mainstream should not lead to emotional alienation and physical damage



MUKUL SANWAL

The Lakshadweep Administration, which is now facing a storm over its draft rules introduced by its Administrator, has now provided a fresh rationale for its proposals, shifting from public policy to public purpose ignoring public interest, whereas the strategic issue is the interplay of ecological fragility, insular cultural geography and strategic location. There are two competing visions for its future. NITI Aayog, in 2019, identified water villas and land-based tourism projects as the development issue faced by the islands, suggested zoning based on land acquisition and focused on sustainable development ignoring the fragile environment and culture. The Integrated Island Management Plan prepared under the guidance of the Supreme Court and National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management, in 2016, had rejected 'home stays' in view of the strict social customs and strong resistance of the vast majority. It stipulated that development programmes be implemented in consultation with the elected local self-government bodies adhering to scientifically determined plans (<https://bit.ly/3v4sdrO> and <https://bit.ly/2T5q8II>).

**Questionable public purpose**  
The rationale, or thinking, of the appointed Administrator of the

Union Territory, planning for flight loads of tourists, through four controversial proposals – the Lakshadweep Development Authority Regulation, Prevention of Anti-Social Activities Regulation, Lakshadweep Panchayat Regulation and Lakshadweep Animal Preservation Regulation – as "regulations of peace, progress and good government", has apparently not even been able to convince the Union Home Minister. For the local people, and across the political spectrum, these changes are arbitrary, authoritarian and will destroy the way of life. The Administrator's fresh response is reliance on the power of government or 'public purpose' for acquiring private land, unnecessarily opening the door to conflict and the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court in the case of *Dev Sharani vs State of Uttar Pradesh*, in 2011, pointed out that, "Any attempt by the State to acquire land by promoting a public purpose to benefit a particular group of people or to serve any particular interest at the cost of the interest of a large section of people especially of the common people defeats the very concept of public purpose...."

The proposals have been challenged before the High Court of Kerala, which had, in 2019, in a separate case, recognised the special status given to the inhabitants for protecting their ethnic culture and traditions, and to maintain the serene atmosphere in these islands without unnecessary interference by mainlanders.

Lakshadweep is unique. It is an egalitarian coconut tree owning society, with little economic in-

equality, a very high level of both literacy and unemployment. The Muslim community is designated as Scheduled Tribes. The land area is fully covered with coconut trees, the main agricultural crop, and fisheries is the main economic activity employing a quarter of the working population. Electricity generation is mainly through diesel generators and is expensive and solar electricity has limitations as it requires a large land area. They need employment in the mainland.

### Review tourism strategy

The Lakshadweep Administration has framed the development issue as the development of the islands on the lines of the Maldives, whereas the fact is that it is adopting a very different strategy without any real consultation.

In the Maldives, tourism since the 1970s is centred on water villas in uninhabited islands, ensuring that very few coconut trees are cut with limited home stays introduced in 2015, and few cultural and other conflicts. Second, a 'one island, one resort' policy has kept pressure on reefs low due to a wide distribution of the tourist population. Third, the business

model is about giving coral reefs economic significance where rich and healthy reefs are essential for private capital's economic returns. Fourth, tourists come because of the natural beauty and the sheer amount of marine life; resort owners commit to conserve the reefs and divers at the resorts are quick to report illegal activities. Fifth, regulation is limited to ban on reef fishing and collection of corals, having no centrality to land acquisition.

In Lakshadweep, the separation of resorts from villages, including for drinking water, sewage disposal and electricity, gives priority to the fragile ecosystem, socio-economic conditions and well-being of the inhabitants. Groundwater occurs as a thin lens floating over the seawater and is tapped by open wells replenished by the monsoon; all the inhabited islands have a scarcity of drinking water supply. The conventional method of sewage treatment is not feasible because of the coral sandy strata and high water table. The existing water balance is already under stress and inhabited villages cannot accommodate tourism. Why the Ministry of Environment is quiet about this is not clear.

### Political insensitivity

Meanwhile, public interest is being re-defined, shifting the debate from private tourism to urbanisation, both inappropriate for inhabited islands. Despite inhabited islands being defined as 'cities' in the Census, they do not need to be developed as 'smart cities' with a focus on infrastructure requiring large-scale construction and land acquisition. The irony is that the

Administration has anticipated public opposition and, despite there being no case of murder, robbery or local involvement in smuggling, the new draft legislation seeks preventive detention for 'anti-social activities', and covers 'cruel person' and 'depredator of environment'.

The relation between state and society is being arbitrarily changed, despite the constitutional protection. The powers of the panchayats have been withdrawn on grounds of corruption, an unusual step. The two-child policy for those seeking election to panchayats does not exist in other Union Territories or States. A ban on beef has been instituted, contrary to the practice in Northeast India. Liquor is being permitted for tourists in inhabited islands.

### Innovation needed

Lakshadweep is a uni-district Union Territory with a top-heavy administrative system of more than half-a-dozen All-India Service officers essentially creating work for themselves.

Interventions should be limited to setting boundary conditions for both resorts and development institutions, with income from tax-free resorts given to the inhabitants. Active state intervention should be limited to generation of electricity in partnership with public sector units, and water, sewage and health as well as education, technology-enabled employment in call centres and future employment in the mainland.

*Mukul Sanwal is a former Indian Administrative Service officer who has been to Lakshadweep in the 1970s*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

### Vaccine procurement

An evolving pandemic demands a fluid and dynamic approach to policymaking (Page 1, "Govt. will revert to centralised procurement of vaccines: Modi", June 8). Strategies need to be tweaked along the way depending on the nature of exigencies. Prime Minister Modi's turnaround in the vaccine policy is sensible though belated. States should work closely with the central government because the next couple of months are going to be critical for the nation. Expanding vaccination coverage is the only way to

prevent the pandemic's possible third wave. When are we going to build a collaborative political culture if not in a health emergency?

V.N. MUKUNDARAJAN,  
Thiruvananthapuram

■ The Opposition, while remaining reasonably proud of its role in compelling the government to take the decision, should also appreciate the Prime Minister's gesture. The Supreme Court of India's posers and observations might have also dictated the course to the government. But, despite the policy-change, the situation is far

from satisfactory. It should be made clear that vaccination will be provided absolutely free of cost to all, without age specifications, making it truly universal. The process should be regulated only in relation to the time of production of vaccines, with consequent acceptance of some priority sections.

Leaving 25% to private hospitals by asking them to purchase direct from manufacturers and allowing them to collect the cost of vaccine and service charge from the public is unacceptable. This does not tally with the Mr. Modi's own assessment that "never in a hundred years has there

been such a (global) pandemic". The old example of free universal vaccination for smallpox should be followed.

P.R.V. RAJA,  
Pandalam, Kerala

**Vaccination hurdles**  
I write this letter as senior consultant and professor, department of obstetrics and gynaecology, CMC, Vellore. There are media reports saying that the Union Health Ministry on Monday asked the States to include the Unique Disability Identification (UDID) card as a photo ID for registration on [the] CoWIN 2.0 portal for COVID-19 vaccination'. I

wonder how many adult Indians on the margins of our society have Aadhaar/PAN/UDID cards and also a smartphone to register themselves on the CoWIN site. I am sure we can reach such people who cannot have access to a vaccine in the same way as schemes such as providing rations to their homes free of cost. If we want to return to normal, have our children get back to school, and not lose many productive lives, we need to work hard to immunise everyone – and this includes even those who have no access to CoWIN centres.

Ds. JESSIE LIONEL,

Vellore, Tamil Nadu

**Unchecked and rising**  
Fuel prices, both petrol and diesel, have gone through the roof, yet the central government seems unconcerned about the plight of the people and blaming the rise in world crude oil prices for the increases. How long is the Government going to increase the pressure on consumers? It has stopped subsidies to LPG consumers too. People are suffering, already stressed beyond tolerable limits because of the COVID-19 crisis.

V. PADMANABHAN  
Bengaluru

To read more letters online, scan the QR code

# Preparing for the next COVID-19 wave

Vaccinating the vulnerable, constant surveillance and reliable data will help India tackle the third wave



GIRIDHARA R. BABU & V. RAVI

Using the data in Karnataka, Aniruddha Adiga et al. show in a paper in *medRxiv* that a third COVID-19 wave is imminent in the State even if the strongest non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) are implemented and 1,67,000 persons are vaccinated each day. This is corroborated by evidence from other countries. It took nearly eight weeks in the U.K. to go from a second to a third wave, 17 weeks in Italy, and 23 weeks in the U.S. Some people are still debating whether there will be a third wave. It is not a question of 'if' but 'when'. In all likelihood, the next wave might be in late November or December in India. Despite the quantum of cases in the next wave, it is important to plan and prepare for it. These are several actions that India needs to take to prepare for and tackle the next wave.

## Vaccination

Data from several States indicate that the average age of mortality is reducing in several States and stabilising at 30-45 years. This suggests that vaccination might have already offered survival advantage to those aged 45 years and above. This was the main objective of providing vaccination: preventing deaths and limiting serious morbidity requiring ventilation or oxygenated beds.

Given the undoubted benefits of vaccination, extraordinary efforts will have to be made to secure vaccines for vulnerable people. The vaccine supply constraints are likely to be resolved by the end of July. Till then, people with co-morbidities, irrespective of age, should be prioritised for vaccination. Micro planning for vaccination should be strengthened. For this, health workers and volunteers need to go house to house and prepare lists of all the eligible beneficiaries. Next, efforts should be made to help in registering and vaccinating the vulnerable. We estimate that the country should vaccinate at least 10 million people each day to cover the vulnerable population in the next three months. To reach this pace, it is important to develop a strong mobilisation strategy, address



A healthcare worker administers a COVID-19 vaccine to a shepherd during a vaccination drive in Pulwama district in south Kashmir. ■ REUTERS

the concerns of the vulnerable, and improve access to vaccination sites. A strong focus on bottom-up micro planning, similar to what was adopted during the measles-rubella elimination programme and polio programme, can be helpful.

## The periods between waves

We only wake up to disease threats when there is a large outbreak. We have selective amnesia to health-related issues in the intervening periods and quickly get back to 'normal' activities. But it is these intervening periods between waves/outbreaks that are actually important. It is during these periods that surveillance needs to be meticulous. One of the critical aspects of surveillance is to sustain aggressive testing, especially in symptomatic individuals, and keep a close watch on the seven-day moving average of the test positivity rate (TPR). A TPR of less than 5% indicates that the disease is under control. Another important facet of surveillance is genomic sequencing to keep a watch on the emergence of new variants of SARS-CoV-2.

The surveillance programme in the country needs strengthening, and strict review should guide the early identification of clusters. Timely investigation and early containment of outbreaks should be the mainstay of preventing the onslaught of cases and deaths. Combining the syndromic approach with enhanced testing levels is necessary for all the areas. Preparing for the next wave involves developing a standardised definition for minimum cases to be de-

tected in each part of the country. Based on the available data, States can aim to detect and review, say, 1,000-1,300 cases per million each month provided adequate testing is done. This will help them identify areas where there is poor reporting and strengthen the overall response in these areas. In order to detect these cases, nearly 20,000-25,000 tests per million will have to be done each month.

## Use data-driven interventions

As stated by historian John Barry, the most important lesson from the 1918 influenza is to "tell the truth". Whenever true figures are suppressed during a pandemic, the data get skewed. As a result, modellers make unreliable projections, and wrong policies and programmes are formulated. Hence, data should be made freely available to experts. Systematic collection, compilation and analysis of clinical, epidemiological and laboratory data is paramount to decision-making. A core expert group comprising clinicians, epidemiologists and laboratory personnel should be constituted at every level (district, State and national) and entrusted with the responsibility of suggesting appropriate interventions to the concerned authorities. Data alone should drive interventions.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been associated with a high attack rate among household contacts.

Therefore, non-pharmacological interventions represent the cornerstone to halting transmission. These include avoiding mass gatherings, closing schools, isolating those with infec-

tion, contact tracing, and implementing infection prevention strategies in health care settings. These are critical to achieving at least a 50% reduction in transmission, which correlates with a basic reproductive number lower or equal to one ( $R_0 \leq 1$ ). A critical determinant that ensures the success of any intervention, whether vaccination or NPIs, is appropriate communication. Therefore, a robust communication strategy must be developed that is directed at behavioural change for subverting the third wave.

The available data indicate that every age group was affected in the second COVID-19 wave. The susceptible persons comprise those not protected by vaccination or those who are not infected yet. The proportion of susceptible people is higher in the younger age groups, including children. A higher risk of infection is not the same as a higher risk of serious illness, especially for children. However, even if there is a small proportion of complications and deaths, absolute numbers can strain the health system resulting in a shortage of beds. Higher mortality is not so specific to the virulence of the virus, or age group, but mostly arises from the shortage of beds during a sudden surge in cases.

To reduce the number of deaths, we should immediately create adequate capacity to handle the surge. More paediatric ICUs and specialist care are needed to handle a complex disorder, namely Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome. Enhancing paediatric specialised beds and ICUs can help in managing meningitis and other diseases in the community. Many patients who have recovered from active COVID-19 infection are experiencing long-term residual effects of the disease both physically and mentally. It is necessary to address these issues in all hospitals through counselling at the time of discharge and by establishing post-COVID-19 care clinics and services. We need to make a realistic assessment of needs. Every effort should be made to strengthen the human resources and infrastructure in the rural, vulnerable and remote areas.

*Giridhara R. Babu is a Professor of Epidemiology at the IIPH-Bengaluru, Public Health Foundation of India and V. Ravi is a Neurovirologist and nodal officer for genomic confirmation of SARS-CoV2, Government of Karnataka*

# The proportionality principle

Hamas endangers Israeli civilians by targeting them and endangers Gazan civilians by using them as human shields



MICHAL GUR-ARYEH

Every war is tragic. Every civilian death is a world lost. Nevertheless, when legal discourse is applied to a war, legal terminology, concepts, and resulting conclusions should be accurately implemented. One common misconception concerns the term 'proportionality'. Particularly, it is the argument that proportional use of force is a numbers game; that one only needs to compare the number of casualties on each side of the conflict in order to deduce which side used force disproportionately. From a legal standpoint, this notion is flawed. Had this been true, many NATO operations would have been guilty of being disproportionate and unlawful.

## What proportionality means

The principle of proportionality is defined as the obligation to refrain from "any attack which may be expected to cause incidental loss or injuries to civilians, or damage to civilian objects, which would be excessive in relation to the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated". What does this mean in practice? At the outset, it may be useful to stress what 'proportionality' does not mean: clearly, it does not address casualties in a collective manner pertaining to the whole conflict, but rather, refers to particular attacks; it does not address only civilian casualties and damage, but also the intended military advantage; and it is not examined in hindsight, but before the attack takes place.

The proportionality principle means that before every military strike, military commanders must assess two factors. First, they must examine the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated from an attack, when naturally, the neutralisation of some targets would have a higher advantage than others. In order to offer such advantage, the target must be a military target, such as a weapons depot. Importantly, a seemingly civilian object, used by the adversary for military purposes (for example, a residential building used to store weapons) may be considered a lawful target.

Second, the commanders must assess, based on reasonably available information at the time of the attack, what the expected collateral damage would be. They must assess how many civilians, if any, will be present in the area of the planned attack. Then they must assess the extent of expected damage to civilian property, including indirect damage that is to be accounted for, such as infrastructure. Lastly, they must implement all

feasible precautions to mitigate harm to civilians and civilian objects. If the assessment of the two factors leads to the conclusion that the expected damage to civilians or civilian objects is deemed excessive in relation to the anticipated military advantage, carrying out an attack would be unlawful.

It follows that not every civilian death in armed conflict necessarily testifies to a breach of international law. This principle of proportionality is the way that the law, created by states, saw fit to balance the military needs of states, who fight to protect civilians, with humanitarian imperatives.

## Wrongfully blamed

How is the principle of proportionality affected when instead of protecting its civilians, Hamas intentionally conducts its military activity from within densely populated areas? How is Israel expected to protect its major cities from Hamas rockets, when these rockets are developed, built and launched from within Gazan civilian population? Hamas is committing a double war crime - endangering Israeli civilians by targeting them and endangering Gazan civilians by using them as human shields. What does international law require Israel, a law-abiding state, to do, when facing Hamas' unlawful tactics?

The law of armed conflict states that when civilian presence is used to shield military objectives from attacks, that presence does not grant the target immunity. When Hamas commits the double war crime of attacking Israeli children, schools and airports from within its own civilian population, the analysis of the situation would be distorted if its criminal behaviour is not taken into account.

Despite Hamas's blatant disregard for the law or its citizens' well-being, Israel does everything feasible in order to prevent or at least minimise harm to the Palestinian civilian population, often at the cost of operational advantage. In doing so, Israel employs precautions that exceed the requirements of international law, as well as the practices commonly employed by advanced militaries of western states. Fighting an enemy that deliberately abuses the law of armed conflict raises grave challenges for Israeli soldiers. Nevertheless, Israeli commanders apply international law, including the principle of proportionality, in every military action.

Why is Hamas using its own population as human shields? This brings us back to the misconception of the principle of proportionality, and the knee-jerk reaction that ignores the question, who put Gazan civilians in danger in the first place? In other words, Hamas pays no price for its war crimes and often it is Israel that is wrongfully blamed. This situation provides an incentive to Hamas to continue with its heinous practices.

*Michal Gur-Aryeh is a senior Israeli diplomat*

# Building trust in governance

A service delivery platform which builds trust between citizens and government has shown results

## VIRAJ TYAGI

versed, and citizen participation increases.

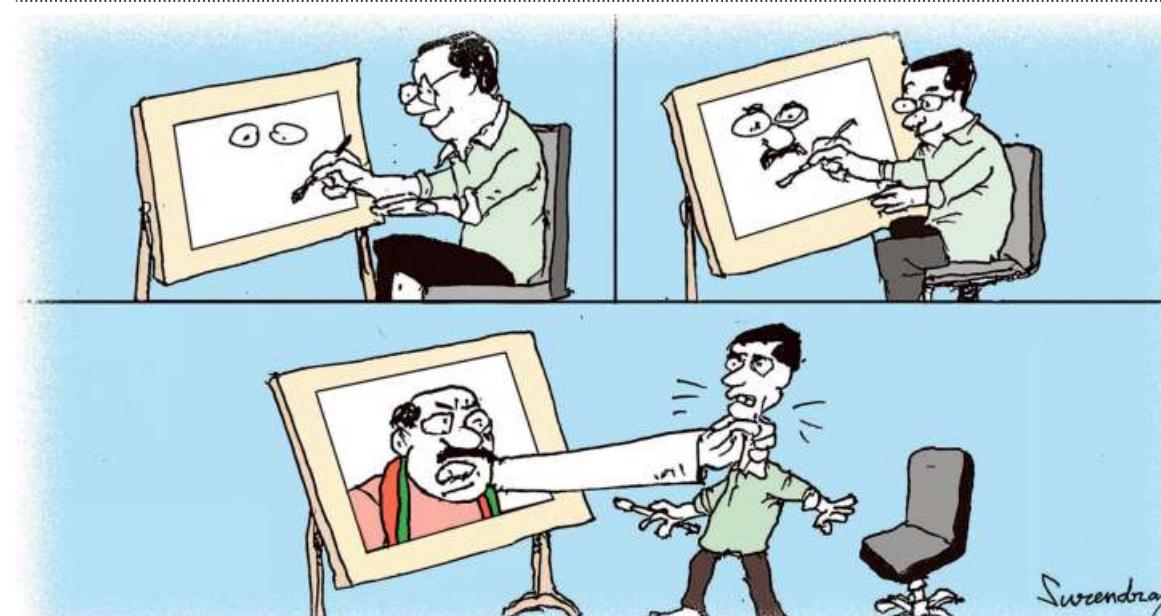
In Andhra Pradesh, we at eGov Foundation partnered with the government to roll out a citizen services delivery platform (PuraSeva) in all 110 towns and cities. We saw the positive impact of this platform on social trust. One of the areas reformed was the complaints process: multiple channels to lodge complaints, prompt acknowledgment with a reference number assigned, SMS notifications providing an expected completion date and responsible person, and notifications of each status change. Finally, citizens are invited to provide a star rating upon completion. Moreover, citizens and civil society groups can view the performance data for their localities through open dashboards.

## How trust grows

This trust is exponential: it is built as consumers get consistent information and predictability, over time, every time. When we book an Ola cab, we get an OTP every time, we can track our cab every time, the OTP works every time we give it to the driver, and so on. Of course, the actual delivery of service needs to live up to expectations for trust to be built, and there can be the occasional glitch. Still, having visibility of interactions directly (without having to go ask someone to look up a request status or complaint number) and a mechanism to hold the service provider accountable is fundamental to building trust.

In our experience in working in the area of service delivery by urban local bodies, we find that citizens' default position is low trust. Their past experiences, where requests have not been responded to, or have vanished into the ether, adds to this sense of apprehension. Corruption makes this worse. The worst is paying a bribe and still not being served. We also observe power imbalance: citizens feel that they do not have any recourse.

These frictional interactions pile up over time. They lead to apathy, disengagement, a 'nothing will happen' mindset. The good news is that when government service delivery manifests this new currency of social trust – visibility of status, alerts at key stages, knowing who is accountable, ways to escalate the complaint, ways to rate or give feedback – the confidence of citizens starts to grow. Over time, the trust deficit is re-

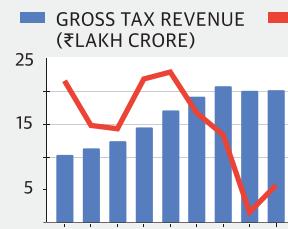


## DATA POINT

**Shifting the tax burden** | In FY21, despite a stringent lockdown and a raging COVID-19 first wave, the gross tax revenue collected by the Centre increased over FY20. However, the increase was made possible by a sharp rise in contributions from union excise duties. This compensated for the sharp drop in the share of corporate tax collection. The shift in tax burden from the corporates to the masses has come at a time when the pandemic has led to many job losses and reduced income levels thereby pushing more people into poverty. By The Hindu Data Team

**HIGHER COLLECTIONS** | Despite a national lockdown, the gross tax revenue grew in FY21 compared to FY20. About ₹20.24 lakh crore was collected in FY21

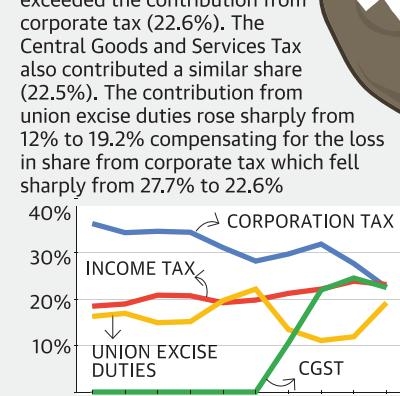
■ GROSS TAX REVENUE (₹LAKH CRORE)



**TAX BURDEN** | In FY21, the share of income tax (23.2%)

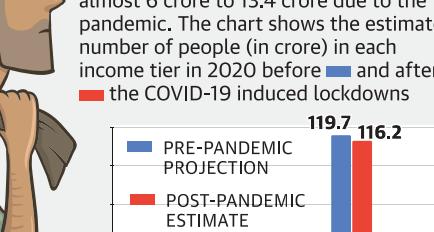
exceeded the contribution from corporate tax (22.6%). The Central Goods and Services Tax also contributed a similar share (22.5%). The contribution from union excise duties rose sharply from 12% to 19.2% compensating for the loss in share from corporate tax which fell sharply from 27.7% to 22.6%

■ INCOME TAX ■ UNION EXCISE DUTIES ■ CGST



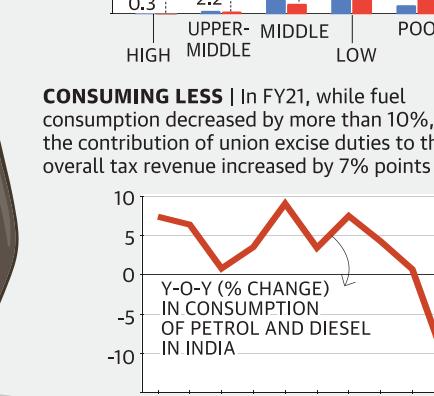
**SLIPPING INTO POVERTY** | According to the Pew Research Center, the number of poor people in India (incomes <=\$2 a day) is estimated to have increased from almost 6 crore to 13.4 crore due to the pandemic. The chart shows the estimated number of people (in crore) in each income tier in 2020 before and after the COVID-19 induced lockdowns

■ PRE-PANDEMIC PROJECTION ■ POST-PANDEMIC ESTIMATE



**CONSUMING LESS** | In FY21, while fuel consumption decreased by more than 10%, the contribution of union excise duties to the overall tax revenue increased by 7% points

■ Y-O-Y (% CHANGE) IN CONSUMPTION OF PETROL AND DIESEL IN INDIA



## A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 9, 1921

### Payment for jurors

Jurors are not paid for their work, which is generally regarded as a privilege and even a duty attaching to their citizenship. They may be kept hanging about a court for several days to the complete dislocation of their business. The rigid rule of punctual attendance and the monotony of trials often cause great hardship. It is stated that the Special Juror in the United Kingdom is more or less "adequately rewarded," with the fee of a guinea for each suit to which he listens, but the Common Juror is a "very long suffering individual". A private member's Bill in the House of Commons seeks to sanction the payment of expenses which Common Jurors incur in the discharge of their duties. There is no idea of paying any remuneration for his work and the proposal is merely to reimburse his out-of-pocket expenses. Jury service is generally not popular and it may grow more and more unpopular if it should involve personal expense. It stands to reason that the honorary worker in the great cause of Justice should not be victimised in his pocket for the common good. The success of the private member's Bill will be watched with wide interest since none would like honorary work becoming a source of expenditure.

## FROM PAGE ONE

## Centre places orders for 44 crore vaccine doses

To be able to administer at least a single dose to all adults by December, over 9 crore people need to be inoculated per month.

The government has earmarked ₹35,000 crore towards vaccine procurement. Until May 28, it had ordered 28.5 crore doses for ₹4,488 crore according to data from the Health Ministry.

Biological E said it had got permission from India's Drug Controller on April 24 to begin phase-3 trials in India. The Phase III clinical study to be conducted in 15 sites across India would evaluate the extent and nature of immunity and safety of Biological E's SARS-CoV-2 COVID-19 vaccine in about 1,268 healthy subjects in the age range of 18 to 80 years. It

is intended to be part of a larger global Phase III study, the company said in a statement.

Biological E has successfully concluded the Phase I/II trials of the vaccine candidate, which began in India in November last year. Data from the Phase I/II trial suggested that the Covid-19 vaccine was "safe, well-tolerated, and immunogenic," according to a company statement.

The vaccine candidate has an antigen developed by the Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development and in-licensed from BCM Ventures, Baylor College of Medicine's integrated commercialisation team, and Dynavax Technologies' advanced adjuvant, CpG 1018TM.

The vaccine candidate has an antigen developed by the Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development and in-licensed from BCM Ventures, Baylor College of Medicine's integrated commercialisation team, and Dynavax Technologies' advanced adjuvant, CpG 1018TM.

## Nepal stops distribution of Patanjali's Coronil kits

While pointing at shortcomings of the kits, Nepalese officials pointed to the recent statements against Coronil by the Indian Medical Association (IMA), which has challenged Mr. Ramdev to prove the efficacy of his products to deal with the COVID-19.

Nepal is the second country after Bhutan to stop distribution of Coronil kits. Bhutan's Drug Regulatory Authority has already stopped distribution of Coronil in the kingdom.

However, Nepal remains close to the Patanjali group as the organisation maintains a large production facility and distribution networks in Nepal. It is not yet clear if the ban on the distribution will be limited to the particular consignment or get expanded to cover Coronil kits across the country.

## Ladakh reserves all jobs for region residents

'A welcome but delayed move'

PEERZADA ASHIQ  
SRINAGAR

All jobs in the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh have been reserved for the residents of the region, according to an order issued on Tuesday.

"No person shall be qualified for appointment to the service unless the person is a resident of the UT of Ladakh," reads the order issued by Lieutenant-Governor R.K. Mathur.

The new recruitment rules are mentioned in the Clause II of the Union Territory of Ladakh Employment (Subordinate) Service Recruitment Rules, 2021.

The move has met a long-pending demand of the people of Ladakh, after it was carved out as a UT on August 5, 2019. "It was our demand since the bifurcation of J&K almost two years ago.

It's a welcome move," Chief Executive Councillor, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council-Kargil, Feroz Ahmed Khan told *The Hindu*.

He said the order has come very late as many unemployed youths have crossed the upper age limit in the past two years. "We will also demand age relaxation for fresh recruitments," Mr. Khan said. He said there should be similar laws on land too. "At present, the State land of the UT comes under twin elected councils, Leh and Kargil. However, private land does not have any protection."

Mr. Khan said till the Centre meets the demand of the Sixth Schedule for the UT, it should also grant legislative powers to the twin councils.

## Rajnath lauds India-Sweden ties in defence production

Minister points to growing co-development options

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

There is lot of scope for Swedish and Indian defence industries for co-production and co-development and Indian industry can also supply components to Swedish industries, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Tuesday.

"On behalf of Government of India, I would like to extend an invitation to a delegation at highest level from Sweden to India and have a glimpse of Indian defence industries and defence industry corridors," Mr. Singh said at an India-Sweden defence webinar.



**Close network:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh releasing the first copy of the SIDM Members Directory 2020-2021. ■ PTI

Welcoming the recent understanding by India and European Union to resume negotiations on a free trade agreement, Swedish Defence Minister Peter Hultqvist said one area with potential for deepening defence industry cooperation was amongst Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) businesses. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed during the event between Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers and Swedish Security and Defence Industry Association to promote bilateral defence industrial relations.

## New norms for digital content

Children with special needs must find it operable, understandable: Centre

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Education Ministry has laid down new guidelines for producing digital education resources for children with disabilities, after a year in which the COVID-driven shift to online education has spotlighted the lacunae in such resources.



Learning activities must include multimodal experiences, norms say.

However, the PDF document containing the guidelines does not even follow its own rules, making it partially inaccessible to the visually challenged, says an activist, raising concerns about effective implementation.

## Guidelines released

The guidelines, released by Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank on Tuesday, are based on four guiding principles, stipulating that all resources must be perceivable, operable, understandable and robust for disabled students.

They recommend that all textbooks be made digitally accessible in a phased manner, so that they are available in multiple formats such as text, audio, video and sign language with turn-on and turn-off features. Detailed technical standards have been provided.

The closure of regular schools and learning centres due to COVID-19 has led to special difficulties for many disabled children.

For instance, a recent stu-

dy by the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy showed that more than half of the NCERT textbooks available on the government's virtual education platform DIKSHA were not accessible for visually impaired students.

## Supplementary content

The guidelines provide strategies to produce supplementary content for varying disabilities, including students who face visual and hearing challenges, those on the autism spectrum, those with intellectual or special learning disabilities, and those with multiple disabilities.

They note that learning activities must include audio, visual and tactile experiences, while evaluation must be multimodal.

Ironically enough, while the guidelines call for the use of image descriptions wherever pictures are used

in order to be accessible to visually challenged students using screen readers, this is not even followed by the guidelines document itself, according to Muralidharan, secretary, National Platform for the Rights of the Disabled.

"So much for a document that talks of e-accessibility," he said. "As guidelines they are very comprehensive and cover all aspects ... Concerns of each disability are identified and solutions worked around them. How far they would be implemented is something that we will have to see. The taste of the pudding will lie in its eating."

The guidelines do include an implementation roadmap. The next steps are the nomination of an expert technical team to update the DIKSHA platform, followed by training and development of prototypes of the accessible digital textbooks.

## Top varsities

JNU, featuring for the first time in the QS World Universities Ranking list, is among the top-600 in the world

= indicates shared ranking

2022 global rank	Name
177=	Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay
185	Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi
186=	Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru
255=	Indian Institute of Technology, Madras
277=	Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur
280	Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur
395=	Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati
400=	Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee
501-510 (ranking band)	University of Delhi
561-570 (ranking band)	Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi

## JNU enters list of top 1,000 universities

IIT-Bombay ranks the highest in India

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Jawaharlal Nehru University has entered the top 1,000 of the QS World University rankings for the first time, as its new undergraduate engineering programme now makes it eligible for the rating.

It debuted at the 561-570 ranking band in the rankings, which only rate institutions offering both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.

Three institutions in the world's top 100. IISc was also declared the world's top research university by the indicator of most citations per faculty member, when adjusted for faculty size.

The citations per faculty metric were also key to the 75 rank jump by IIT Guwahati and the 73 rank jump by IIT Kanpur, according to QS regional director Ashwin Fernandes.

## Commercial pressure

However, one IIT director, who did not wish to be named, alleged that this year's improvement in scores was simply a manipulation of numbers by the rankings agency, driven by commercial pressures.

Of the 35 Indian institutions in the rankings, 20 have improved on academic reputation this year.

"Half of the score comes from reputation indicators which are based on perception, rather than any objective methodology. They cannot afford too much unhappiness, or they may face a boycott like the THE [Times Higher Education rankings], so they manipulate the numbers. It does not reflect the quality of Indian education in any real sense," said the director.

## Interpol-led Operation Pangea XIV targeted sale of counterfeit health products

DEVEESH K. PANDEY  
NEW DELHI

More than 1.1 lakh web links, including websites and online marketplaces, have been taken down in an operation involving the police, customs and health regulatory authorities of 92 countries against the sale of fake and illicit medicines and medical products.

Code-named "Operation Pangea XIV", the exercise was coordinated by Interpol. Indian agencies also participated in the operation, said an official of the Central Bureau of Investigation that is the nodal body for the Interpol in the country.

The operation resulted in 1,13,020 web links being closed down or removed, the largest since the first "Operation Pangea" conducted in 2008, the arrest of 277 suspects and seizure of

potentially dangerous pharmaceuticals worth over \$23 million.

It showed that criminals were continuing to cash in on the huge demand for personal protection and hygiene products due to the COVID-19 pandemic. More than half of all the medical devices seized during the operation from May 18 to 25 were fake and unauthorised COVID-19 test kits.

In the United Kingdom, apart from the seizure of some three million fake medicines and devices worth over \$13 million, the authorities recovered more than 3,100 advertising links for the illegal sale and supply of unlicensed medicines, and shut down 43 websites, Interpol said in a statement on Tuesday.

A person in Venezuela was arrested for developing

quick to target these new "customers," said Interpol Secretary General Jürgen Stock.

During the operation, searches of about 7.10 lakh packages led to the discovery of fake and illicit drugs concealed amongst a range of legitimate products, including clothes, jewellery, toys, food and baby products. "In Qatar, officials discovered 2,805 nerve pain tablets hidden inside tins of baked beans," said the Interpol.

The seized items included hypnotic and sedative medication, erectile dysfunction pills, medical and surgical devices like COVID test kits, masks, syringes, catheters, analgesics/painkillers, anabolic steroids, antibiotics and germicides, anti-cancer medication, anti-malarials and vitamins.

As the pandemic forced more people to move their lives online, criminals were

## Rengma Nagas demand autonomous council

They write to Union Home Minister and Assam Chief Minister, asking for their voices to be heard

VIJAYA SINGH  
NEW DELHI



**Long fight:** The Rengma Nagas community has been seeking an autonomous council for many years now. ■ FILE PHOTO

Narrating its history, the council said that during the Burmese invasions of Assam in 1816 and 1819, it was the Rengmas who gave shelter to the Ahom refugees.

The petition said that the Rengma Hills was partitioned in 1963 between As-

sam and Nagaland at the time of creation of Nagaland State and the Karbis, who were known as Mikirs till 1976, were the indigenous tribal people of Mikir Hills.

"Thus, the Rengma Hills and Mikir Hills were two separate entities till 1951. Karbis

have no history in the Rengma Hills. People who are presently living in Rengma Hills are from Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya. They speak different dialects and do not know Karbi language of Karbi Anglong," the memorandum said.

RNPC president K. Solomon Rengma told *The Hindu* that the government was on the verge of taking a decision without taking them on board and thus they had written to Mr. Shah and Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

"How can they do this? We have been writing to them for many years. The KACB population is around 12 lakh and the Karbis constitute only 3 lakh, the remaining are non-Karbis, including

the Rengma Nagas, whose population is around 22,000. We are also demanding a separate legislative seat for Rengmas," he said.

The National Socialist Council of Nagaland or NSCN (Isak-Muivah), which is in talks with the Centre for a peace deal, said in a statement on Monday that the Rengma issue was one of the important agendas of the "Indo-Naga political talks" and no authority should go far enough to override their interests.

More than 3,000 Rengma Nagas were forced to relocate to relief camps in 2013 after several people were killed in a series of attacks following a call given by a Karbi insurgent group.

## IN BRIEF



**Farooq says he is not against delimitation**

NATIONAL CONFERENCE (NC) president and MP Farooq Ahmad Khan on Tuesday said his party would continue to strive for J&K's special status and was not against the ongoing delimitation process.

"The method adopted is not in tandem with the procedure," he said. Party vice-president Omar Abdullah also asked the workers "to remain steadfast in their resolve to fight for the right cause".

## M.P. CM's new OSD quits after row over his tweets

A newly appointed communication adviser to Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said on Tuesday that he would not take up the post after some BJP leaders flagged his past tweets criticising the Hindutva ideology. "I have decided to not accept the responsibility offered to me by

@chouhanshivraj and have communicated my inability to the CM," Mumbai-based Tushar Panchal said in a tweet from the handle @tushar. It could not be ascertained if it was Mr. Panchal's own Twitter account, but a State BJP leader confirmed that he has refused to accept the post. ■

## SAD hits out at govt. for case against its leaders

A day after the Punjab police booked its leaders and workers on the charge of violating COVID-19 curbs, the Shiromani Akali Dal hit out at the Congress-led Punjab government on Tuesday for "suppressing" the voice of those standing by the people in this hour of crisis. ■

## Delhi ration shops urged to use ePOS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey has written to the Delhi government, urging it to resume the use of electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) machines at ration shops, so that the One Nation One Ration Card scheme can be implemented in the State.

In a time of COVID-related distress, the scheme would be of immense help to an estimated 10 lakh migrant workers in Delhi who have ration cards in their home States but are unable to access subsidised foodgrains in the capital, Mr. Pandey wrote in his letter to Delhi Chief Secretary Vijay Kumar Dev on Tuesday.

Medium Enterprise (SME) businesses. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed during the event between Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers and Swedish Security and Defence Industry Association to promote bilateral defence industrial relations.

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## IN BRIEF



## Four take oath as Rajya Sabha members

Four Rajya Sabha members — two elected from Kerala and two nominated members, including Swapna Dasgupta — took their oaths on Tuesday. Mr. Dasgupta returned to complete his tenure after having resigned ahead of the West Bengal election, where he contested on BJP ticket. The other nominated member was senior lawyer Mahesh Jethmalani. The two members from Kerala were senior journalist John Brittas and CPI(M) leader V. Sivadasan.

## Maratha quota: CM seeks lifting of 50% ceiling

MUMBAI A delegation led by Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take steps to lift the 50% ceiling on reservation to ensure that Marathas and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) continue to get benefits. "The Supreme Court scrapped the Maratha reservation and also the political reservation for OBCs in local civic bodies. We presented all the facts and the steps to be taken for the same," Mr. Thackeray said at a press conference after a meeting with Mr. Modi.

## Gujarat BJP convenes meeting on June 15

AHMEDABAD The Gujarat BJP has convened a legislature party meeting on June 15. All MLAs from the party have been asked to attend. Members of the State parliamentary board, State party chief C.R. Paatil and other top office-bearers of the party will also be present. "We have called the meeting of all legislators to brief them about the measures the government has taken during the pandemic second wave," Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel said in a statement. Mr. Patel said no meeting of the party's office-bearers and legislators had been held for two months and, hence, this meeting.

# On vaccines, India always quick on the uptake

PM's claim that country earlier had to wait decades for procuring vaccines from abroad is at odds with the facts

## JACOB KOSHY

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Monday presentation of India's vaccination history is at odds with the facts. "If you look at the history of vaccinations in India, whether for smallpox, hepatitis B or polio, you will see that India would have to wait decades for procuring vaccines from abroad. When vaccination



**Viral claims:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi receiving the second dose of the vaccine in New Delhi in April. ■ AFP

programmes ended in other countries, it would not have even begun in our country," he claimed.

India, even before Independence, was among the countries that indigenously manufactured vaccines a few years within their discovery, historical records suggest.

While there have been several challenges to the uptake of vaccines, their availability was the least of the problems.

A vaccine for smallpox, as

a history of vaccination in India published in the *Indian Journal of Medical Research* (IJMR) by Chandrakant Lahariya in 2012 said, was first administered to a three-year-old Indian, in 1802, a mere four years after English physician Edward Jenner published the result of his experiments on inoculating subjects with a cowpox virus. The smallpox vaccines were imported until 1850, but preserving the liquid lymph solution was a challenge. This led to institutes in India researching ways to increase lymph supply with early success by 1895.

The first animal vaccine depot was set up in Shillong in 1890, from where it started to be produced.

While vaccination never

ceased in India once it began, it had varying popularity. There was hesitancy, opposition from 'tikadaars' (who performed variolation) and those actually administering vaccines charged a

(and India) and 1977 in Africa. The challenge, said Dr. Lahariya, was not a lack of access to vaccines, but social and economic factors surrounding vaccination.

The history of polio vaccination in India is more complicated. "India was also the pioneer-leader in polio research — epidemiology, vaccine-prevention — and in the manufacture of both Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) and Injectable Polio Vaccine (IPV). India's lead position was

squandered in later years due to short-sighted policies and capricious decisions, a blot in our history of public health," write T. Jacob John and M. Vipin Vashishta in the 2013 edition of the *IJMR*.

The Pasteur Institute of India developed and produced, for the first time in India, an indigenous trivalent OPV in 1970. It was not until 2006 that IPV was licensed for manufacture in India.

It was only due to the use of a combination of both kinds of vaccines, concerted sustained campaigns and inadequate attention by governments to boost vaccine production that it required until 2011 to eliminate polio. Again, it was not because India was unable to make those vaccines.

The Prime Minister also claimed that since 2014, the Mission Indradhanush programme had increased the percentage of children covered under vaccination from 60% to 90%. The latest round of the National Family

Health Survey, which provides data only from 17 States and five Union Territories, showed that none of the States had achieved 90% vaccination coverage. The Health Ministry released data on this December 2020 and was expected to provide data from the remaining States by May this year.

A vaccine against the bacterium causing plague was made by Waldemar Haffkine at the Grant Medical College, Bombay, in 1897 that he first tested on himself and later on the inmates of the Byculla jail. A Plague Laboratory was set up in 1899 and in 1925, it was renamed the Haffkine Institute.

Several vaccine institutes came up in different provinces of the country, including the 1948 BCG (for tuberculosis) Laboratory in Guindy, Madras. These institutes enabled the manufacture of vaccines for diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus in India, before 1940.

## High number of Cong. MLAs joined BJP'

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The highest number of MLAs who switched parties in the recent Assembly elections left the Congress and joined the BJP, according to a report released by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) on Tuesday.

The ADR report said the highest number of MLAs who changed parties were from the Congress (20 or 39.22%) of the total. Fifteen All-India Trinamool Congress MLAs, or 29.41% of the total MLAs, who switched parties left to contest elections.

"In the recent Assembly elections 2021, 20 [39.22%] out of 60 recontesting MLAs who switched political parties joined the BJP, followed by 17 [33.33%] MLAs who joined AIUC and 7 [13.73%] MLAs who joined Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam," it said.

Out of the 60 recontesting candidates in the five Assembly polls, the maximum number (eight or 13.33%) left the Congress.

## Group seeks action against NRC head

### Adopt a transparent policy in allocating vaccines: Congress

Spell out road map of meeting deadline by Dec., it tells govt.

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI



Jairam Ramesh

ate sector to obtain 25% of the vaccine production.

Addressing a virtual press conference, former Union Minister Jairam Ramesh claimed that 50% of the vaccines meant for the private sector had been "grabbed" by nine major hospital groups with presence in metro cities and that was a

"dangerous situation" as it affected supply to smaller hospitals in non-metros and small towns.

The government should also do away with the procedure of registering oneself in the CoWIN app and set up walk-in vaccination for all categories.

"This government is deadline-driven and not deadline-driven," Mr. Ramesh said.

"The government must work out a transparent allocation formula in consultation with States for providing vaccines, as we have seen that BJP-ruled States have been favoured by the Central government in the past in allocation of vaccines and medicines," he alleged.

### '25% of vaccines for private hospitals is a licence to loot'

CPI(M) demands an immediate withdrawal of the clause

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI



Commuters travelling in the Metro on Monday in New Delhi. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

ly reversed. The government has chosen to continue the dual pricing policy. As much as 25% of vaccine production is still reserved for the private sector. This is nothing but a licence for loot by private manufacturers to make super profits," the statement said.

And this 25% diversion of vaccines, the CPI(M) said, came at a time of acute vaccine shortage. This would "dilute and weaken" the need for universal vaccination, essential to prevent a third wave of COVID-19. The Centre must procure all the vaccines manufactured in India and bought globally, and distribute it to States in consultation with them, the statement said.

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI

A minority organisation has asked the Union Home Ministry to take action against Hitesh Dev Sarma, Assam's Coordinator for the National Register of Citizens (NRC), for "biased activities" and failure to issue rejection orders to those excluded from the updated list of citizens.

In a letter to the Ministry's Secretary on June 7, the All Assam Minority Students' Union said bias had prompted the NRC Coordinator to file two applications in the Supreme Court on May 11 seeking reverification of the list of citizens published in 2019.

### Monsoon session of Parliament likely to begin in July: Minister

COVID-19 protocols on seating are expected to continue



Pralhad Joshi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The monsoon session of Parliament is expected to begin on schedule in July, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said on Tuesday.

As per norms, the session is held in the second or third week of July. The last session of Parliament was curtailed and ended *sine die* on March 25 and under the Constitutional norms, the next session has to be held within six months. This period ends on September 14.

Three sessions have been curtailed since the pandemic began in March last year. First of these was the Budget session of 2020. The winter session last year was also cut

short. Last year, the monsoon session, which usually starts in July, began in September.

"I am hopeful that the Parliament session will be held as per its normal schedule in July," Mr. Joshi told PTI. However, Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkiah Naidu did not share Mr. Joshi's opti-

mism. At an oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected members, Mr. Naidu, said, "Oath and affirmation has been arranged now because convening of the next session may take some time."

Sources said with the COVID-19 spread under control and the possibility of a third wave in the coming months, the government did not want to postpone the session to September. The monsoon session, sources said, would be short. Most MPs have got at least one dose of the COVID vaccine. However, the COVID-19 protocol followed in the last three sessions, including members sitting in galleries to maintain physical distance, is expected to continue.

### Cong. income dips; AAP, CPI(M), NCP post increase in 2019-20

EC publishes annual audit reports of parties other than BJP

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Congress saw its income decrease by over ₹200 crore from 2018-19 to 2019-20, the financial year in which the 2019 Lok Sabha election was held, while the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), the CPI(M) and the Samajwadi Party (SP) all reported an increase in receipts over the previous year.

The parties' annual audit reports for 2019-20, which were published by the Election Commission (EC) on

Monday, showed that the Congress went from having a surplus of ₹448.11 crore in 2018-19 to a deficit of ₹315.94 crore.

Its income decreased from ₹918.03 crore in 2018-19, which was the financial year in the run-up to the Lok Sabha election, to ₹862.21 crore in 2019-20.

In its report, the AAP declared an increase in income from ₹19.31 crore the previous year to ₹49.65 crore in 2019-20, while its expenditure rose from ₹16.1 crore to ₹38.8 crore.

### Bengal BJP speaking in different voices

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA

A month after the Assembly election, the rift in the West Bengal unit of the BJP is out in the open, with leaders speaking in different voices on crucial issues, including Article 356.

On Tuesday, the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Suvidhu Adhikari met Union Home Minister Amit Shah and party pre-

sident J.P. Nadda in Delhi.

Mr. Adhikari said the situation "is far worse than what is required for the Centre to impose President's Rule under Article 356".

But party leader Rajib Banerjee on social media said if at "every stage the party tries to scare people by pointing at Delhi and the ghost of Article 356, the people of West Bengal will not

take it well". Mr. Adhikari and Mr. Banerjee were Ministers in the Trinamool government and had joined the BJP before the Assembly election.

The State BJP held a meeting in Kolkata under the leadership of Dilip Ghosh. Mr. Ghosh had a tough time explaining why Mr. Banerjee and party leader Mukul Roy did not participate.

## TIRUCHIRAPPALLI CITY CORPORATION

Create Rain Water Harvesting Structure

## TENDER NOTIFICATION EXTENSION NOTICE

Re-Tender Notice No : 2 / 2021 - 2022

Details Date already notified Date Postponed

Last date of download of Bid Documents	08.06.2021 Upto 15.00 Hours	22.06.2021 Upto 15.00 Hours
Submission of bids through e-submission	09.06.2021 Upto 15.00 Hours	23.06.2021 Upto 15.00 Hours
Tender Opening Date and Time	09.06.2021 Upto 16.00 Hours	23.06.2021 Upto 16.00 Hours

Other terms and Conditions remain unchanged.

Commissioner, Tiruchirappalli City Corporation

DIPR/ 1718 /TENDER/2021

## TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD

6<sup>th</sup> Extension Notification No. IFB No. 15-6 / DSP – VPM Pkg I / DO / CE / VLR / 2021 / Dated : 07.06.2021

Name of work : Design, Build, Operation of 60 MLD Capacity Desalination Plant based on (SWRO) Sea Water Reverse Osmosis at Konimedu near Marakkanam in Villupuram District in Tamil Nadu and Operation and Maintenance for 20 years (Paid Maintenance) - Package I - Period of Execution - 24 months (Design part - 6 Months - Execution part - 18 Months) - Trial period - 6 Months.

Ref : 1. This offer Invitation of Bid. IFB No. 15/05/DSP – VPM Pkg I/DO/CE/VLR/2021/Dated : 07.01.2021

2. Tender Extension Notification No. IFB No. 15-1/DSP – VPM Pkg I/DO/CE/VLR/2021/Dated : 09.02.2021

3. Tender Extension Notification No. IFB No. 15-2/DSP – VPM Pkg I/DO/CE/VLR/2021/Dated : 25.02.2021

4. Tender Extension Notification No. IFB No. 15-3/DSP – VPM Pkg I/DO/CE/VLR/2021/Dated : 09.03.2021

5. Tender Extension Notification No. IFB No. 15-4/DSP – VPM Pkg I/DO/CE/VLR/2021/Dated : 08.04.2021

6. Tender Extension Notification No. IFB No. 15-5 / DSP – VPM

## IN BRIEF



Bihar lifts lockdown; night curfew to stay

PATNA  
The Bihar government on Tuesday announced that the lockdown will be lifted from June 9. However, night curfew will continue from 7 p.m. to 5 a.m. Government and private offices can open with 50% strength till 4 p.m., but malls, schools, colleges, religious places and cinema halls will remain closed. Shops will be allowed to remain open till 5 p.m. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar cautioned people to avoid crowded places.

## Railways to run 100 more trains soon

NEW DELHI  
The Indian Railways are making all efforts to ramp up passenger services and will begin running 100 more trains in the next five or six days to meet the increase in demand, Railway Board Chairman and CEO Suneet Sharma said on Tuesday. The Railways are currently running 889 Special Mail Express trains on an average daily. "We want to normalise services as soon as possible... we had operationalised about 1,500 trains before the second wave of the pandemic. However, due to the pandemic and restrictions on movement in various States, we faced challenges," Mr. Sharma said.

## Odisha to start unlock process in phases

Bhubaneswar  
Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik on Tuesday said the State government was contemplating starting the unlocking process in districts registering a decline in COVID-19 infection rate. He also asked the administration to ensure a foolproof preparation for the possible third wave. He was reviewing the prevailing corona situation in the State. While expressing satisfaction over the decline in cases in certain districts, he said the State was yet to get out of the impact of the second wave.

**Piramal Foundation, NITI unveil home care drive**  
MUMBAI  
Piramal Foundation, in association with NITI Aayog, on Tuesday unveiled a campaign to provide COVID home care to 20 lakh citizens staying in rural areas. The Foundation, which has been working in 25 districts to provide COVID care to senior citizens, has now expanded its scope of work to 112 backward districts. The 'Surakshit Hum Surakshit Tum Abhiyan' will be rolled out in these 112 aspirational districts to assist the administration in providing home-care support to patients who are asymptomatic or have mild symptoms. Most of these districts are in Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Maharashtra, officials from the Foundation said.

# Take action against illegal adoption: SC

It directs govt. to prevent private entities from revealing identity of children orphaned by pandemic

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has directed the States and the Union Territories to take stringent action against private individuals and NGOs who invite people to illegally adopt children orphaned by the COVID-19 pandemic.

A Bench of Justices L. Nageswara Rao and Aniruddha Bose, in an 18-page order published on Tuesday, directed the government to step in and prevent private entities from revealing the identities of affected children, usually on social media, and inviting people to adopt them.

"The State Governments/Union Territories are directed to prevent any NGO from collecting funds in the names of the affected children by disclosing their identity and inviting interested persons to adopt them. No adoption of affected children should be permitted con-

**Invitation to persons for adoption of orphans is contrary to law as no adoption of a child can be permitted without the involvement of CARA. Stringent action shall be taken against agencies/individuals who are responsible for indulging in this illegal activity**

SUPREME COURT

trary to the provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015," the court ordered.

**CARA involvement**

It was illegal to invite strangers to adopt children, already traumatised by their personal losses, without the involvement of the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), a statutory body under the Women and Child



Development Ministry, it said. "Invitation to persons for adoption of orphans is contrary to law as no adoption of a child can be permitted without the involvement of CARA. Stringent action shall be taken by the State Governments/Union Territories against agencies/individuals who are responsible for indulging in this illegal activity," it observed.

The order came after the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), on Monday, raised the alarm on a spate of complaints about illegal adoption of COVID-19 orphans through private individual and organisations. "Social media posts are circulating that children are up for adoption. This is plainly illegal and violates the Juvenile Justice Act," advocate Shobha Gupta, for intervenor 'We the Women of India', made an impassioned plea.

NCPCR statistics show that 3,621 children were orphaned, 26,176 children lost either parent and 274 abandoned between April 1, 2021 to June 5, 2021. The court is hearing a *suo motu* case on the plight of children impacted by the pandemic.

**Child trafficking**

Advocate Gaurav Agrawal, *amicus curiae*, said cases of

child trafficking have been going up. The government should intervene to care and protect children orphaned, abandoned or whose families have lost their earning members.

The court said lack of knowledge about the rights of children under the Juvenile Justice Act had led to many falling victim to efforts at illegal adoption. It directed the Centre, States and the Union Territories to give wide publicity to the provisions of the 2015 Act at regular intervals so as to make the general public, children and their parents or guardians aware of such provisions.

It ordered the States and the Union Territories to continue with their efforts to identify children in need of care and protection after March 2020 and upload their details on the NCPCR database in order to provide them welfare schemes.

# Govt. caps prices of COVID-19 vaccines at private hospitals

High cost unacceptable: V.K. Paul

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Centre has capped the prices at which vaccines will be sold at private hospitals. With a ceiling of ₹150 that hospitals can charge per dose as 'service charge' and a GST of 5%, the maximum price chargeable for Covishield is ₹780, for Covaxin, ₹4,140 and for Sputnik V ₹1,445, the Union Health Ministry said in an order on Tuesday.

The State governments would be entrusted with ensuring that these price barriers were not breached and if, in future, vaccine prices fell, it would influence the maximum cap.

Currently, nearly 9,000 private hospitals across the country are involved in the vaccination programme, and the government expects more of the 25,000-30,000 hospitals across the country to be more involved in the programme.

Private hospitals have, however, expressed reservations over the changed norms. The larger hospital chains that dominate vaccine procurement say the price is too low given the higher costs the hospitals incur, and the government should aim to reduce the vaccine prices for the private hospitals as well.

"The cap of ₹150 will not cover the additional costs incurred for such off-site vaccination camps which involve substantial costs... We urge the government to consider a higher charge," Fortis Healthcare said in a statement on Monday following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address.



Covishield will cost ₹780 a dose and Covaxin ₹1,410.

not just big cities, to come forward for administering vaccines."

Though vaccines would be available to all the Centre would continue to give "the highest priority" to healthcare workers, Dr. Paul added.

The high price of COVID-19 vaccines at private hospitals is "unacceptable", and the revised vaccination policy will see reductions, said V.K. Paul, Chairman of the National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19, on Tuesday.

Dr. Paul's remarks came a day after the Centre announced a revised vaccine policy from June 21 in which everyone above 18 will be eligible for free vaccines at government centres and State governments will no longer need to compete to buy vaccines.

Addressing a press conference, Dr. Paul said, "It is unacceptable that hospitals charge ₹1,600 or even ₹4,000 for vaccines that cost ₹600. They must limit their price. Earlier it was ₹100 and we felt that there is a need for it to be increased. We are confident that this will encourage more hospitals, across the country and

## Maintain vigil over private hospitals'

They may sell vaccines at a higher price, unless regulated stringently, SC told govt.

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court was worried about the role of private hospitals in COVID-19 vaccination, saying whether they would prefer profit over public health.

The court's anxiety is real and present as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech on Monday revealed that private hospitals would retain their capacity to buy 25% of vaccine stock from the manufacturers.

The court had advised the government to maintain a strict vigil over private hospitals in a May 31 order. It had

raised apprehension that private hospitals would sell vaccines they procure at higher prices unless they were "regulated stringently". It had reminded the government that private hospitals, though they provide public health service, have "profit" at the core of their existence.

A Bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud, L. Nageswara Rao and S. Ravindra Bhat said, "Further consequences of vaccination by private hospitals under the liberalised vaccination policy relate to a simple issue at the core of their existence: that

while they provide a public health service, they still remain private, for-profit entities. Consequently, they may sell the vaccine doses procured at a higher price, unless regulated stringently."

**Transparency issue**  
The court was also worried about transparency. "Private hospitals also may not sell all their vaccine doses publicly through appointments on Co-WIN, but rather sell them for lucrative deals directly to private corporations who wish to vaccinate their employees," it said.

The Bench pointed out

that many, especially those who live in small cities and villages, have limited access to private hospitals. "Private hospitals are not equally spread out across a State/UT and are often limited to bigger cities with large populations. As such, a larger quantity will be available in such cities, as opposed to the rural areas," it stated.

However, the court clarified that it was not against private hospitals playing a role in the vaccination drive. It accepted the Centre's point that they would reduce the burden on government facilities.

## Union seeks compensation for pilots

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

As nearly 21 pilots have succumbed to COVID-19 during the second wave, a welfare association has moved the Bombay High Court demanding that it determine suitable compensation in case of death of a pilot operating flights under the government's Vande Bharat Mission.

In its PIL plea, the Federation of Indian Pilots sought an interim ex gratia of ₹10 crore for all those who have lost their lives in the line of duty due to COVID-19.

## Probe ordered into 'mock drill' by Agra hospital

It cut off oxygen supply for 5 minutes

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
LUCKNOW

The Agra district administration launched a probe after the owner of a private hospital was heard in a video allegedly claiming how the hospital shut down oxygen supply for five minutes on April 27 as part of a "mock drill" to see which patients would survive and which would not.

Twenty-two patients "started turning blue, while 74 others survived", the owner of Paras Hospital, Arinjay Jain, can be heard saying in the video.

Mr. Jain, whose face is not visible, says there was acute shortage of oxygen on the day and claims they were told that even the Chief Mi-

nister could not arrange oxygen for them. He says they started discharging patients. While some were willing to listen, others did not. This is when he decided to conduct the "mock drill". "We did a mock drill at 7 a.m. and identified 22 patients. We realised they would die. We shut it [oxygen] down for five minutes. They started turning blue."

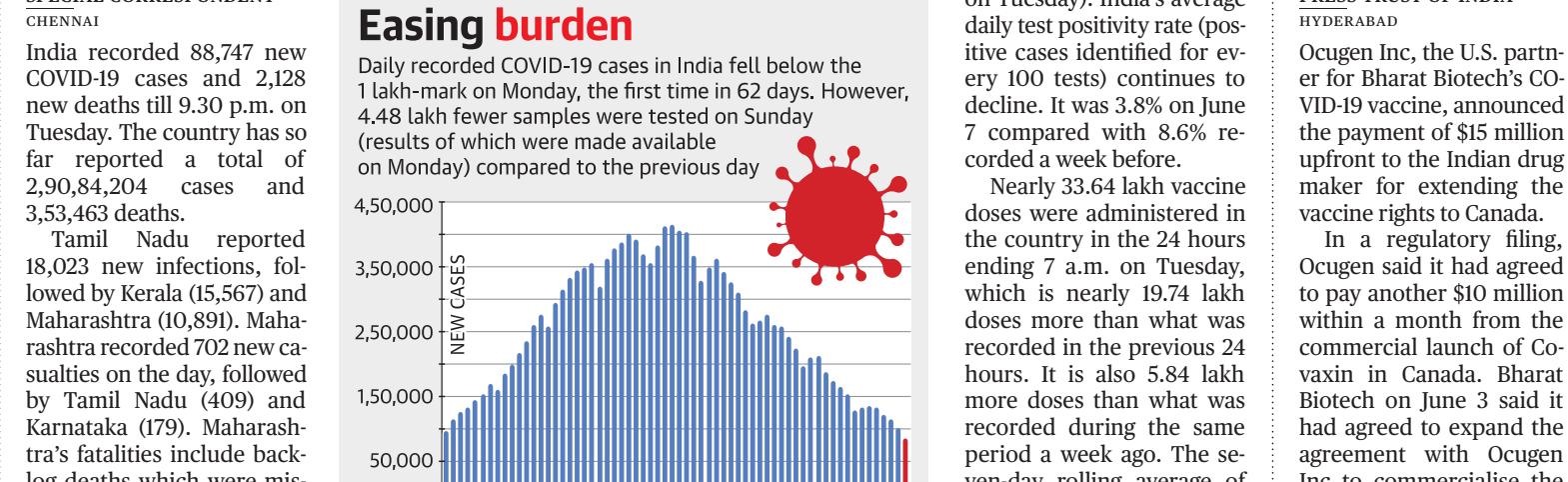
Agra District Magistrate Prabhu N. Singh, after conducting a preliminary probe, said there were no deaths due to lack of oxygen in the hospital. He also said an FIR would be lodged against Mr. Jain for trying to spread "fear". The hospital would also be sealed with immediate effect.

The figures do not include cases and deaths from Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Lakshadweep and

Ladakh. The data are sourced from the health bulletins of the respective States.

Nearly 18.73 lakh samples were tested in the country on Monday (the results for which were made available on Tuesday). India's average daily test positivity rate (positive cases identified for every 100 tests) continues to decline. It was 3.8% on June 7 compared with 8.6% recorded a week before.

Nearly 33.64 lakh vaccine doses were administered in the country in the 24 hours ending 7 a.m. on Tuesday, which is nearly 19.74 lakh doses more than what was recorded in the previous 24 hours. It is also 5.84 lakh more doses than what was recorded during the same period a week ago. The seven-day rolling average of daily vaccinations in the country continues to increase. It stood at 27.8 lakh on June 7, which is more than the 23.92 lakh recorded a week before (May 31).



Nearly 18.73 lakh samples were tested in the country on Monday (the results for which were made available

**Easing burden**  
Daily recorded COVID-19 cases in India fell below the 1 lakh-mark on Monday, the first time in 62 days. However, 4.48 lakh fewer samples were tested on Sunday (results of which were made available on Monday) compared to the previous day



on Tuesday). India's average daily test positivity rate (positive cases identified for every 100 tests) continues to decline. It was 3.8% on June 7 compared with 8.6% recorded a week before.

Nearly 33.64 lakh vaccine doses were administered in the country in the 24 hours ending 7 a.m. on Tuesday, which is nearly 19.74 lakh doses more than what was recorded in the previous 24 hours. It is also 5.84 lakh more doses than what was recorded during the same period a week ago. The seven-day rolling average of daily vaccinations in the country continues to increase. It stood at 27.8 lakh on June 7, which is more than the 23.92 lakh recorded a week before (May 31).

This aspect of Her is not within easy reach to all, except for those sages and yogis steeped in deep meditation. They strive to reach the state of dhyana through practices of yoga such as "pratyahara". This is a mental exercise by which one gains control over the mind, senses and intellect to get rid of feelings of kama, krodha, lobha, moha, mada, matsarya, etc. This leads to chitta suddhi and helps in single-pointed meditation on Devi. Devi grants supreme bliss in the inner beings of such people who strive to meditate on Her. But out of compassion to all beings, she is also the essence of Saguna swaroopa whom she is easily accessible to Her devotees.

The acharya sees Her as the effulgent brightness of innumerable rising suns which is symbol of Her power to dispel the darkness of ignorance that is the greatest hurdle for the salvation of humanity. She is the very cause of srishti, stiti and laya, characteristic of creation. Just as the veil of Maya is cast on the world when we begin to believe in the external reality, she can remove the same to reveal the Absolute Truth. Devi alone is able to grant moksha or liberation. When one pays obeisance to Her with love and devotion, she confers many blessings and benefits both for attainment of worldly goals, happiness and peace in this world as well as for salvation.

**TH CROSSWORD + 13269**  
(set by Arden)

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**ACROSS**

- 9 No.1 story about happiness (7)
- 10 Boy wonder, at last one becomes an outlaw (7)
- 11 I've struggled in pain to succeed (7)
- 12 The schism stops the German, but he always moves on (7)
- 13 A Syrian perhaps is crazy to reject a fight (9)
- 15 Walk into a team blearily eyed (5)
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# BRICS opposes exceptionalism: China

Beijing frames BRICS Ministers' statement as opposing the West, emphasises on multilateralism

ANANTH KRISHNAN

China on Monday sought to frame a joint statement from the Foreign Ministers of the BRICS [Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa] countries, who met virtually last week, as standing in opposition to what Beijing has increasingly hit out at "bloc politics" from the United States and the West.

The BRICS Foreign Ministers, at a virtual meet last week, put out a joint statement on multilateralism, in addition to the usual Ministers' press statement. China's Foreign Ministry on Monday said the idea behind the statement was to forge a common understanding among the BRICS countries when there were "so many different interpretations and definitions of multilateralism in the world".

Ironically, among the targets of Beijing's recent at-



Looking ahead: Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin in Beijing, in this file photo. ■ REUTERS

tacks on what it calls "selective multilateralism" is the India-Australia-Japan-U.S. Quad grouping, which Chinese officials have repeatedly criticised. India, which is the BRICS chair this year and will host this year's leaders summit, which may also take place virtually, finds itself in a curious position of being described by Beijing as both a partner and a target in its recent emphasis on the im-

portance of "multilateralism" and its criticism of calls for a "rules-based order", voiced not only by the U.S. but also by the Quad.

## Multilateral system

On the "different interpretations" of multilateralism, the "BRICS countries, as representatives of emerging markets and developing countries, have tackled the problem head-on and given

their answer", Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said.

"The BRICS Joint Statement on Strengthening and Reforming the Multilateral System laid out the following principles," he added. "First, it should make global governance more inclusive, representative and participatory to facilitate greater and more meaningful participation of developing and least developed countries. Second, it should be based on inclusive consultation and collaboration for the benefit of all. Third, it should make multilateral organisations more responsive, action-oriented and solution-oriented based on the norms and principles of international law and the spirit of mutual respect, justice, equality, mutual benefit and cooperation. Fourth, it should use innovative and inclusive solutions, including digital and technological tools. Fifth, it should strengthen capacities of individual States and international organizations. Sixth, it should promote people-centered international cooperation at the core. This is the answer given by the BRICS."

He added that the BRICS countries were "indeed different from a few developed countries in their attitude towards multilateralism and multilateral cooperation." The BRICS countries stress the need to observe the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and oppose exceptionalism and double standard," he said. "We are committed to extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, and oppose hegemonic bullying and zero-sum games. We pursue openness, inclusiveness and win-win cooperation, and reject bloc politics and ideological confrontation."

# China offers ASEAN nations support on vaccines

It seeks deeper 'economic ties' to offset maritime disputes, push back against U.S. outreach in the region

ANANTH KRISHNAN

China on Tuesday offered ASEAN countries its vaccines as well as closer cooperation on joint vaccine development and production, as it hosted 10 Foreign Ministers from the Southeast Asian grouping.

The meeting comes as China looks to deepen its economic ties with the region as well as push back at what it sees as a renewed effort at regional engagement from the new Biden administration in the U.S. in particular, as well as from the India-Australia-Japan-U.S. Quad grouping, which earlier this

year came out with a regional vaccine initiative.

On Tuesday, China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi told the visiting Ministers that China and ASEAN should "jointly carry forward Asian values" in a subtle dig at the West. President Xi Jinping had in 2014 put forward the idea that it was for "Asian people to uphold Asia's security".

Mr. Wang made a similar point on Tuesday, saying that "taking root in the Oriental tradition, both sides should strengthen mutual learning and cultural exchanges, and carry forward Asian values, instilling posi-

tive energy to global and regional governance."

"Both sides should continue to embrace the 'Asian Way' of consensus building and accommodating each other's comfort levels, build an inclusive and co-existed family, and forge a cooperation circle featuring common development," he said. "We should adhere to independence, self-reliance and self-strengthening to support the ASEAN integration, and forge a closer community with a shared future."

China's hosting of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers in the city of Chongqing marked the 30th anniversary

of ties and came as Beijing deals with recent disputes with both the Philippines and Malaysia. The meeting reiterated the need to "advance consultations on the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea" but as the recent incidents underlined, progress has been slow.

Beijing is banking on deep economic links to both offset maritime disputes and the push among some ASEAN countries for closer defence ties with the U.S. amid their concerns about China's growing military footprint in the South China Sea.

Mr. Wang said China-ASEAN trade had grown to \$

684.6 billion and the expectation is for that to only grow following the signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) trade deal.

On COVID-19, China said it would "do its best to provide vaccines to ASEAN countries and strengthen cooperation in vaccine R&D, production, procurement, vaccination, and supervision with other countries", Mr. Wang said, as he also put forward a proposal to implement a "China-ASEAN Public Health Cooperation Initiative" and an "ASEAN Regional Reserve of Medical Supplies for Public Health Emergencies."

# FBI-run app tricks criminal gangs globally, 800 arrested

The operation led to police raids in 16 nations, drug seizures

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
THE HAGUE

Criminal gangs divulged plans for moving drug shipments and carrying out killings on a messaging app secretly run by the FBI, law enforcement agencies said on Tuesday, as they unveiled a global sting operation they said dealt an "unprecedented blow" to organised crime in countries around the world.

The operation known as Trojan Shield led to police raids in 16 nations. More than 800 suspects were ar-



A box containing cash discovered during a raid in New Zealand. ■ AP

rested and more than 32 tonnes of drugs – including cocaine, cannabis, amphetamines and methamphetamine – were seized along with 250 firearms, 55 luxury

cars and more than \$148 million in cash and cryptocurrencies.

The seeds of the sting were sown when law enforcement agencies earlier took down two encrypted platforms, EncroChat and Sky ECC, that had been used by criminal gangs to organise drug trafficking and underworld hits. With the gangs in the market for a new means of communication, the FBI stepped in with a covertly developed app called ANOM that was installed on modified mobile phones.

# 'Hate crime': Canada truck driver kills Muslim family

Planned, premeditated attack: police

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
LONDON

A man driving a pick-up truck slammed into and killed four members of a Muslim family in Ontario province, in what police and officials said on Monday was a premeditated attack motivated by "hatred".

A 20-year-old suspect wearing a vest "like body armour" fled the scene on Sunday evening, and was arrested at a mall 7 km from the intersection in London, Ontario, where the attack happened, said Detective Superintendent Paul Waight.

"There is evidence that this was a planned, premeditated act, motivated by hate. It is believed that these victims were targeted because they were Muslim," he said.

Canada's Minister of Public Safety Bill Blair described it as a "horrible act of Islamophobia".

The names of the victims were not released, but they include a 74-year-old woman, a 46-year-old man, a 44-year-old woman and a 15-year-old girl – representing three generations of the same family, according to London Mayor Ed Holder.

# U.S. Senate report puts spotlight on failures during Capitol attack

It pinpoints security missteps, leaves Trump's 'role' unprobed

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WASHINGTON

A Senate investigation of the January 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol has uncovered broad government, military and law enforcement missteps surrounding the violent attack, including a breakdown within multiple intelligence agencies and a lack of training and preparation for Capitol Police officers who were quickly overwhelmed by the rioters.



Systemic collapse: Pro-Trump protesters storming the U.S. Capitol in Washington on January 6. ■ REUTERS

planning and equipment for law enforcement and to streamline intelligence gathering among federal agencies.

As a bipartisan effort, the report does not delve into the root causes of the attack, including Mr. Trump's role as he called for his supporters to "fight like hell" to overturn his election defeat that day. It does not call the attack an insurrection, even though it was. And it comes two weeks after Republicans blocked a bipartisan, independent commission that would investigate the insurrection more broadly.

The report details hours of calls between officials in the Capitol and the Pentagon as the then-chief of the Capitol Police, Steven Sund, desperately begged for help. It finds that the Pentagon spent hours "mission planning" and seeking multiple layers of approvals as Capitol Police were being overwhelmed and brutally beaten by the rioters.

The Senators also criticise the FBI and the Homeland Security Department for downplaying online threats and for not issuing intelligence bulletins that help law enforcement plan.

# Macron slapped in the face during walkabout

Incident draws widespread condemnation

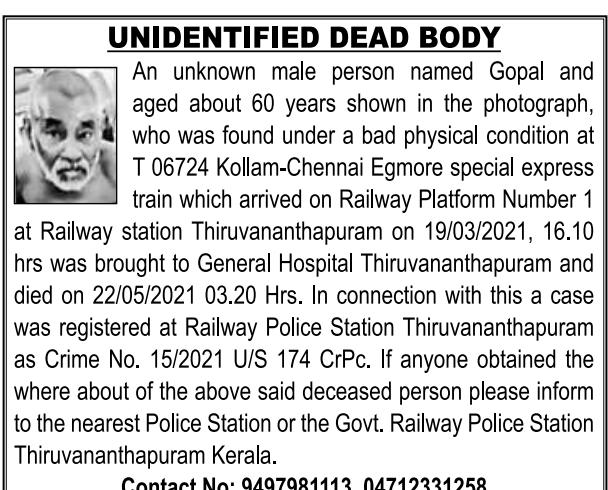
REUTERS  
PARIS

French President Emmanuel Macron was slapped in the face while greeting a crowd in southeast France on Tuesday, a security scare that drew widespread condemnation ahead of regional elections this month.

Emmanuel Macron

wards, local officials said.

Two 28-year-old men living in the region are being questioned, the local prosecutor's office said, but "at this stage of questioning, their motives remain unknown."



Contact No: 9497981113, 04712331258  
Station House Officer,  
Railway Police Station, Thiruvananthapuram

850/F2/2021/I&PRD



Centre for Development of Imaging Technology (C-DIT) Thiruvananthapuram-27 Ph: 0471-238090/10/912

E-TENDER NOTICE

e-tender is invited for the Supply of Testing Equipment - Civil/Electrical, For details and online submission of bid please visit [www.etenders.kerala.gov.in](http://www.etenders.kerala.gov.in)

Last date of submission of bid: 22.06.2021, 03.00 PM.

Tender id: 2021\_CDIT\_425405\_1

07.06.2021 Registrar, C-DIT

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## MARKET WATCH

	08-06-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	52,275	-0.10
US Dollar	72.89	-0.12
Gold	4913.00	2.13
Brent oil	71.57	0.13

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	874.20	-4.40
Asian Paints	2926.25	-6.85
Axiscity	746.35	-4.75
Bajaj Auto	4269.90	20.15
Bajaj Finserv	11733.10	-95.45
Bajaj Finance	5755.40	25.65
Bharti Airtel	546.80	10.35
BPCL	487.45	6.05
Britannia Ind	3601.75	59.15
Cipla	953.75	13.95
Coal India	156.00	-0.25
Divis Lab	4241.20	11.25
Dr Reddys Lab	5274.75	55.55
Eicher Motors	2763.80	9.35
Gasim Ind	1502.15	2.15
HCL Tech.	967.20	17.60
HDFC	2554.50	-31.25
HDFC Bank	1483.05	-16.80
HDFC Life	689.70	9.60
Hero MotoCorp	3055.95	3.70
Hindalco	387.75	-7.25
Hind Unilever	2359.00	19.70
ICICI Bank	642.40	-5.80
IndusInd Bank	1020.15	-5.05
Infosys	1412.95	23.30
Indian Oil Corp	116.70	2.00
ITC	213.65	2.20
JSW Steel	707.50	-8.25
Kotak Bank	1793.55	-21.35
L&T	1549.15	-8.65
M&M	807.85	4.00
Maruti Suzuki	7336.75	61.10
Nestle India Ltd.	17482.60	-49.95
NTPC	116.20	-0.20
ONGC	124.80	-0.35
PowerGrid Corp	234.05	-2.20
Reliance Ind	2214.60	-12.80
SBI Life	979.85	-8.65
State Bank	427.20	-5.05
Shree Cement	28955.35	-200.45
Sun Pharma	678.75	3.40
Tata Consumer Products Ltd.	710.45	10.50
Tata Motors	352.75	7.25
Tata Steel	1111.10	-17.60
TCS	3200.15	16.95
Tech Mahindra	1057.75	23.35
Titan	1712.50	27.40
UltraTech Cement	6794.40	-55.25
UPL	853.55	3.05
Wipro	550.60	2.35

## EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	72.69	73.01
Euro	88.54	88.96
British Pound	102.83	103.32
Japanese Yen (100)	66.41	66.70
Chinese Yuan	11.36	11.41
Swiss Franc	81.07	81.48
Singapore Dollar	54.92	55.17
Canadian Dollar	60.16	60.46
Malaysian Ringgit	17.63	17.72

Source: Indian Bank

## IN BRIEF



## Mercedes-Benz unveils Maybach SUV at ₹2.43 cr.

MUMBAI Mercedes-Benz India has forayed into the ultra-luxurious SUV segment with the introduction of Mercedes-Maybach GLS 600 4MATIC, the first-ever SUV in the Maybach range. It has been introduced at starting prices of ₹2.43 crore ex-showroom all India. Fifty customers have booked the SUV so far, the company said.

## Ashok Leyland effects senior level changes

CHENNAI Ashok Leyland has made senior-level organisational changes to strengthen the sustainability agenda through its Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) initiatives. N.V. Balachander, president, human resources, communication and CSR, will lead the sustainability agenda as president - ESG. Amanpreet Singh has been appointed as president and head of HR. He is currently vice-president, Group HR.

## VA Tech Wabag Q4 profit surges to ₹33 crore

CHENNAI VA Tech Wabag Ltd., a water and waste-water treatment solutions provider, reported net profit for the quarter ended March surged to ₹33 crore from ₹1.4 crore in the year-earlier period. Revenue jumped to ₹700 crore (₹491 crore). Order book stood at more than ₹9,500 crore. "We are poised to generate value for our stakeholders with almost ₹10,000 crore orders to execute," said Rajiv Mittal, managing director.

## 'Preserve CCTV footage of demonetisation days'

MUMBAI The RBI on Tuesday asked banks to preserve the CCTV recordings of their branches and currency chests from November 8, 2016, to December 30, 2016, to assist enforcement agencies to take action against those involved in illegal activities during the demonetisation period. On the basis of various inputs, the agencies started probing illegal accumulation of new currency notes. PTI

## World Bank sees India growing by 8.3%

Lender says forecast, however, masks damage from COVID second wave; pegs global growth at 5.6%

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN  
WASHINGTON DC

India's economy is expected to grow by 8.3% in the fiscal year that began in April 2021, the World Bank forecast in its June 2021 Global Economic Prospects released on Tuesday. The forecast, however, masked the significant expected economic damage caused by the "enormous" second wave of COVID-19, the Bank said.

Raising its projection for global growth, the bank said the world economy would expand at 5.6% in 2021, the fastest post-recession growth rate in 80 years, underpinned by U.S. stimulus spending and faster growth in China. Observing that global output would still end up 2% below pre-pandemic projections by the year end, the development lender said



**Widening gap:** 'Highly unequal' access to vaccines is a factor in the uneven global recovery, says World Bank. ■ FILE PHOTO

"highly unequal" access to COVID-19 vaccines was a factor in the uneven recovery.

"In India, an enormous second COVID-19 wave is undermining the sharper-than-expected rebound in activity

seen during the second half of FY2020/21, especially in services. With surging COVID-19 cases, foot traffic around work and retail spaces has again slowed to more than one-third below pre-

pandemic levels since March, in part due to greater restrictions on mobility," the bank noted.

**'Collapse and recovery'** Economic activity in India would likely follow a similar but less pronounced 'collapse and recovery' trend seen during the first wave, the bank said in its outlook.

"The pandemic will undermine consumption and investment as confidence remains depressed and balance sheets damaged. Growth in FY2022/23 is expected to slow to 7.5% reflecting lingering impacts of COVID-19 on household, corporate and bank balance sheets; possibly low levels of consumer confidence; and heightened uncertainty on job and income prospects," the global lender added.

For the world as a whole, losses to per capita income would not be reversed by 2022 for some two-thirds of emerging market and developing economies, the bank said. Low income countries that had lagged in vaccinations had witnessed a reversal in poverty reduction, with the pandemic exacerbating insecurity and other long-standing challenges.

"While there are welcome signs of global recovery, the pandemic continues to inflict poverty and inequality on people in developing countries," World Bank Group President David Malpass said in a press release.

"Globally coordinated efforts are essential to accelerate vaccine distribution and debt relief, particularly for low-income countries," Mr. Malpass added.

## Textile units in Kanpur, Chennai-Kancheepuram worst hit by COVID stress'

Credit to sector fell 20%: SIDBI report

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

India's textile clusters in Kanpur and Chennai-Kancheepuram have been worst hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, with the highest proportion of loans turning delinquent by December 2020, according to a report.

The country's textiles industry has been in trouble since the national lockdown imposed in March last year, with outstanding credit to the sector falling 20% year-on-year by December 2020 and loans to export units falling by a sharper 25%, according to a SIDBI-CRIF report on the sector released on Tuesday.

Among micro, small and medium textile enterprises, the textiles cluster in Punjab reported the highest delinquencies at almost 25%, followed by Chennai-Kancheepuram (23.6%) and Hyderabad-Guntur (22.8%).

The SIDBI survey found that ongoing changes in the GST portal and filing of returns has created confusion for units, with exporters stating that getting Integrated GST refunds is a 'major challenge'. The lack of clarity on the export benefits that would accrue under the new Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Products (RoDTEP) scheme, isn't helping.

Most units said access to working capital was a challenge and cash flows were constrained, while 'ever-increasing fuel prices' have escalated transport costs. The rise in yarn and other raw material prices, and fluctuating cotton prices, are also difficult to cope with, even as export orders have slowed down due to COVID-19, the survey found.



## 63 Moons to challenge Piramal-DHFL resolution

Plan is against NCD holders' interests'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

63 Moons Technologies said it will challenge the order of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Mumbai allowing Piramal Group to acquire DHFL under the IBC.

"63 Moons believes the current resolution plan is contrary to law and against the interest of all DHFL's creditors, including NCD holders," it contended.

"DHFL's administrator has filed applications for the recovery of almost ₹45,000 crore under the IBC against promoters and other persons," 63 Moons said, adding that the ₹45,000 crore must be paid to the defrauded parties who are creditors.

"Instead, the resolution

plan favours the resolution applicant" Piramal Group, allowing it to reap the benefits of recoveries, it held.

Abscribing a value of ₹1 to the recoveries of fraud where claims were in excess of ₹45,000 crore "creates unjust enrichment of the buyer" at the cost of creditors, 63 Moons argued.

"Piramal has bid only for the current value of DHFL which does not include the amounts taken away fraudulently. Hence, the recoveries must come to creditors only," it said. 63 Moons, which holds over ₹200 crore of DHFL's NCDs, had filed an application in the NCLT, demanding the payment of fraudulent transaction recovery benefits to creditors.

JV to address ₹8,000-crore market

N. ANAND  
CHENNAI

Life insurers have reported a 5.5% decline in first-year premium at ₹12,976.99 crore for May, a performance dragged down by market leader LIC's 12.4% lower mobilisation, and coming on the back of lockdown restrictions across most States.

IPRL is showing effectively shadowed the performance by private players, who together posted a 14.2% increase in the premium at ₹4,029.35 crore, as against ₹3,527.48 crore in the year-earlier period.

The first-year premium of LIC, which accounts for more than 60% of the market share, stood at ₹8,947.64 crore (₹10,211.53 crore), the new business statement of life insurers released by IRDAI showed. Mr. Runciman will head the

JV. Eminox and IPRL would develop exhaust after-treatment systems for India in compliance with emerging legislation, with a highly talented pool of engineers and senior management.

The addressable market size is ₹6,000 crore for light, medium and heavy commercial vehicles and ₹2,000 crore for off-highway applications, said IPRL officials.

"We have very ambitious plans with IPRL to develop and supply EATS for a range of diesel and CNG engines used off-road and on-road across the Indian market," said Jog Lall, OE sales & marketing director, Eminox.

Mr. Runciman will head the

IP Rings Ltd. (IPRL), a part of the Amalgamations Group, and U.K.-based Eminox have signed an agreement to set up an innovation and technology centre here with an initial investment of ₹20 crore.

The innovation and technology centre will entail initial investment of ₹20 crore

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The company also announced the appointment of Amit Das as V-P, Design & Research, and Rishabhawaj Singh as V-P, Engineering. Urban Company had recently announced raising Series F funding of ₹255 million.

About 40% expected to have their employees work from home full time, while 38% wanted to have either flexible or condensed work hours for their employees.

## Urban Company to scale up hiring

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Urban Company on Tuesday said it would hire more than 100 engineers in the current financial year along with various leaders across verticals, as it plans to drive technological innovation in the home services industry.

These hirings will drive our next growth phase, enable the build of deep tech and help us invest in data science and developing tech playbooks," said co-founder Raghav Chandra.

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About 40% expected

## IN BRIEF



**'Milkha has shown continuous improvement'**

LEGENDARY Indian sprinter Milkha Singh's battle with COVID-19 at PGIMER's Intensive Care Unit completed its sixth day on Tuesday amid continuous improvement in his condition. "...there is continuous improvement in the condition of sprint icon Shri Milkha Singh Ji, who has been admitted in the Intensive Care Unit of the NHE Block of PGIMER since June 3 and getting treated for COVID-19," PGIMER official spokesperson Prof. Ashok Kumar said. PTI



**Robinson has team's full support, says Anderson**

LONDON Veteran England pacer James Anderson says the team has unanimously accepted Ollie Robinson's apology for posting racist and sexist tweets as a teenager nine years ago. "He stood up in front of the group and apologised and you could see how sincere he was and upset he was. He's done a lot of maturing and growing since then, and he's got the full support of the team," said Anderson. PTI



**Hasan, Jayawickrama and Mushfiqur nominated**

DUBAI Pakistan pacer Hasan Ali, in pic, Sri Lankan spinner Praveen Jayawickrama and Bangladesh wicketkeeper-batsman Mushfiqur Rahim were on Tuesday nominated for the ICC men's Player of the Month award for May. The ICC also nominated Kathryn Bryce of Scotland and Irish duo of Gaby Lewis and Leah Paul for women's honours. PTI

**CA adds six players to preliminary squad**

MELBOURNE Cricket Australia, concerned that top players might opt out of the limited-overs tours of the West Indies and Bangladesh due to "bubble fatigue", has added six cricketers to its preliminary squad for the upcoming assignments, beginning July 10. Australia's white-ball squad swelled to 29 after the selection committee called up Ben McDermott, Dan Christian, Cameron Green, Ashton Turner, Wes Agar and Nathan Ellis. PTI

## BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

The badminton great Prakash Padukone once pulled up a youngster for literally toying with an opponent, playing trick shots, pretending to smash and occasionally holding his racquet in the wrong hand. It was a friendly match, yet Prakash called the youngster aside and told him that a sportsman should never disrespect an opponent.

All sports have ways of dealing with unsportsmanlike conduct. The 'dive' in football, the racquet abuser in tennis, the player showing dissent at an umpire's decision in cricket all have to pay the price. Whole books have been written about golf etiquette. There are rules and then something called 'spirit'.

What is legal may not always be acceptable. When Trevor Chappell bowled an underarm delivery to

## Historic highs for Zidansek, Pavlyuchenkova

Reach Grand Slam last-four for the first time; defending champions Swiatek, Nadal stay on course

## ROLAND-GARROS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE PARIS

Before the French Open, Tamara Zidansek had never advanced past the second round at any Grand Slam. The former snowboarder has now become the first woman representing Slovenia to reach the semifinals at a Major.

Spurred on by the vocal support of her coaching team on Court Philippe Chatrier, the 85th-ranked Zidansek defeated Spanish rival Paula Badosa 7-5, 4-6, 8-6 Tuesday at the clay-court tournament.

"It feels overwhelming," she said.

The French Open is the only remaining Grand Slam where tiebreakers are not played in the last set. Wimbledon recently installed tie-breakers at 12-12 in the final set.

## Losing it

After splitting the first two sets, Badosa violently threw her racket in anger at the changeover after Zidansek held for a 6-5 lead in the third.

She regained her composure, but Zidansek then saved three break points to take a 7-6 lead and converted her second match point with a big forehand in the next game. Zidansek's next opponent at the clay-court event will be Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, another first-time semifinalist.

Pavlyuchenkova came out

## THE HIGHLIGHTS



## WEDNESDAY'S PICKS:

**Men:** 3-Nadal vs 10-Schwartzman  
1-Djokovic vs 9-Berrettini  
(night session, 11.30 p.m. IST)

**Women:** 8-Swiatek vs 17-Sakkari  
24-Gauff vs Krejcikova

1 Maiden Grand Slam semi-final for Pavlyuchenkova, snapping a six-match run in Major quarterfinals without victory

2 Last eight opponents Nadal and Schwartzman are the only two remaining in the men's draw who are yet to lose a set this edition

2 Defending singles champion Swiatek has entered the doubles semifinal for the second straight year

3 Zidansek, prior to her semifinal run, had only won three main draw matches from eight Grand Slam appearances. At 85, she is also the lowest-ranked Slam semifinalist since No.131 Nadia Podoroska (2020 French Open)

6 There were six first-time Slam quarterfinalists in the women's draw, an Open Era record for ladies. Only Swiatek and Pavlyuchenkova had prior experience

**I didn't feel myself in the whole match. I couldn't control the nerves during the entire match. But at least I fought until the last moment and had my chances. Credit to her**

**BADOSA, AFTER HER TIGHT THREE-SET LOSS**

**I knew before the match that it's going to be a tough battle. I was a set and 4-2 up, she came back, I was struggling a little bit but I managed to get [into] my groove**

**ZIDANSEK, AFTER BEATING BADOSA**

on top of another tense battle to rally past her doubles partner Elena Rybakina 6-7 (2), 6-2, 9-7. The 31st-seeded Russian had lost at this stage 10 years ago at Roland Garros and was 0-6 in Grand Slam quarterfinals before taking to the court.

"Mentally it was really, really hard this morning," she said. "Especially since I needed to play Elena. But this is tennis, we both wanted to win. The key was to be able to return her serve."

Pavlyuchenkova did it well and converted six of 17 break points against her rival and friend.

Earlier on Monday, de-

fending champion Iga Swiatek reached the quarterfinals after beating unseeded 18-year-old Marta Kostyuk of Ukraine 6-3, 6-4 in the fourth round.

Kostyuk saved one match point on her second serve at 30-40 as she held in the ninth game of the second set.

**Smart lob**

That forced Swiatek to serve out the match and she clinched victory with a smart lob from the net.

Swiatek has now won 22 straight sets at Roland Garros, including her run to the title last year. She next faces

17th-seeded Greek Maria Sakkari, who reached her first Grand Slam quarterfinal.

Schwartz continued to impress in doubles too as she and partner Bethanie Mattek-Sands beat the 11th-seeded pair of Darija Jurak and Andreja Klepac 6-3, 6-2 in the quarterfinals.

Third seed Nadal downed

19-year-old Jannik Sinner 7-5, 6-3, 6-0 and goes on to face 10th-seeded Diego Schwartzman of Argentina who he defeated in the semifinals last year.

Nadal hit 31 winners while Sinner claimed just 10 points in the third set. Nadal has now won 104 matches at Roland Garros against just two defeats since his 2005 debut while Monday's victory extended his run of consecutive sets won to 35.

"I started well but was a little too defensive. I gave him the chance to come inside the court and play his best shots. That was a mistake," said Nadal after reaching a 44th Slam last-eight.

## Baffled

Despite Monday's match being played in bright sunshine, Nadal was baffled as to why the lights inside Court Philippe Chatrier were switched on.

"I don't know why they put the lights on that early. We used to have TV before we had the lights on. I saw plenty of matches here, and from the TV the quality of the image was great without the lights," said Nadal.

## THE RESULTS

**Quarterfinals: Women:** 31-Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (Rus) bt 21-Elena Rybakina (Kaz) 6-7(2), 6-2, 9-7; Tamara Zidansek (Slo) bt 33-Paula Badosa (Esp) 7-5, 4-6, 8-6.

**Monday's results: Fourth round:** **Women:** 8-Iga Swiatek (Pol) bt Marta Kostyuk (Ukr) 6-3, 6-4.

**Men:** 3-Rafael Nadal (Esp) bt 18-Jannik Sinner (Ita) 7-5, 6-3, 6-0.

## Chhetri stays as humble as ever



**On the prowl:** Chhetri, who moved past Messi in the scorers' list, says he doesn't count his strikes. • TWITTER/INDIANFOOTBALL

## FOOTBALL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA DOHA

Sunil Chhetri has never liked counting his goals and he prefers to keep it that way even after surpassing the great Lionel Messi as the second-highest scorer among active players in international football.

Instead of his goals, Chhetri focused on the many lessons his team will take home from Monday's game. "We were guilty of missing a lot of chances. We could have done better. It has been a topsy-turvy qualifying campaign. We will talk about it but I am happy that we got three points," Chhetri said.

The India captain is just a goal away from entering world football's all-time top-10. He is behind Hungary's Sandor Kocsis, Japan's Kunishige Kamamoto, and Kuwait's Bashir Abdulla, who all have 75 goals.

"I do not count the number of goals. 10 years later, we will sit together, have a chat and then count," the veteran said.

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## Indians to get time to switch off

Will have a three-week break between WTC final, England series

## CRICKET

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA LONDON

The Indian team management has decided to give a three-week break to its players after the World Test Championship (WTC) final in a bid to address the mental fatigue that might be triggered by lengthy spells in a bio-bubble.

The WTC final against New Zealand will be held from June 18-22 at the Ageas Bowl in Southampton and the members of the Indian

squad will disperse for close to three weeks (20 days) before regrouping on July 14 to prepare for the five-match series against England starting in Nottingham on Aug. 4.

"As skipper Virat Kohli and coach Ravi Shastri had told the media at the pre-departure press conference, there will be a break. There is a six-week gap between WTC final and the opening Test against England and we had to address the issue of players' well-being. Within the UK, they can disperse off, go for a holiday, meet

friends and family," said a senior BCCI official.

"Most of them have come to the UK many times and have friends and acquaintances around the country. It's only fair that they can switch off," said the source.

## Officials for WTC final

England's Richard Illingworth and Michael Gough will be the on-field umpires for the WTC final. Richard Kettleborough will be the TV umpire and Alex Wharf the fourth official. Chris Broad will be the match referee.

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## TV PICKS

**Roland-Garros:** SS Select 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 2.30 p.m.

## IN BRIEF



## Nets steamroller

Bucks

NEW YORK  
Kevin Durant had 32 points as Brooklyn Nets rolled to its largest playoff win in franchise history on Monday with a 125-86 beat down of Milwaukee Bucks in game two of their NBA series.**The results:** Nets 125 bt Bucks 86. Nets lead 2-0; Suns 122 bt Nuggets 105. Suns lead 1-0.

## Siddhant Bantia beats second seed

MONASTIR (TUNISIA)

Siddhant Bantia knocked out second seed Lee Duckhee of Korea 6-3, 2-6, 6-4 in the first round of the \$15,000 ITF men's tennis tournament here on Tuesday.

**Other results:** \$235,238 WTA, Nottingham: First round:

Catherine McNally (US) bt Ankita Raina 6-4, 6-3.

**€132,280 Challenger, Nottingham:** First round: Kamal Majchrzak (Pol) bt Prajesh Gunneswaran 6-0 (retired).**\$25,000 ITF women, Madrid:** Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Nicole Fossa Huergo (Ita) & Noelia Zeballos Melgar (Bol) bt Rebeka Masarova (Esp) & Karman Kaur Thandi 6-4, 6-2.

## Italy calls up Pessina for injured Sensi

FLORENCE  
Atalanta midfielder Matteo Pessina was called up Monday as a late replacement for the injured Stefano Sensi in the Italy squad for the upcoming European Championship. Sensi aggravated a muscular injury in training last week. The Italian soccer federation announced that the 24-year-old Pessina would replace Sensi after getting the green light from UEFA's medical commission. AP

## FIFA imposes transfer ban on Blasters, EB

## FOOTBALL

STAN RAYAN

KOCHI  
Football's world body FIFA has banned Indian Super League (ISL) clubs Kerala Blasters FC and SC East Bengal from signing players from the coming transfer window after receiving complaints about unpaid wages.“The list includes Kerala Blasters, East Bengal and Churchill (I-League) but it is only an issue of making the payment (to players),” Kushal Das, AIFF general secretary, told *The Hindu* on

## EB's woes increase

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA

KOLKATA  
East Bengal has found itself in big trouble following the FIFA Players' Status Committee (PSC) barring it from signing Indian players in the upcoming season. With the club already embroiled in a dispute with its investor, the ban will stop its team-building process ahead of the new Indian Super League season.

The ban comes as an after-effect of a failed tie-up with its previous investor Ques Corp, who quit the deal midway last season (2019-20) without making full payments to contracted players. As the club took back the “sporting rights” from Ques, it did it without ensuring that the investor pays off the dues in time, according to a senior club official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

With their payments falling due, some players approached the All India Football Federation (AIFF)

## Ankita to partner Sania at the Olympics

There is also a strong possibility of the former making the singles entry list

## TENNIS

KAMESH SRINIVASAN  
NEW DELHI

It was the best kept secret in Indian women's tennis for some time.

The country's top-ranked woman player, Ankita Raina, went on Instagram to announce that she would be competing in the Tokyo Olympics doubles event with six-time Grand Slam champion Sania Mirza.

“I will do my best to make India proud!” Ankita stated.

## Ranking

Former World No. 1 Sania will make the Olympics entry on the basis of her injury-protected ranking of No. 9.

As per the rule, Sania can

make the doubles draw with a partner ranked in the top-300.

The 28-year-old Ankita is 183 in singles and 95 in doubles. The ranking list on June 14 will be applicable for making the cut.

Sania had played the last three Olympics in Beijing, London and Rio with Sunitha Rao, Rushmi Chakravarthi and Prarthana Thomabare respectively.

There is also a strong possibility of Ankita making the singles entry list in Tokyo as the Asian Games bronze medalist.

The gold and silver medallists from China, Wang Qiang and Shuai Zhang, ranked 39 and 46 at the moment, could get direct entry when 56 players are taken

into the Olympics singles event on the basis of their world ranking.

Before the Billie Jean King Cup World Group play-off in Latvia recently, Sania had invited Ankita to Dubai for a week-long training.

## Funding

The two were soon inducted into the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) by Sports Authority of India (SAI) so as to provide them funding for Olympic preparation.

Thanking her employer Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Ankita wrote, “the effort and hard work put in all these years have been fruitful with your invaluable support and encouragement”.



Ready for action: Sania will take part in her fourth Olympics with a new doubles partner in Ankita. ■ FILE PHOTO

## IOC picks 29-member refugee team



All the best! IOC president Thomas Bach at the unveiling of the refugee athletes. ■ IOC/GREG MARTIN

REUTERS

LAUSANNE

An expanded refugee team of 29 athletes competing across 12 sports at next month's Tokyo Games will provide hope and inspiration to the world, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) said on Tuesday.

The team, which will compete under the Olympic flag and include people from countries including Syria, South Sudan, Eritrea, Afghanistan and Iran, is almost three times as big as the inaugural team at the Rio de Janeiro 2016 Olympics.

The athletes, who will march into the stadium dur-

ing the opening ceremony in second place behind ancient Games founder Greece, were selected from a pool of 56, supported by Olympic scholarships from 13 different countries.

“I speak on behalf of the entire Olympic Movement when I say that we cannot wait to meet you in person and to see you compete in Tokyo,” IOC president Thomas Bach said at a virtual presentation of the team.

“It will send a powerful message of solidarity, resilience and hope to the world ... You are an integral part of our Olympic community, and we welcome you with open arms.”

## SPORTS REPORTER

BENGALURU

Srihari Nataraj and Sajan Prakash will continue their quests for the elusive A-mark Olympic Qualifying Time by participating in the Belgrade Trophy (June 19 and 20) and Sette Colli Trophy in Rome (June 25 to 27), both FINA-accredited Olympic Qualifying events.

Both have achieved the B-mark times. At the Uzbekistan Open in April, Srihari had clocked 54.07s in the 100m backstroke event, a new National record which was just 0.22s short of the mark for Tokyo.

Sajan, chasing the A-mark in 200m butterfly (1:56.48s), had clocked 1:57.85s in Uzbekistan.

The team also includes seasoned back-stroker Maana Patel along with youngsters Aryan Nehra, Shoan Ganguli, Tanish Mathew and Kenisha Gupta.

The team will be accompanied by coaches Nihar Ameen and Pradeep Kumar.

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

WARSAW

Olympics-bound Indian wrestler Deepak Punia, on Tuesday, pulled out of the Poland Open here to avoid aggravating his left-elbow injury that he carried into the last ranking series event before the Tokyo Games. Deepak was to take mat for the 86kg event but forfeited his quarterfinal against American Zahid Valencia. It has been learnt that the 2019 World Championships

bronze-medalist had suffered the injury during practice a few days before leaving for Warsaw.

“He did not want to aggravate the injury and had informed the federation that he will take a call on competing after reaching. After assessing his hand this morning, he decided not to take the mat,” a source in the Indian camp said.

The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) confirmed the sequence of events.

## Deepak pulls out of Poland Open

Wrestler doesn't want to aggravate elbow injury

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

HYDERABAD

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## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD

The Indian Olympic Association and the Sports Authority of India, in coordination with the various state sports authorities, will soon jointly organise awareness programmes as part of the nationwide campaign about the Olympics with focus on the participation of Indian athletes in the Tokyo Games next month.

The campaign includes Olympics quiz with rewards for the winners, Olympics dialogues \ debates, articles etc, fan engagement drives through best slogan \ best digital poster \ best theme song \ most probable medal winning Olympian contests etc.

Social media amplification and selfie points at various locations pan India are also planned as part of this campaign.

The State Olympic Associations are to get involved in this programme in collaboration with the Sports Authority.

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“We may use the Olympic symbol, flag, motto, anthem, emblems, flame and torches and any other musical works, audio visual works or other creative works or artefacts commissioned in connection with the Olympic Games by the IOC subject to the use of non-profit making activities only,” the IOA stated in its communication to the State units.

## Three para shuttlers make it

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Three Indian para shuttlers, including World No. 1 Pramod Bhagat on Tuesday officially qualified for the Paralympics, scheduled from August 25 to Sept. 5.

Besides Bhagat (SL3 – standing/ lower limb impairment/ minor), Tarun (SL4 – standing/ lower limb impairment/ severe) and Nagar Krishna (SH6 – standing/ short stature) too received invitations to participate in the Paralympics.

## Two flag-bearers likely: Batra

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

In a first, India might have two flag-bearers – one male and one female – at the upcoming Tokyo Olympics to ensure “gender parity”, the Indian Olympic Association chief Narinder Batra said on Tuesday.

## IOA's campaign to cheer Indian athletes

## GENERAL

THE HINDU

OPPORTUNITIES

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT • JOBS • TECHNOLOGY

GENERAL

GENERAL