

Monsoon arrives in Delhi, late by 2 weeks

The last time the rains arrived this late was in 2002 when it reached the Capital on July 19

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The southwest monsoon finally advanced over the Capital on Tuesday after missing its normal onset date of June 27. The last time the monsoon arrived this late in the Capital was 19 years ago in 2002 when it reached the Capital on July 19.

With its advancement over Delhi, the monsoon has now covered the entire country, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. The normal date for the monsoon to cover the entire country is July 8.

Rain lashed several parts of the city early in the morning and continued in spurts throughout the day with the official weather reading recorded at the Safdarjung station showing that the Capital received 28.1 mm of rainfall between 8.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday.

The rain brought relief from the heat with the maximum temperature settling at



Youth walk through heavy rain; commuters brave a traffic jam at ITO on Tuesday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA; SANDEEP SAXENA



30.9 degrees Celsius, five notches below normal. The minimum settled at 23.5 degrees Celsius, which was four degrees below normal.

The delay in the monsoon had lead to a string of heat-waves in the Capital in the first week of July with the maximum temperature settling at 43.1 degrees Celsius on July 1 and at 42.6 degrees Celsius on July 7.

The IMD said the delay in advancement of the monsoon over the Capital was mainly due to no formation

of low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal, no presence of monsoon trough at mean sea level near Delhi and 5-6 western disturbances that moved west to east across north India, which dominated the monsoon easterlies.

The Met department got the prediction for the monsoon's onset over Delhi wrong this time as it had first said the monsoon would arrive early – by June 15.

It then changed its forecast on June 14 saying the monsoon would be delayed

further and that it would advance into remaining parts of western Uttar Pradesh, some more parts of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan and Delhi around July 10. While the neighbouring areas received rain, the monsoon continued to elude the city till Tuesday morning.

"Such type of failure by numerical models in prediction of monsoon advance over Delhi is rare and uncommon. It is needless to mention that IMD has predicted with high accuracy

about the advance of monsoon over Delhi in recent years and also the advance of monsoon over different parts of the country during the monsoon-2021 accurately about four to five days ahead," the IMD said.

More rain

The forecast for July 14 reads generally cloudy sky with moderate rain/thunder-showers. The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to settle between 33 and 24 degrees respectively.

PWD gets 70 waterlogging complaints in 10 hours

Vehicular movement affected in various parts of the city

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Public Works Department (PWD), which has jurisdiction over the entire network of arterial road stretches in Delhi, received around seven waterlogging complaints every hour following the sudden downpour on Tuesday.

According to a PWD official, the department's control room received 70 calls about waterlogging during a ten-hour period starting around 9 a.m.

"There was some duplication in the complaints but, broadly, most of them pertained to around half a dozen locations and alleged waterlogging within an hour after the shower. The first call was logged around 8.50 a.m.," the PWD official said.

Waterlogging complaints were received in relation to



People wade through a waterlogged road in Delhi on Tuesday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

the Azadpur metro station, Majlis Park, Pul Prabharpur underpass, Mathura Road, Daula Kuan, Badarpur metro station and MB Road near the DM office.

Delhi traffic police said vehicular movement was affected and heavy traffic was observed at Daula Kuan and Azadpur in addition to Delhi Cantonment and Kalindi Kunj flyovers among other locations.

Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition in Delhi Assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri accused the Delhi government of indulging in a "sewer scam" by claiming that all PWD-owned sewers had been cleaned in the Capital. The season's first rainfall, he alleged, had clearly exposed the "fraud" perpetrated by the AAP Delhi government on citizens in this regard.

Teenager attacked by stalker succumbs during treatment, accused in custody

Alleged perpetrator a DU graduate, he hit her with an axe

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The 16-year-old girl who was attacked by her alleged stalker with an axe in south-west Delhi's Moti Bagh died during treatment at Safdarjung Hospital on Tuesday morning, the police said.

The accused, Pradeep alias Praveen, a resident of a jhuggi in Shastri Park, South Campus, has been arrested, said DCP (South) Ingit Pratap Singh. Pradeep comple-

ted his graduation from Delhi University this year.

Mr. Singh said the accused, who had been stalking the girl for some months, attacked her to get revenge after her father had slapped him. The accused was arrested from his sister's house in Palwal in Haryana when he was about to flee to Mumbai.

He had bought the axe from R.K. Puram last month and attacked her with it on Monday. She sustained se-

rious injuries near her eye-brow. A case lodged under Section 307 (attempt to murder) has been changed to 302 (Murder) of the IPC following her death.

"We will add further IPC sections of stalking and sections of Protection of Children Against Sexual Offences Act against the accused. The axe has been recovered and the incident has been captured on a CCTV camera," said an officer.

Teenager's father had slapped him for stalking her, says eyewitness

SAURABH TRIVEDI

NEW DELHI

Nearly a fortnight ago, Pradeep had allegedly threatened the teenager that she won't survive to celebrate her seventeenth birthday.

As it turned out, he kept his word and attacked her on Monday – a day before her birthday. A few hours later, she succumbed to injuries.

According to an eyewitness, the girl had complained to her father about being stalked by the accused for the past few months. Next, her father confronted Pradeep in a nearby vegetable market and slapped him. The accused had then, in full public view, challenged to kill her before her birthday.

No complaints lodged
"He did what he had threatened to do. We all thought he was making empty threats. Being a concerned neighbour, we all had asked the girl's father to file a pol-



View of the crime spot in Moti Bagh. ■ SAURABH TRIVEDI

ice complaint. But he did not want his daughter to get involved in all this and thought that things had settled down," said the eyewitness.

On the day of the incident, the eyewitness said, Pradeep was waiting for her outside

the society gate. When he saw her walking towards her house, he attacked her with the axe and ran away. The girl was bleeding profusely and screamed for help. Residents then informed the police about the incident. But by the time, the police arrived, she had fainted.

Concerns over security

"She was rushed to a hospital by a security guard in an autorickshaw. The police collected the murder weapon [axe] from the spot and CCTV footage of the entire incident. After the incident,

'He threatened to kill her before her birthday and did it'

BSES

BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi

TENDER NOTICE

Date: 14.07.2021

Sealed tenders under two parts (Un-priced & priced) are invite for the supply of following materials from all bidders:-				
NIT No.	Brief Item Description	Empanelment Period	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission
CMC/BR/21-22/RBK/G/934	REQUEST FOR SELECTION (RFS) OF BIDDERS FOR EMPANELMENT OF PRIVATE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE PROVIDERS IN THE NCT OF DELHI FOR 3 DELHI DISCOMS NAMELY BRPL, TPDLand BYPL.	3 Years	NIL	04.08.2021 15:30 HRS

Cost of each Tender Document: ₹ 180/-

For any query call on 011-49107235 or e-mail on Brp.Eaution@relianceada.com

For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender documents etc. please visit on website www.bsesdelhi.com

Head (Contracts & Materials)

Regd. Off. : BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 | Corporate Identification No.: U40108DL2001PLC111527 Telephone No. : +91 4920 7235 | E-mail: brp.eaution@relianceada.com | Website : www.bsesdelhi.com



Karnataka State Building & Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board

Kalyana Suraksha Bhavan, ITI College Compound, Bannerghatta Road,

Bengaluru-560029 Ph: 080-29753350 email: karbuildworkerswelfare@gmail.com

S.N: KBOCWWB/FD-04/T6 to T9/CR-04/2021/22

Date: 13.07.2021

E-AUCTION NOTIFICATION

Board is inviting competitive rate of interest through e-Bidding on the e-Procurement portal of Govt. of Karnataka from the Regional / Zonal / Head offices of the Nationalized Banks for Non-callable Fixed / term Deposits of 'Surplus funds' for one year.

Sl. No.	E-Auction Notification No.	Term	E-Auction	Last Date for Submission
1	DOL/2021-22/AUCTION13	Term-6	Board's Surplus funds approximate of Rs. 500.00 Crore	16.07.2021 up to 4:00 PM
2	DOL/2021-22/AUCTION14	Term-7	Board's Surplus funds approximate of Rs. 500.00 Crore	16.07.2021 up to 4:00 PM
3	DOL/2021-22/AUCTION15	Term-8	Board's Surplus funds approximate of Rs. 500.00 Crore	17.07.2021 up to 4:00 PM
4	DOL/2021-22/AUCTION16	Term-9	Board's Surplus funds approximate of Rs. 500.00 Crore	17.07.2021 up to 4:00 PM

E-Auction documents should be submitted electronically through e-Procurement portal (<https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>). For further information please contact Deputy Secretary (Admin) of the Board Phone: 080-29753350 / 54 / 56, Mob: 9886608641 during office hours.

Sd/-

Joint Secretary, K.B.O.C.W.B

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



6 Feet

Follow Physical Distancing



GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA

Public Works Division, Ahmednagar

Phone No. 0214/2325334 & 0241/2325086

E-TENDER NOTICE NO.09 FOR 2021- 22 (Online)

online E-Tenders in B-1 Form for the following works invited by Executive engineer public Works Division, Ahmednagar (Phone No. 0241-2325334/2325086) from the competent & Interested contractors. (Not Necessary Registered with P.W.D.) If Global Company having its Branch/Sub company in Indian they can participate in Tender. Superintending Engineer Public works circle, Ahmednagar reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason there fore.

Sr. no	Name of Work	Estimated Amount
1	Construction of Rest House Building at Karjat, Tal. Karjat, Dist. Ahmednagar.	Rs.323.21 lakhs
2	Construction of Rest House Building at Jamkhed, Tal. Jamkhed Dist. Ahmednagar.	Rs.347.08 Lakhs

Tender Document sale start & End Date

Sale Date- 15/07/2021 to 29/07/2021, Bid - Opening . Dt. 30/07/2021 , Pre-Bid Meeting Dt.22/07/2021 at 12.30 Hours, In the Office of Chief Engineer,P. W Region, Nashik

Note Please Submit Hard-Copy of All Tender Documents on or before Dt.29/07/2021, 18.00 Pm.

The details of works are provided on the websites as below.

1.www.mahapwd.com.

2.<http://mahatenders.gov.in>

DGIPR/2021/2022/1158

Sd/-

Executive Engineer,
Public Work Division
Ahmednagar

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, SHOPIAN

email : xenpheshopian@yahoo.in

Notice Inviting e-Tender

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Timings

DELHI

WEDNESDAY, JUL. 14
RISE 05:33 SET 19:22
RISE 09:22 SET 22:34
THURSDAY, JUL. 15
RISE 05:34 SET 19:21
RISE 10:22 SET 23:08
FRIDAY, JUL. 16
RISE 05:35 SET 19:21
RISE 11:23 SET 23:41

Delhi Weather

max min

Delhi City 31 24

Safdarjung 31 24

Palam 31 24

Copyright Skymet Weather 2019
All rights reserved.Delhi Palam Today
34°C Light spells of rain and thundershower likely at some places with cloudy sky. A warm and humid day would prevail.Delhi Palam Tomorrow
35°C Light rain or thunderstorm likely at some places with mainly cloudy sky and warm day.

500 centres shut after jab shortage

Health Minister says entire vaccine stock likely to be depleted by today afternoon

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Health Minister Satyendar Jain on Tuesday said 500 COVID inoculation centres in the city had to be shut due to shortage of vaccines.

"There is a shortage of vaccines in Delhi. We received a small stock of 1.5 lakh Covishield vaccines on Monday night, which will not last beyond Tuesday. This in effect will again cause the centres to shut after the stock gets depleted. We have around 1.68 lakh vaccines which will not last beyond Tuesday or half of Wednesday," Mr. Jain said.

He said that Delhi has the capacity to administer 3-4 lakh doses of vaccine a day



A vaccination centre in west Delhi wears a deserted look on Tuesday.

• SHIV KUMAR PUSHAKAR

shortage, according to workers at the centres. People are also facing difficulties as centres are closed.

At a government-run vaccination centre in Navyug School near Pandara Park, vaccination was not happening on Tuesday afternoon. "From Saturday, the centre has been closed due to vaccine shortage. About 50-100 people come every day to enquire whether vaccination is happening and we send them back," said a employee at the centre.

Kartik Gill, 20, who came to the centre to get his parents vaccinated said they were finding it difficult to get a second shot of the vaccine. "My parents got the

but have to shut vaccination centres as we are not being supplied enough stock

Several vaccination centres in the city have been closed for many days due to

first shot in Hauz Khas. We went there on Tuesday for the second dose, but the centre did not have any vaccine stock. Then we went to a dispensary that we heard was giving vaccine shots.

When we got there, however, the employee there said inoculation had not been happening for the last four days as they do not have stock," Mr. Gill said.

Vaccination was not happening at a government-run vaccination centre in Mukherjee Park either. "We don't have vaccine stock since Friday. We expect to get some vaccine doses soon, but there is no assurance as of now," said a volunteer at the centre.

Court raps police for 'casual' reply to plea

It had sought FIR against city hospital

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A court here on Tuesday pulled up Delhi Police for filing in a "casual manner" the reply to a plea seeking registration of an FIR against Jaipur Golden Hospital management for alleged deaths of COVID-19 patients due to oxygen shortage.

Oxygen shortage

As many as 21 critically ill patients had died at the hospital on the intervening night of April 23-24 as it allegedly awaited the oxygen supply to be replenished, following which six family

members of the deceased approached the court.

Not satisfied with the status report filed by the police, Metropolitan Magistrate Vivek Beniwal said, "The status report has been filed in a causal manner. The IO has not disclosed what steps were taken after he was directed to file the status report."

Furthermore, the judge called it a "highly sensitive matter" and gave the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) the last opportunity to file the status report, failing which the court would take action as per the law.

Scheme for urban migrants gets DDA nod

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) on Tuesday approved several key proposals at a meeting chaired by L-G Anil Baijal.

These, according to sources present at the meeting, included a draft policy for dynamic parking norms and inclusion of Affordable Rental Housing Complex Scheme in MPD 2021 for providing rental housing to urban migrants and economically weaker sections. Change of land use from recreational to public and semi-public facilities for the construction of a transit camp for the CRPF was also approved.

BJP demands Gahlot's resignation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

While reiterating that Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal allow a probe by the Anti-Corruption Branch into the alleged DTC bus scam, the BJP on Tuesday demanded that Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot and its department officials responsible be removed.

Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta said even the panel set up to examine the alleged scam had termed the purchase as well as maintenance tender "irregular" and asked that a fresh tender be issued.

Cong. approaches CVC
Meanwhile, a Delhi Congress delegation, headed by chief Ch. Anil Kumar submitted a letter to Chief Vigilance Commissioner Suresh N. Patel demanding a probe into the purchase and maintenance contracts of the 1,000 low-floor buses. Mr. Kumar said that Mr. Patel assured them that the CVC will hold a thorough probe into the complaint.

Haryana has released Delhi's legitimate share of water: DJB

'16,000 cusecs of water to reach treatment plants soon'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Delhi Jal Board (DJB) vice-chairman Raghav Chadha on Tuesday said the water shortage in the city will be over soon as the Haryana government has released 16,000 cusecs of water.

The Haryana government released 16,000 cusecs of water soon after the Kejriwal government filed a petition in the Supreme Court. Delhi's legitimate water share has been released by the Haryana government at Hathni Kund and 16,000 cu-

secs of water will reach Delhi's water treatment plants in the next three days. The water problem in Delhi will end very soon and clean drinking water will reach Delhiites

RAGHAV CHADHA
DJB vice-chairman

secs of water will reach Delhi's water treatment plants in the next three days. The water problem in Delhi will end very soon and clean drinking water will reach Delhiites," Mr. Chadha said.

For the past one week, the DJB has been claiming that the Haryana govern-

ment was not releasing Delhi's share of Yamuna water and due to this the water supply in Delhi was being affected.

Raw water from the Yamuna and other sources is treated by the DJB at different water treatment plants (WTPs) before supplying it to people.

On Monday, Mr. Chadha had said that the water level at Wazirabad barrage, a point along of river Yamuna in Delhi, was the lowest since 1965 and warned of a water crisis.

Assess water supply stations: petition in HC

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday asked the city government and the Delhi Jal Board to consider as representation a plea seeking fresh assessment of water supply stations here.

The HC Bench asked the authorities to decide the representation in accordance with the law, rules, and regulations. City resident Ajay Gautam, in his plea, sought to conduct a fresh assessment of water supply stations and booster pumps, keeping in mind the increasing population.

Illegal call centre busted with arrest of 26 employees

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A sham call centre was busted with the arrest of 26 employees for allegedly duping U.S. citizens of at least ₹4 crore by impersonating Amazon customer service providers, the police said on Tuesday.

Preliminary enquiry revealed that the fake call

centre had been running for the past seven months and on average, at least six U.S. citizens were cheated daily. Over 1,250 people have been found to be cheated so far.

During probe, it was revealed that the accused would send fake messages to phone numbers of the vic-

tims, telling them that their Amazon ID has been hacked and charges have been imposed on them. When the customer would call back to know more about it, they would show them fake repair of their Amazon ID through AnyDesk, a remote desktop access application.

IN BRIEF

Skill university ties up with Japanese firm

NEW DELHI
The Delhi Skill University on Tuesday entered into a partnership with a Japanese firm to begin a programme to train and skill youth of India.TO ADVERTISE
PLEASE CONTACT

Mr. N SELVA KUMAR

PH: 9820350726

selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in

THE HINDU
India's National Newspaper

REGIONAL APPOINTMENTS



KERALA RAIL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD

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Salary is commensurate with experience. Apply with complete CV and copy of educational and experience certificate on or before 21-07-2021 to the registrar@ametuniv.ac.in

**Office of the Executive Engineer
Punasi Dam Division, Punasi Camp Deoghar**

CORRIGENDUM

e-Re-Tender reference No.-WRD/Punasi Dam Div., Punasi Camp Deoghar/SBD-IFB-01/2021-22 Dt : 02.07.2021
(PR No. 249120 Water Resource (21-22):D)

It is to inform to all bidders that the required changes made in Tender ID 2021_WRD_50311_1 dated 08.07.2021 in the above mentioned tender e-Re-Tender reference No.-WRD/Punasi Dam Div., Punasi Camp Deoghar/SBD-IFB-01/2021-22 Dt : 02.07.2021 invited for Construction of service road on the crest of punasi dam, const. of parapet wall with lamp post and lighting arrangement on the crest of punasi dam and const. of slope drain and berm drain in down stream of dam from chain 0.00 to 70.00 as follows:

Sl. Page No.	Item No.	Uploaded (to be corrected)	Corrected (to be read as)
1 12	SBD A. General sl. 4.5 (c)	executed in any one year, the minimum quantities of the following items of work as indicated in Appendix - cement concrete (including RCC and PCC) 2046.00 Cum. - earthwork in both excavation and filling (combined quantities) 4189.00 Cum. - Boulder Masonry work 4347.00 Cum. -Cement concrete pavement work 1814.00 Cum. - Boulder pitching work (Rip-rap work) 6865.00 Cum.	executed in any one year, the minimum quantities of the following items of work as indicated in Appendix - cement concrete (including RCC and PCC) 2046.00 Cum. - earthwork in both excavation and filling (combined quantities) 4189.00 Cum. - Boulder Masonry work 4347.00 Cum. -Cement concrete pavement work 1814.00 Cum. - Bituminous concrete road work 291.00 Cum. 291.00 Cum.
2 24	APPENDIX to ITB Clause Reference with respect to Section-I sl.5	Quantities of work are : [C1.4.5(a)] Cement Concrete NIL Earth Work 9694.00 Cum. Boulder Pitching Work (Rip-rap) 13730.00 Cum. Gate NIL	Quantities of work are : [C1.4.5(a)] [C1.4.5(c)] Cement Concrete 4091.00 Cum. Earth Work 8377.00 Cum. Boulder Masonry Work 8693.00 Cum. Cement concrete pavement work 3628.00 Cum. Bituminous concrete road work 581.00 Cum. Gate NIL
3 24	APPENDIX to ITB Clause Reference with respect to Section-I sl.6	The cost of electric work is Rs. Nil [C1.4.5(d)]	The cost of electric work is Rs. 36,17,285.00 [C1.4.5(d)]
4 25	APPENDIX to ITB Clause Reference with respect to Section-I sl.13	Identification: [C1.19.2(b)] Construction of service road on the crest of Punasi dam, const. of parapet wall with lamp post and lighting arrangement on the crest of Punasi dam and const. of slope drain and berm drain in down stream of dam from chain 0.00 to 70.00 Bid reference :- WRD/Punasi Dam Div., Punasi Camp Deoghar/SBD-IFB-01/2021-22 Dt : 02.07.2021 Do not open before 16.07.2021, 3:00 P.M.	Identification: [C1.19.2(b)] Construction of service road on the crest of Punasi dam, const. of parapet wall with lamp post and lighting arrangement on the crest of Punasi dam and const. of slope drain and berm drain in down stream of dam from chain 0.00 to 70.00 Bid reference :- WRD/Punasi Dam Div., Punasi Camp Deoghar/SBD-IFB-01/2021-22 Dt : 02.07.2021 Do not open before 16.07.2021, 3:00 P.M.
5 57	SECTION 4 CONTRACT DATA sl.6	The intended Completion Date for the whole of the Works is 360 days [C1.1.17&28] after start of work with the following milestones: Milestone dates: [C1.2.2&49.] Physical works to be completed: Period from the start date Milestone 1 i.e. 35% of boulder pitching work 120 days Milestone 2 i.e. 70% of drain, parapet & PCC pavement work 240 days Milestone 3 i.e. 100% of drain, parapet & PCC pavement work 360 days	The intended Completion Date for the whole of the Works is 360 days [C1.1.17&28] after start of work with the following milestones: Milestone dates: [C1.2.2&49.] Physical works to be completed: Period from the start date Milestone 1 i.e. 35% of boulder pitching work 120 days Milestone 2 i.e. 70% of drain, parapet & PCC pavement work 240 days Milestone 3 i.e. 100% of drain, parapet & PCC pavement work 360 days
6 57	SECTION 4 CONTRACT DATA sl.9	The works consist of Earthwork in excavation & filling of canal bank of Nawadhi Distributor. The works shall, inter alia, include the following, as specified or as directed: [C1.1.]	The works consist of Cons. of road on crest, slope drain and parapet wall of Punasi dam works shall, inter alia, include the following, as specified or as directed: [C1.1.]

Note:-Rest all conditions will remain same.

Executive Engineer
Punasi dam Division, Punasi Camp Deoghar
PR.NO.249482 Deoghar(21-22):D

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

1.The Executive Engineer , Shimla Division No-III, HPPWD , Shimla-3 on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system, from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD, for the work as detailed in the table.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Starting date of downloading Bid	EMD	Cost of Tender	Time Allowed	Deadline for submission of Bid
1.	Construction of 1000 Units for Govt Employees at Shimla, C/O 20 N's Type-II Quarters and 56 NO's Type-III Quarters including parking floor. Phase-II G/H - C/O 8 NO's Type-III quarters at site block No. 29 including W.S & S.I, rain harvesting tank and site development etc. complete.	Rs. 90,46,107/-	22-07-2021	Rs. 1,23,000/-	2000/-	Eighteen Months	28-07-2021

The bidders are advised to note other details, of tenders from the department website , www.hptenders.gov.in. The Executive Engineer reserves the right to accept/reject any tender/application without assigning any reason.

Executive Engineer, Shimla Division No-III, HPPWD Shimla-3.
(On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh)

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT e-Procurement Notice INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

1.The Executive Engineer HPPWD Jubbal Distt Shimla H.P on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in 2 Cover System for the under mentioned work from

Three held in Assam for kidney racket

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The police in Morigaon district of Assam arrested three people for allegedly preying on villagers to run a kidney trade racket. Morigaon SP Aparna Natarajan said the police have found 10 people in Dakhin Dharamtal village who have been victims of the racket. Most victims were either grappling with poverty or were desperate to repay microfinance loans.

Aadhaar uncertainty for 27 lakh as NRC in limbo in Assam

They include 19.06 lakh left out of citizens' list, Assembly told

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The Aadhaar enrolment of more than 27 lakh people in Assam has been shrouded in uncertainty because of the delay in completing the process of the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

The biometrics of 27,43,396 people were collected during the claims and objections phase of the NRC

exercise prior to the publishing of the complete draft on August 31, 2019. They include the 19,06,657 people left out of the complete draft.

The applications of 3.3 crore people were processed during the exercise to update the NRC of 1951.

Replies to a question by All India United Democratic Front MLA Ashraf Hussain

in the Assembly on Tuesday, Assam's Minister for General Administration Ranjeet Kumar Dass said the onus was on the Centre to decide whether or not these 27.43 lakh people would be issued Aadhaar cards. The biometrics of these people were frozen after the publication of the NRC. The Centre had earlier been asked to unfreeze the biometrics.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Seema @ Kalo, D/o Rakesh Kumar, R/o 6033-34, near Satnaryan Temple, Phoovali Gali, Neemwala Chowk, Nabi Karim, Delhi, Age: 10 years, Height: 3'0", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Built: Thin, wearing Green colour Frock and White colour Nicker, Mentally Disturbed, Physically disable from right hand and Walk Lame, has been missing/kidnapped from her house from the area of P.S. Nabi Karim, Delhi since 20.05.2019 at round 10:00 AM. In this regard a FIR No. 175/2019, u/s 363 IPC, dated 21.05.2019 has been registered at P.S. Nabi Karim, New Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about her please inform undersigned.

Website : <http://cbsi.nic.in>

E-mail : cic@cbsi.gov.in

Fax: 011-24368639

SHO P.S. Nabi Karim, Delhi

DP/868/CD/2021 Ph. No.: 011-23521081, 8750870428

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Rukhsar, D/o Yakub, R/o H.No. 63, Bagchi Bhargav Lane, Boulevard Road, Civil Lines, Delhi, Age: Approx 14 years, Height: 5', Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Oval, Built: Thin, wearing Orange colour Suit Salwar and Blue Slippers in feet, has been missing/kidnapped from her house since 19.06.2021. In this regard a FIR No. 238/21 U/S 363 IPC, dated 19.06.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Civil Lines, Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about her please inform undersigned.

Website : <http://cbsi.nic.in>

E-mail : cic@cbsi.gov.in

Fax: 011-24368639

SHO P.S. Civil Lines, Delhi

DP/1288/N/2021 Ph.: 011-23810633, 23815444

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General public is hereby informed that a boy namely **Kishan, S/o Rashilal, R/o Village Surya Bhma, Allahabad, UP has been missing/kidnapped since 04.06.2017 from 2/10, 4th floor, Sathi Open, Shelter, Ansari Road, Darya Ganj, Delhi. In this regard, FIR No. 131/2017 u/s 363 IPC has been registered at P.S. Darya Ganj, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped boy but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing/kidnapped boy is as under:

Name: Kishan, Gender: Male, Age: 14 years, Height: 4'4", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Normal, Wearing: Black colour t-shirt and blue colour jeans.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing/kidnapped boy, kindly inform to the following.

E-mail : cic@cbsi.gov.in

Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641

Fax: 011-24368639

SHO P.S. Darya Ganj, Delhi

DP/870/CD/2021 Ph. No. 011-23279331, 23274683

ENTERPRISE CONNECT

A Business Initiative

daily in their sub division, division and circle of PSPCL respectively.CMD said that the issues which cannot be resolved at SDO/Xen level.He said that substation engineer and senior xen P&M visit all grid sub stations within a week He also said that all chief engineer distribution will monitor activity of the distribution officers and chief engineer P&M will monitor grid activity of the substation engineers on daily basis.

TRIBES INDIA Sets up gifting corner for Rakhi festival.
With its attractive and wide range of tribal products ranging from exquisite handicrafts to metal artefacts to apparel and organic herbal produce, Tribes India (both the network of physical outlets and online e-commerce platforms) is an ideal one-stop destination for gifting your family and friends. With Rakhi around the corner, the Tribes India catalogue now features an exclusive Rakhi corner, where one can find attractive hand made rakhis from different tribes of India, pooja items such as ornate metal pooja boxes and torans. Other than this, colourful kurtas for both men and women, salwars, jackets in different types of weaves and styles, and a range of sarees, dresses and beautiful stoles in the Maheshwari, Chanderi, Bagh, Kantha, Bhandara, Tussar, Sambhalpuri and Ikat traditions etc are also featured in Tribes India outlets and websites. In line with its efforts to promote the livelihoods and empower tribals through marketing and development to tribal produce and products, TRIFED has been expanding its diverse and attractive range of products on sale in the Tribes India network.

The 137 Tribes India outlets and e-commerce platform (www.tribesindia.com) cater to different types of needs.

SJVN Inks MoU with IBN for Implementation of 679 MW Lower Arun HEP

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed for the development of 679 MW Lower Arun HEP between SJVN & Investment Board of Nepal (IBN) in Kathmandu Nepal.

The MoU was signed by Sh Nand Lal Sharma Chairman and Managing Director SJVN and Sh Sushil Bhatta CEO IBN.

Sh Nand Lal Sharma apprised that SJVN Limited has bagged 679 MW Lower Arun HEP through International Competitive Bidding (ICB), which involved big players . The Lower Arun Hydro Electric Project is located in Sankhuwasabha and Bhojpur Districts of Nepal. The project will not have any reservoir or dam and will be a tail race development of 900 MW Arun-3 HEP.

The project will have four francis type turbines.

On completion the Project will generate 2970 million units of electricity per annum.

The project is scheduled to be completed in four years after commencement of construction activities.

The project has been allocated to SJVN for 25 years on BOOT basis.

Sh. Sharma expressed deepest gratitude to the Government of Nepal for keeping their faith in the abilities and capabilities of SJVN

by selecting it as developer for Lower Arun HEP.

He also thanked Ministry of Power,

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in all its endeavours in India & Abroad.

He further informed that SJVN started its journey in Nepal in the year 2008 by signing of MoU

for implementation of 900 MW Arun-3 Project.

SJVN's present installed capacity is 2016.51

MW and aims to be 5000 MW company by 2030, 12000 MW Company by 2040.

SJVN has presence in various sectors of energy generation which includes Hydro, Wind, Solar & Thermal. The company also has presence in the field of Energy Transmission.

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Northern Central Railways generates 1,01,62,891 units(KWH) of solar energy in 2020-21.

In first three months of 2021-22, NCR has already saved revenue worth Rs 1.5 crore by using solar energy. Due to excellent upkeep , very close monitoring of operations of solar power plant & numerous innovative steps taken under Solar Mission-2021-22, the productivity of Solar plants in North Central Railway is registering an upward trajectory. While NCR generated more than 1 crore units of solar energy last financial year, in the first three months of this financial year 37 lac units has already been generated using solar power. Due to sincere efforts & hard work put in by the team of staff engaged in maintenance, 15 solar plants of Prayagraj Division, 9 solar plants of Jhansi Division and 10 plants of Aravali Division has now been placed under "A Category", i.e. HIGH PERFORMANCE SOLAR PLANT. Plants whose Capacity Utilization factor (CUF) is more than 14% are placed in Category A. Efforts are on to bring more plants under this category. NCR has a total installed capacity of 11.03 MWp. While 1.20 kWp has been installed by the Railway, remaining 10882.34 kWp capacity has been installed by two major Solar Power Developers (SPD) Azure and ReNew on a PPP basis. Among the major places where roof top solar plants have been installed are station buildings, workshops, training schools, GM offices and DRMF office buildings. NCR has set an ambitious target for 2021-22 to generate HIGHESTEVER solar energy to the tune of 1.3 Crore units, thereby saving about Rs 5 Crores, i.e. Rs one Crore more than the last year, under the aforesaid 'Solar Mission - NCR'.

FCI implements various schemes under PMGKAY

Secretary ,Department of Food & Public Distribution, Government of India was on a two-day visit to Chandauli and Varanasi to review the implementation of various schemes of the Government of India such as National Food Security Act, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, distribution of fortified rice and procurement of wheat and paddy at minimum support price in Uttar Pradesh during the COVID-19 pandemic. It was apprised by the Food Secretary that in order to ameliorate the hardship faced by the poor due to economic disruption caused by the outbreak of Coronavirus resulting in nation wise lockdown, the Govt of India launched the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY).

Last year for providing free ration to the beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act (NFS) across the country. Under this scheme, 5 Kg food grains per person per month is being distributed free of cost to the NFS beneficiaries addition to their regular monthly allocation. Over 14.71 Crore persons of Uttar Pradesh have been benefited through the said scheme. He said that a food subsidy of around Rs 40,000 crore is being transferred to the 14.71 crore ration card holders of Uttar Pradesh in the form of free ration under PMGKAY. Presently the scheme is in its fourth phase which will continue till November 2021.

It was also told by the Union Food Secretary that in view of the problem of malnutrition

especially among children and women, the Government of India is distributing fortified rice in pilot phase under ICDS and Mid-day meal scheme. In the pilot phase, this work is also being done in Chandauli district and Sewapuri block of Varanasi district in Uttar Pradesh. Fortification is the process of increasing the nutritional value of rice.

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IN BRIEF



Power production stopped at Pulichintala

SURYAPET
Power production was stopped at the Dr. K.L. Rao Sagar Pulichintala Project in Telangana on Monday, 12 days after the exercise first began on June 29 and became one of the central points of water stress between the two Telugu-speaking States. The reason for the halt was not clear.

Congress sends legal notice to Kaushik Reddy

HYDERABAD
AICC in-charge for Telangana Congress Manickam Tagore has sent a legal notice to Padi Kaushik Reddy, who resigned from the party, for levelling allegations that he was bribed ₹50 crore by TPCC president A. Revanth Reddy for securing the top post. Mr. Kaushik Reddy was asked to tender an unconditional apology within seven days or face defamation of ₹1 crore.

Probe into illegal land purchase in Amaravati should continue'

Andhra Pradesh tells SC it wants investigation monitored by a retired HC judge

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Andhra Pradesh government on Tuesday told the Supreme Court that investigation into the alleged "illegal purchase" of land in Amaravati should go on and be monitored by a retired High Court judge.

The government said the case could even be investigated by the CBI. The government urged a Bench of Justices Vineet Saran and Dinesh Maheshwari to refer the case back to the High Court.

The apex court was hearing an appeal filed by the government against a High Court stay on investigation into the FIR involving former Advocate General Dammalapati Srinivas among others.

The FIR shows offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, criminal breach



A file photo of the CRDA marking stones at an undeveloped plot meant for farmers who gave land for Amaravati capital.

of trust and cheating under the Indian Penal Code. The allegations include abuse of official positions in the State, sharing of privileged information and causing loss to the public exchequer during the previous Telugu Desam Party (TDP) regime.

'Regime revenge'

The State, represented by senior advocate Rajeev Dha-

van, maintained in the Supreme Court that the Amaravati land case was not a product of "regime revenge".

But senior advocate Harish Salve, for Mr. Srinivas, countered that the case was indeed a case of "regime revenge". Mr. Salve initially voiced an opinion to have the case heard in the top court itself. "It cannot go up

and down like this," he said in a virtual hearing. He said either the State's appeal in the apex court should be dismissed and the case be heard in the High Court or let the case continue to be heard in the top court itself. The State cannot fight in two forums at the same time.

"We have already agreed that no coercive action would be taken [against the persons named in the FIR]. I am not in a position to say that it could be heard here [Supreme Court]. On instructions, I am saying that the case has to be heard in the High Court, and in detail," Mr. Dhavan submitted.

The Bench deferred the hearing to July 22. The High Court had stayed the investigation and barred the State from taking any coercive action against the persons named in the FIR.

SC declines to revoke bail for 12 in gold smuggling case

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday declined to revoke the bail granted to 12 accused in the high-profile Kerala gold smuggling case and agreed to examine whether the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) can be invoked in smuggling cases.

The question is whether the offence of gold smuggling is covered entirely under the Customs Act or would it fall within the definition of terrorist act under Section 15 (1) (a) (iii) of the UAPA.

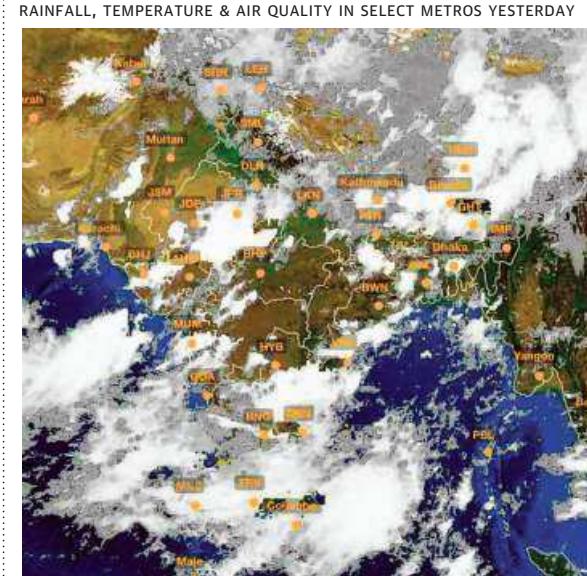
A Bench led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana issued notice to the 12 accused who were granted bail by the Kerala High Court on this limited question of law concerning the UAPA.

The Centre and the National Investigation Agency, which had moved the apex court against the High Court's categorical finding that the UAPA would not stand in smuggling cases, argued in the top court that the High Court's view was divergent with its Rajasthan counterpart, and the law needed to be finally clarified by the Supreme Court.

The Kerala High Court had maintained that the UAPA cannot be invoked in smuggling cases unless the crime was done with the intent to threaten the economic security of the country. The NIA had approached the High Court, invoking the UAPA, after the NIA court in Kochi gave the accused bail.

The case concerns the seizure of 30 kg of 24 carat gold worth ₹14.82 crore at the Thiruvananthapuram airport last year.

WEATHER WATCH



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD; RAINFALL DATA: CPCB; MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy/heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over south Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Mizoram, Telangana, central Maharashtra, Vidarbha, coastal Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Kerala. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Karaikal and Mahe.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	1...	34.4...	26.1	Kozhikode	88...	27.6...	23.4
Ahmedabad	...6	35.6...	27.0	Kurnool	0...	30.8...	24.4
Aizawl	51.9...	28.7...	19.6	Lucknow	11...	37.6...	27.5
Altahabad	...-37.7...	27.8	-	Madurai	...-36.0...	26.1	-
Bengaluru	...-25.2...	20.4	-	Mangaluru	73.7...	27.8...	22.7
Bhopal	...-34.5...	25.3	-	Mumbai	55...	28.3...	25.0
Bhubaneswar	3.5...	30.7...	25.0	Mysuru	...-25.0...	20.2	-
Chandigarh	21...	33.0...	24.8	New Delhi	25...	30.9...	23.5
Chennai	3...	31.4...	28.4	Patna	...-36.5...	27.2	-
Coimbatore	0.5...	31.8...	22.2	Port Blair	16...	30.2...	24.1
Dehradun	15...	26.4...	23.6	Puducherry	...-32.5...	25.4	-
Gangtok	2...	24.6...	17.8	Pune	2.8...	27.4...	22.3
Goa	108...	27.8...	22.5	Raipur	...-34.3...	24.6	-
Guwahati	...-33.0...	25.9	-	Ranchi	3...	30.2...	22.5
Hubballi	...-23.0...	22.0	-	Shillong	2...	25.1...	17.5
Hyderabad	34...	27.4...	21.8	Shimla	30...	22.4...	16.6
Imphal	0.3...	32.2...	22.2	Srinagar	7...	24.4...	18.4
Jaipur	...-34.8...	26.0	-	Thiruvananthapuram	3...	31.4...	24.3
Kochi	11...	28.6...	24.4	Tiruchi	0.1...	33.5...	26.4
Kohima	...-28.0...	18.2	-	Vijayawada	11...	29.8...	25.4
Kolkata	2...	31.9...	27.2	Visakhapatnam	1...	29.2...	26.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO _x	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	...6	16	118	83	.94	■■■
Bengaluru	.11	34	56	34	.48	■■■
Chennai	.7	44	69	38	.69	■■■
Delhi	.17	29	36	.117	.109	■■■
Hyderabad	...-64	.20	15	.20	...	■■■
Kolkata	.10	17	.16	23	.33	■■■
Lucknow	...6	.40	.52	.81	.88	■■■
Mumbai	...-1063	.103	■■■
Pune	.129	.64	.46	.65	.51	■■■
Visakhapatnam	.14	.44	.56	.28	.39	■■■

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Alwar, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 156 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra recorded a healthy AQI score of 17.

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_x: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

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

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

'Ideally, the States should be given financial aid'



Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Tuesday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

and Mr. Vijayan described it as cordial. Long-standing problems and demands of Kerala were discussed, he stated.

When asked if he discussed the rising fuel prices with him, Mr. Vijayan said

the need of the hour was

to ensure that majority of the people were vaccinated. "Which is why Kerala too needs more vaccines and we informed this to the Prime Minister. We need 60 lakh doses for this month," he asserted.

To administer the second dose alone, the State needed 25 lakh doses this month. Kerala so far had managed to give the first dose to 44% of people above the age of 18.

Mr. Vijayan also met Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Urban Development Minister Hardeep Puri, who also handles the Petroleum portfolio.

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Opportunity to join #DelhiGovernanceRevolution

Delhi Government Announces

CHIEF MINISTER'S URBAN LEADERS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

The Chief Minister's Urban Leaders Fellowship is a unique opportunity for young leaders across India to work with the Delhi Government to address some of the most pressing urban challenges, and experience what 'making change' looks like. The highly-competitive Fellowship aims to recruit outstanding young professionals from across the country under the age of 35 who are passionate about public service and are willing to commit to working with the Delhi government for a period of two years.

- Unique Fellowship programme where the Fellows will work directly under the supervision of their respective Ministers across various departments
- Fellows will support the formulation of policies and implementation of various government projects and initiatives
- Remuneration of ₹1,25,000 per month will be provided to Fellows (17 positions) and ₹75,000 per month to Associate Fellows (6 positions)
- Next batch of Fellowship begins in October 2021

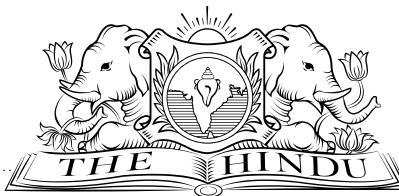
The Delhi government has received global acclaim for its policies, be it the transformation of government schools, the provision of high-quality primary healthcare at mohalla clinics, 24x7 electricity provided at the lowest tariff in India, and home delivery of government services. Through the CMULF programme, we welcome the most talented youth across India to join us in the journey of transforming Delhi into a modern, world-class city.

- Arvind Kejriwal
Chief Minister, Delhi

For more details and to apply, visit ddc.delhi.gov.in/CMULF
Last date : 9th August, 2021

Administrative Reforms Department, Government of NCT of Delhi





An unproductive idea

Socio-economic empowerment is more effective than coercion in cutting fertility rates

Incentives and penalties form an integral component of the measures to control population growth, announced by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday. These steps are aimed at reducing U.P.'s total fertility rate (TFR), recorded as 2.7 by the National Family Health Survey-4 in 2016, a figure only lower than that of neighbouring Bihar (3.1 as of 2020 in NFHS-5). Aims in this direction – increasing the rate of modern contraceptive prevalence, male contraception, decreasing maternal mortality and infant mortality rates significantly by 2026 – are, on the face of it, in line with what was stressed at the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development in 1994. The Cairo Consensus called for a promotion of reproductive rights, empowering women, universal education, maternal and infant health to untangle the knotty issue of poverty and high fertility. But rather than taking steps in this direction, the Government seems to have taken the beaten path of a mixture of incentives and penalties to tackle what is a socio-economic issue as a demographic one. In a draft Uttar Pradesh Population (Control, Stabilisation and Welfare) Bill, 2021, the Government aims to incentivise one-child families and reward those with two children with perks in government schemes, rebates in taxes and loans, and cash awards if family planning is done among other sops. Disincentives for those with more than two children include denial of subsidies and welfare benefits, a bar on applying for government jobs and taking part in local elections. Assam, also led by the BJP, is mulling a similar policy.

The incentives/disincentives approach has been denounced in the past by the National Human Rights Commission after such measures were introduced by several States in the 1990s and 2000s, i.e., Haryana, undivided Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Odisha. The Supreme Court, in 2003, upheld a Haryana government law barring persons with more than two children from contesting local body polls, but the legal grounding of the moves impinging upon the informed choice of the individual remained questionable. Empirical studies of coercive measures have shown their discrimination against marginalised people in particular and with no discernible effect on population control, while more substantive poverty reduction schemes and economic reforms have raised labour productivity and employment opportunities, allowed families to empower women, and reduced fertility rates as rational choices. India's TFRs have been reducing substantially across most States, even in U.P. and Bihar with the highest TFRs. To hasten the drop to replacement levels of fertility, States should tackle the socio-economic issues confronting India's largely youthful demography rather than seeking neo-Malthusian approaches on population control.

Redemption road

Despite the violence of English fans, Euro 2020 will be remembered for good football

Sport is replete with redemption stories. Teams wrestling with their pasts before swimming towards the light make for compelling plotlines. But for giant footballing countries, success following failure is more of a sequence and less of a narrative. This millennium, Germany and France have plumbed the depths before rising to become world champions. But Italy's redemption story at Wembley on Sunday, a penalty shoot-out victory over England to secure only its second-ever European Championship, should not be seen through such a reductionist lens. The triumph represents the transformation of a proud, but dogmatic, footballing nation into a modern, forward-looking side, with the singular aim of coming out of one of its darkest chapters – of not qualifying for a World Cup (2018) for the first time since 1958. In the process, Roberto Mancini's outfit also cleared the fog that had settled over international football. Built around the midfield abilities of Jorginho, Marco Verratti and Lorenzo Insigne, and the pace and drive of Federico Chiesa and Leonardo Spinazzola, Italy played with verve. Veteran defenders Giorgio Chiellini and Leonardo Bonucci ensured it also displayed old-school nous. Together with the goal-keeping brilliance of Gianluigi Donnarumma – player of the tournament – the Azzurri beat No.1 ranked Belgium, No.6 Spain and No.4 England back-to-back to claim their first major trophy since the 2006 World Cup.

Italy, no doubt, had a generation of players schooled in progressive methods since their youth, but Mancini's tactical acumen stood out. The 56-year-old's handling of the loss of key personnel was smart, as was his role in shaping Italy's response after England went a goal ahead and threatened to end its own trophy drought of 55 years. In contrast, Germany suffered under outgoing coach Joachim Low's defunct ideas, while a complacent France blew a 3-1 lead against Switzerland and crashed out. Luis Enrique's Spain, though, impressed, despite failing to Italy over penalties in the last four. Barcelona's Pedri proved a gem and the 18-year-old midfielder was duly named the young player of the tournament. Cristiano Ronaldo won the Golden Boot (5 goals, 1 assist) but was far from the driving force he usually is for Portugal, the 2016 winner. Denmark, by reaching the semi-final despite the traumatic exit of Christian Eriksen, showcased its collective spirit. The only discordant notes in an otherwise excellent competition were English fans' violent behaviour on the final day and the racist attacks on players who erred in the penalty shoot-out. But in the long run, Euro 2020 will be remembered for restoring Italian football, reinvigorating international football and proving mildly therapeutic to fans worldwide amidst an unending, exhausting pandemic.

The upcoming crisis in Indian federalism

The national compact has to be reimaged so that post 2026, the most successful States are not punished politically



RAHUL NARAYAN &
GAUTAM BHATIA

The Indian Constitution may face an unprecedented crisis in 2026 when there will be a dramatic change in the composition of the Lok Sabha. Since 1976, seats in the Lok Sabha have reflected the 1971 census and have not taken into account changes in the population. The primary reason for this has been unequal population growth among States. India's most highly developed and prosperous States have been successful at family planning, while the poorer States continue to expand. The freeze was thus a chance to ensure that India's most successful States are not punished politically for their success. Post 2026, when this compact ends, there will be a seismic shift in national power towards India's poorest and most populated States, which is sure to generate much resentment among the States that will lose political and economic power and influence. This calls for a realignment in the balance between the democratic principle and the federal principle in the Indian Constitution.

The essence of the Union

As Article I of the Indian Constitution says, India is a Union of States. The choice of words is deliberate: it is the several States that, together, make up the Indian Union. Admittedly, unlike in other federations, there is no separate State citizenship or State Constitutions. However, one need only study the history that led up to the linguistic reorganisation of States in 1956,

and to subsequent movements for Statehood afterwards, to understand that States are distinct associative communities, within the federal structure of the Indian Union. Indeed, in a polity as plural as ours – linguistically, culturally, and ethnically – it could not be any other way.

Big versus small States

Having established, thus, that States are important, self-contained units within the Indian constitutional scheme, we must turn to an inherent contradiction between the principles of democracy and federalism, when federal units are unequal in size, population and economics. This is easy to comprehend. In a democratic set up, all citizens are equal and are thus entitled to equal representation in governance. But this would imply that bigger States are likely to dominate the national conversation over smaller States. Small States fear that they would get a smaller share of the pie economically, a much reduced say in national issues, and be irrelevant in the political governance of the country.

In order to assuage this legitimate fear, federal democracies have incorporated into their governing structures various kinds of compromises to ensure a balance between democratic principles and federal ones.

For example, when the Americans adopted their Constitution, they protected smaller States in four ways. First, national powers over the States were limited. Second, each State regardless of size had two seats in the Senate, giving smaller States an outsized role in national governance. Third, Presidents are elected by electoral votes, which means they must win States rather than the total national population. Fourth, and deplorably, the slave-owning States

made federalism inevitable, but fearing fissiparous tendencies among States that had never been a single political unit, they also created a strong centre. While history has been chequered, the fears for Indian national unity simply on the basis of giving States greater powers have proven to be unfounded – and if at all, it has been the other way. The 1956 reorganisation of States on linguistic lines was a popular recognition of federal principles and yet did not result in separatist tendencies. Since then, new States within the Union have been created in response to the demands of people for greater autonomy.

This essential structure remains the bedrock of the American Constitution today, though the Americans have rid themselves of slavery (fortunately) and have dramatically increased the scope of federal intervention. This federal structure has led to the severing of causal links between the national vote and presidential elections. Presidents George W. Bush and Donald Trump won without winning the popular vote.

The current movement to remove the power of a minority to filibuster legislation is based on democratic principles seeking to mitigate the pathology of excessive federalism: indeed, the American structures of government go so far in the other direction, that they have been accused of essentially facilitating and entrenching minority rule through the Senate, which favours rural, sparsely populated States that are also predominantly white.

The Indian structure

Other federations (Switzerland and Belgium come to mind) have adopted other – less extreme – forms of reconciliation. However, India's quasi-federal structure has always been *sui generis*. Our founders knew that India's diversity

Framing the legislation, forgetting the transparency

India, it appears, is charting a regulatory framework without discussion and openness, and with government overreach



ANURADHA RAMAN

It was the June of 2002 and the Information and Broadcasting Ministry office on the fifth and the sixth floors of Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi, was buzzing with activity. Cable operators referred to as "unsavoury characters" had taken over the conference room which was overflowing with pizza and soft drinks. Reporters could come and go and talk to officials; usually the Secretary and the Additional Secretary would come out to brief the reporters. There was a reason for this flurry of activity. The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Amendment Bill, which had the potential of regulating the business of lakhs of cable operators, multi-system operators and broadcasters, was going to be debated in Parliament and it was the draft of the proposed Bill that was being discussed threadbare with stakeholders.

Then and now

The discussions spilled over months as reporters munched through the pizzas. The Ministry was careful to keep the stakeholders away from each other. Such was the unease between the stakeholders. It was evident to all of us that while Ministry officials were comfortable discussing the provision of the proposed Bill with broadcasters, cable operators were a different kettle of fish. So, while the broadcasters were invited at dusk, the cable operators

held sway during the day. The Atal Bihari Vajpayee government, much like the present Government, was clueless about the number of cable operators; many had sizeable stakes in the real estate business in the country and carried the channels for a price which was at the centre of animosity between the broadcasters and the cable operators.

Eventually passed by Parliament in 2002, the Cable Television Networks Regulation (Amendment) Act was not a perfect Act, and would undergo many more amendments, but the changes were the outcome of intense discussions with all stakeholders. In the days to come, the Act would be criticised but the doors of the Ministry were always open for discussions. This is a marked departure from the manner in which the new Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, which has sought to put the brakes on free speech, is being pushed through.

OTT in focus

Of course, the Government can always turn back and say, 'hey we gave you 100 days'. But here is the rub. The Government never put up for public discussion what it was seeking to amend and control. The November 2020 Executive order bringing Over-The-Top (OTT) platforms or video streaming service providers such as Netflix, Amazon Prime and others under the ambit of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, exposed the real intentions of the Government. But when the now former Minister of Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar commented that the Mi-

nistry officials had no fix on the number of OTT platforms and users in the country, his concern was legitimate. After all, this is a business and along with the entertainment industry, had reached ₹1.82 trillion in 2019 and has been projected to cross ₹2.4 trillion by 2022 (FICCI report on media and entertainment; <https://bit.ly/36xadtj>). In fact, digital media overtook filmed entertainment in 2019. And to throw in some more figures, there are around 550 million television and smartphone consumers in the country. The figures are expected to double by 2025.

There are over 200 million OTT subscribers. The major draw of OTT is this: the content being served to you when you want it. You are free to watch what you wish to at a time chosen by you on a platform you are comfortable with. Your smartphone doubles up as the screen as you navigate your ride on the metro.

This is in danger now with the IT rules having come into effect on February 25 (<https://bit.ly/31YdZn> and <https://bit.ly/3i8KEHP>) with the Government giving digital publishers three months to comply (<https://bit.ly/3B1qQIE>). The Digital News Publishers Association – a 13-member collective of some of the leading news media companies, the Press Trust of India and now the News Broadcasters Asso-

ciation, have moved courts petitioning them to intervene and stop the code which not only restricts free speech but also far exceeds the mandate of the IT Act in empowering the executive from controlling online content.

Incidentally, while amending the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867, to bring within its ambit digital news platforms two years ago, for good measure, the Ministry had put out the draft on its website (draft "Registration of Press and Periodicals Bill, 2019") inviting discussions (<https://bit.ly/3AWRuZl>). So, it is all the more surprising why the Ministry did not follow the same process while attempting to regulate OTT and digital news platforms. It could have got a fix on both.

Rules elsewhere

Since the best of rules and guidelines are often enriched by best practices around the world, here is a brief list of some of these. The EU Audiovisual Media Services Directive, updated three years ago, encourages self-regulation and co-regulation among players, with specific focus on child safety and violence and hate speech. In the United Kingdom, programming on video-on-demand services, including TV and online film services, is regulated by Ofcom which not only provides editorial rules but also

has specific provisions for protecting those under 18 and the prohibition of content inciting hatred. The United States, perhaps the most liberal of countries, expects Pay TV players to follow Federal Communications Commission (FCC) guidelines – OTT content remains unregulated. So, from a light touch to content governing children, most countries have set

up an enabling architecture for OTT platforms to grow. India, it appears, has not followed in their footsteps, instead, charting a regulatory framework which has been characterised by excessive government overreach.

Unease over free speech

More importantly, does the government of the day have the mandate to control and regulate digital news? And here the Government, many of whose Ministers had burnished their reputation as champions of free speech during the Emergency, has floundered. Much like the Constitution makers who had decided to retain some of the most draconian provisions of laws controlling freedom of expression, the present government too appears to have followed the same path and has expressed its uneasiness over free speech on numerous occasions. The plate of newly minted Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur is overflowing. For one, he can pose a question to himself: should the Government formulate a self-regulating code for digital media? Does that even make sense?

At the heart of content, both news and entertainment, is the freedom of expression – the life-giving force behind content. Finally, discussions and transparency indicate trust in the people by an elected government. There is little evidence of that in the framing of the IT guidelines. Now, we even have the Government's draft on the proposed amendments to the Cinematograph Act of 1952, seeking to control the Central Board of Film Certification's power of certification!

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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.

Help Cuba

If U.S. President Joe Biden really means that he stands with the Cuban people and their clarion call for freedom and relief from the pandemic and economic suffering, he should help the Cuban government in the supply of vaccines, food and other essentials. But the reality is that for several decades, the U.S. has imposed a crippling embargo and tried to do everything possible to see that Cuba's suffering is intensified. We have seen the U.S.'s role in Afghanistan, and its role

in Cuba would be no different. It is a clear case of imperialist aggression. It should end this naked and notorious aggression which the world only knows too well.

When the entire world went through the worst form of epidemic and many countries with poor management of the crisis and severe economic depression did not see any protests, then what is peculiar to Cuba needs no explanation.

N.G.R. PRASAD,
K.K. RAM SIDDHARTH, Chennai

Taliban's betrayal
The Taliban's fighting in Afghanistan has become a matter of grave concern not only for that country but for other neighbouring countries too. The speed with which the Taliban took control of a major portion of Afghanistan, just after America's pulling out of its troops, shows that they were waiting all along for this to happen. As in the agreement between the U.S. and the Taliban, the only item, and being implemented, is the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan; all other

points have been ignored, which is blatant betrayal by the Taliban. Unity is the only viable solution to develop Afghanistan into a peaceful country.

D. SETHURAMAN,
Chennai

No to politics
Cine stars conveniently forget that they are immensely popular and are demi-gods. But there are some of them who work hard to climb the ladder from the film world to politics.

However, politics is not everyone's cup of tea and

this applies to actor Rajnikanth and his series of flip-flops (Tamil Nadu, "No intention to enter politics: Rajini", July 13). Everyone is aware of the dismal end to the parties founded by Shivaji Ganesan and Bhagyraj. The MNNP party founded by Kamal Haasan too has fared badly.

M. NATARAJAN,
Chennai

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:
A Business page story titled "Rubicon buys Cipla arm's oral liquid, nasal product unit" (July 10, 2021) erroneously described Rubicon as a specialty pharmaceutical company backed by General Electric. It should have been General Atlantic.

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nately – unrealised.

Second, the role and composition of the Rajya Sabha, our House of States, must be expanded. This would allow smaller States a kind of brake over national majoritarian politics that adversely impact them.

Third, constitutional change and the change in financial redistribution between the States must require the consent of all or nearly all States (the fate of the Goods and Services Tax, or GST, serves as a salutary warning in this regard). Constitutional provisions dealing with language and religion must also be inviolate. If India is a joint venture between majority and minority shareholders, the minority must be protected by a comprehensive list of "consensus items" that require unanimity – or at least, a super-majority – and not simple majority.

Fourth, serious thought must be given to breaking up the biggest States into smaller units that will not by themselves dominate the national conversation.

Competing claims

The unity of India is, of course, the fundamental premise underlying this discussion; but this unity does not depend on an overarching Centre for its survival. National bonds of affection and patriotism will not be severed by devolution of powers though they will be at least severely strained when one part of the country is empowered over another. Lampedusa's *Il Gattopardo* contains the memorable quote, Everything must change for everything to remain the same. This includes the question of how we are to balance the competing claims of democracy and federalism, in the years to come.

Rahul Narayan is Advocate on Record, Supreme Court of India. Gautam Bhatia is a Delhi-based lawyer

Growth matters but income levels matter more

India needs a sharp revival of demand for which higher per capita incomes are necessary



M. SURESH BABU

The provisional estimates of annual national income (2020-21), released on May 31 by the National Statistical Office, did not have any surprises, but for one, that is, there is nothing encouraging in the numbers.

The agriculture sector continued its impressive growth performance, reiterating that it still remains as the vital sector of the economy, especially at times of crisis. The manufacturing sector continued its subdued growth performance, failing to emerge as the growth driver, with production interruptions due to localised lockdowns to be blamed. The contraction in trade (-18.2%), construction (-8.6%), mining (-8.5%) and manufacturing (-7.2%) is a matter of concern as these sectors account for the bulk of low-skilled jobs. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at Constant (2011-12) Prices in Q4 of 2020-21 is showing a growth of 1.6%, slightly better than expected, but for a period when the restrictions on mobility and economic activity witnessed reduction, this performance looks below par. Further, this growth, which is an improvement over the 0.5% rate of growth in the previous quarter, is a statistical artefact as it is not devoid of the base effect and seasonality which plagues quarterly estimates. The magnitude of contraction in the economy and the policy responses towards it raises an important issue, that is, the question of growth prospects for the next year.

Rising unemployment rate
Contextualising the current growth rates in terms of some other macroeconomic data would provide us a better perspective on growth recovery. First, the unemployment data released by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) which says, "In May 2021, India's labour participation rate at 40 per cent was the same as it was in April 2021. But, the unemployment rate shot up to 11.9 per cent from 8 per cent in April. A stable labour participation rate combined with a higher unemployment rate implies a loss of jobs and a fall in



GIRI KVS

the employment rate. The employment rate fell to 35.3 per cent in May 2021 from 36.8 per cent in April 2021. This is a very sharp fall for a single month... May 2021 was therefore a particularly stressful month on the jobs front". According to CMIE, over 15 million jobs were lost in May 2021, higher than the 12.3 million in November 2016, the month of demonetisation. May 2021 was also the fourth consecutive month of a fall in employment. The more worrying fact is that the cumulative fall in employment since January 2021 is 25.3 million of which 22.7 million were in the first quarter of FY 2021-2022, that is, during April and May. This shows that the second wave of the pandemic has already dented economic activities, postponing recovery further. The job losses also bring out the high informality and vulnerability of labour in India as of the total jobs lost during April-May, 17.2 million were of daily wage earners.

Elementary textbook economics tells us that employment and aggregate demand in an economy are related via the channel of disposable incomes of workers. We also know that aggregate demand and output growth have a positive correlation. Hence, the prospects of growth revival in the next year look bleak at the moment and from this perspective, it is worrying that in just April and May 2021, India lost 25 million non-farm jobs.

Low business confidence
This gets reflected in the business confidence of Indian companies, which is the second important data point that needs to be examined. Busi-

ness confidence index (BCI), from the survey by the industry body FICCI, plummeted to 51.5 from 74.2 in the previous round. The survey also highlights the weak demand conditions in the economy. It says, "With household income being severely impacted and past savings being already drawn on during the first wave of infections, demand conditions can be expected to remain weak for longer." Compounding this is the uncertainty arising out of the imposition of localised curbs due to the second wave of infections and a muddled vaccine policy in the country.

Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) also throws some light on the shape of things to come. PMI has slipped to a 10-month low indicating that the manufacturing sector is showing signs of strain with growth projections being revised lower. Both BCI and PMI slipping down indicates that the overall optimism towards 2021-22 is low, which could impact investments and cause further job losses.

Demand recovery
Growth recovery depends on demand recovery. External demand looks robust as India's exports touched \$32 billion in May 2021, 67% higher than in May 2020 and 8% more than in May 2019. The combined increase in exports of April and May 2021 is over 12% indicating that global demand rebound is much faster than the domestic demand. Stimulus programmes and a sharp decline in COVID-19 infections seem to be aiding these economies. What needs to be addressed immediately is the crisis of low domestic demand.

Since last year, the policy responses have been to rely on credit easing, focusing more on supply side measures, with more and more guarantees by the government to improve flow of credit to important sectors. There has been less direct action by the government to support the vulnerable to alleviate their hardships. There were some sector-specific measures to alleviate distress in certain sectors, which were timely. However, this policy stance is unlikely to prop up growth for three reasons. First, the bulk of the policy measures, including the most recent, are supply side measures and not on the demand side. In times of financial anxiety, what is needed is direct state spending for a quick demand boost.

Second, large parts of all the stimulus packages announced till now would work only in the medium term. These include policies related to the external sector, infrastructure and manufacturing sector. In fact, some of the policies towards agriculture, such as productivity enhancement through the introduction of new varieties, will only work over years. Third, the use of credit backstops as the main plank of policy has limits compared to any direct measure on the demand side as this could result in poor growth performance if private investments do not pick up. Further, the credit easing approach would take a longer time to multiply incomes as lending involves a lender's discretion and borrower's obligation. Interestingly, a tight-fisted fiscal policy approach comes at a time when conventional fiscal stimulus packages might not be enough as supply side issues arising out of episodic lockdowns need to be addressed simultaneously.

What is required now is a sharp revival in overall demand. Focusing on short-term magnified growth rates resting on low bases might be erroneous, as income levels matter more than growth rates at this juncture. Focusing on growth rates has its merits in the long term as achieving higher income levels require sustained growth for longer periods. Bangladesh seems to be doing this without much fanfare, but the quest for sustained higher growth has been elusive for India for the last five years.

M. Suresh Babu is Professor of Economics at IIT Madras. Views are personal

Upholding trust in vaccination

Instead of regressing into 'target mode', involving the community and spreading positive messages could help



SOHAM D. BHADURI

Not very long ago, family planning dominated health system allocations and priorities in India and resulted in much harassment for grassroots health workers and the rural folk. It turned into a target-chasing, at times compulsive, exercise. The corollary was the undermining of trust in the public health system, which would often lead to people avoiding contact with health facilities for routine health services.

Meeting targets

Such trust is indispensable for large public health programmes to function optimally, particularly in cases like COVID-19 vaccination. But the primeval tendencies of the Indian public health system often antagonise such trust. These tendencies entail that a public health problem is seen merely as a function of input deficiencies, which can be overcome by pouring in more resources, manpower, and policies. The rich processes involved in translating these inputs into outcomes, which are deeply entwined with local contexts, are largely dismissed. They also result in benevolent objectives turning into ruthless targets which are to be met at all costs and reduce subtle activities like community sensitisation into simplistic information-education-communication exercises.

There is every reason to expect these primeval tendencies to kick in and play foul in the COVID-19 vaccination drive. There are signs of vaccine hesitancy in India. Crucial junctures like a pandemic provide a window for communities to express distrust of otherwise long-established interventions like vaccines. For the government, failing to act with finesse in such situations could produce spillovers into the post-pandemic period and affect normal routine immunisation. More importantly, a desperate and overbearing approach to ensuring vaccination, coupled with deficient trust among communities, can lead to avoidance of public health facilities by many, which could be disastrous.

Further, there are certain factors that make us particularly vulnerable to the peril of vaccine hesitancy during the pandemic. While routine immunisation is well-entrenched, COVID-19 vaccines are prone to suspicion as they are new and abrupt entrants. The unprecedented scale and speed of their roll-out, and the media reporting of adverse events that are often spurious, add to the suspicion. One of the biggest neutralis-

ers of vaccine distrust are the visible improvements in disease prevention, and the equally visible damages when communities reject vaccines. These are unlikely to work substantially in the immediate term. The emergence of newer variants which predispose to vaccine failure and breakthrough infections can also endanger trust.

Such crises also provide opportunities for traditional and folk medical practitioners to reassert themselves by attempting to discredit modern medical principles. These practitioners constitute influential hubs within many communities that may make or break a public health programme. Further, certain factors could prompt our public health system to regress to an instinctive top-down approach driven by desperation, including an imminent third wave, an anticipated increase in vaccine supplies in the near term, and the pressure to vaccinate as many as possible in the shortest time. Vaccine hesitancy may not necessarily emanate from a distrust of science but from government motives which may be miscommunicated.

Acting prudently

Apart from community involvement, contextualised action, and transparency, eloquence and responsibility in public communication, the government should rein in an instinct of regressing into 'target mode' even at the highest moment of desperation. This is necessary, though not sufficient, to safeguard public trust and prevent community alienation.

There is a need of active thinking on avenues to incentivise vaccination beyond pecuniary subsidies, particularly for the rural sections. This would include removing disincentives that accompany reduced physical access, overenthusiastic drives on certain days that result in subsequent shortages, etc. Given that more than 38 crore vaccine doses have already been administered, there is a case for disseminating success stories through locally appropriate media, while not cutting back on honest, solemn and tactful reporting on adverse events.

Positive messages and reinforcements for vaccination have to be aired from the several quarters that command respect and trust of the community. In this regard, there is a strong case for engaging with members of traditional and folk systems despite any potential resistance from them. Lastly, there is a strong case for effectively utilising the services of social science professionals. They may have a pivotal role in navigating the many nuances involved in community mobilisation that are often invisible to medical professionals and other technocrats.

Soham D. Bhaduri is a physician, health policy expert, and chief editor of 'The Indian Practitioner'. +

Disable unconstitutional sections

Several steps can be taken to ensure that people are not booked under laws held unconstitutional

R.K. VIJ

Recently, while hearing an application filed by the People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL), the Supreme Court expressed shock that despite its declaration of Section 66A of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 as being unconstitutional six years ago (*Shreya Singhal vs. Union of India*), criminal cases are still being registered by the police under this Section. The PUCL said that 1,307 cases had been registered since 2015 across States and therefore the Court must issue guidelines against the registering of FIRs by the police under this head.

In 2015, the Supreme Court had declared Section 66A of the IT Act, which made online posting of information considered as "grossly offensive" a crime punishable by jail, as being violative of Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution and not saved under the ambit of reasonable restrictions defined in Article 19(2). It had also said that the expressions used in Section 66A were open-ended, undefined and therefore arbitrary.

In 1983, the Court had struck down Section 303 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), which provided capital punishment for murder by a person serving a life term in another case, as being unconstitutional. In *Mithu v. State of Punjab*, it held that the punishment was not based on rational principle as no judicial discretion was available to a life convict. In 2018 (*Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India*), the Court read down Section 377 of the IPC criminalising "unnatural sex" as being unconstitutional. Similarly, in *Joseph Shine v. Union of India* (2018), the Court held adultery as defined under Section 497 of the IPC as being manifestly arbitrary, discriminatory and violative of the dignity of a woman and therefore, unconstitutional.

Negligence by the police
Undoubtedly, the registration of FIRs by the police under these sections is illegal and violative of the Court's directions. Though such cases may not always be registered intentionally, negligence by Station House Officers (SHOs) must be nipped in the bud.

The supervisory police officers at the sub-divisional level must ensure that such sections, if invoked due to lack of knowledge at the police station level, are removed at the earliest. The Superintendents of Police must fix responsibility on the erring officer and take corrective action. Everyone responsible for the negligence should not only be answerable to the courts for contempt but also be liable for departmental action. If the SHOs and others don't mend their ways despite reprimands, their annual confidential reports could be dented with adverse entries. Action can also be initiated under the new Section 166A of the IPC which provides punishment for up to two years for disobeying directions under the law.

Avoiding registration
The best way to avoid registration of offences under sections held unconstitutional is to educate police officers of all ranks about such provisions in basic training institutes. Second, as the Attorney General of India, K.K. Venugopal, had suggested, there could be a mention in brackets near the provision that the provision has been struck down, so that FIRs are not registered under those sections. Third, unconstitutional sections of the IPC can be disabled in the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS). Most States register FIRs in the CCTNS either on a real-time basis or in offline mode and synchronise this data with the State Data Centre as soon as connectivity is restored. In case police stations don't have connectivity, the data (i.e., FIR in electronic format) are taken to the nearest police station that has connectivity and uploaded. The CCTNS came in handy when the Supreme Court directed the States in 2016 to upload FIRs on official websites within 24 to 72 hours of registration. In Chhattisgarh, we have disabled these Sections in the system. Other States could follow suit.

The police must ensure that no FIR is registered under unconstitutional sections and no one is harassed for the negligent actions of SHOs.

R.K. Vij is a senior IPS officer in Chhattisgarh. Views are personal

DATA POINT

Teachers face the digital hurdle

The COVID-19 pandemic forced schools to stop physical classes and shift to online teaching. This move has highlighted two concerns: how well teachers are trained to take classes online; and the pupil-teacher ratio, which determines the quality of education. According to UDISE 2019-20, only one in four teachers in India was trained to use a computer for teaching. The share of such teachers was even lower in government schools. Also, there were wide disparities among States, with Gujarat training 57% of its teachers while M.P. training only 9% of them. While most States had an acceptable pupil-teacher ratio, the ratio was above the recommended value in some States, especially in higher education. While a high pupil-teacher ratio is a concern even during physical classes, its importance has only increased with online teaching. By Sumant Sen, Jasmin Nihalani and Vignesh Radhakrishnan

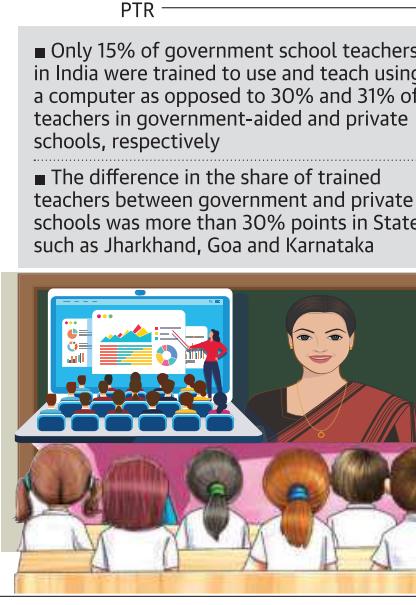
1. INADEQUATE TRAINING

The table lists the % of teachers trained to teach with a computer in India. Only 15% of teachers were trained to teach using a computer in schools managed by the government. Though the share was relatively high among private schools, only one third of teachers who teach higher grades were trained to teach online. The types of management listed in the table cover 95% of the teachers in the country

3. PUPIL-TEACHER RATIO | The chart shows the State-wise pupil-teacher ratio (number of students per teacher) across education levels. According to the Education Ministry, an ideal pupil-teacher ratio should be around 30:1. While it was within this range for most States, the ratio was more than 40:1 in higher secondary schools in Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar and U.P. Bihar's ratio was more than 50:1 for primary, secondary and higher-secondary classes

■ Only 15% of government school teachers in India were trained to use and teach using a computer as opposed to 30% and 31% of teachers in government-aided and private schools, respectively

■ The difference in the share of trained teachers between government and private schools was more than 30% points in States such as Jharkhand, Goa and Karnataka



Management	Pre-primary	Primary	Upper primary	Secondary	Higher secondary	Total
Government	5	9	15	26	25	15
Government aided	26	35	30	30	26	30
Local body	12	50	45	15	32	44
Private unaided	31	29	32	33	33	31
Total	16	22	26	29	29	25

2. STATE-WISE COMPARISON | Only 3% of government schoolteachers in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha were trained to teach with a computer. In contrast, in States such as Gujarat, Punjab and Maharashtra, more than 50% of teachers were trained to teach online. The share of trained teachers was higher in private schools in general. However, in a few States such as Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, and parts of the Northeast, the share of such teachers was lower across managements

State	All schools	Govt. schools	Govt. aided schools	Private schools
Goa	69	44	75	78
Punjab	59	53	24	65
Gujarat	57	64	45	44
Maharashtra	55	50	41	52
Kerala	37	44	42	28
Delhi	36	22	15	51
Karnataka	34	20	29	50
Rajasthan	32	40		26
Tamil Nadu	30	38	24	26
Himachal	30	23		37
Sikkim	27	26	36	31
Haryana	27	8	9	38
Telangana	24	20	16	38
Chhattisgarh	20	8	10	36
Nagaland	20	15		25
Uttar Pradesh	16	7	5	23
Uttarakhand	15	6	5	21
Jharkhand	14	3	4	43
Manipur	13	7	7	17
Andhra	11	12	6	11
Odisha	10	3	4	29
West Bengal	10	7	28	23

FROM PAGE ONE

Vaccination falls by 60% as States cite shortage

The BMC officials have said while they have the capacity to administer 1,00,000 doses daily, the civic body is unable to fulfil even 50% of that quota due to paucity of vaccines.

In Karnataka the gap between those vaccinated only with the first and those fully vaccinated has widened with the latter around 23%. State Health Commissioner K.V. Trilok Chandra attributed the low percentage of fully vaccinated people to the 12-16 week gap between two doses of Covishield that was introduced in May. As a major chunk of vaccinations happened in the last three months, those who have taken the first dose after that are not yet due for the second, he said. The demand is expected to go up in the coming days, as those falling into the eligible category will go up, he reasoned.

Shortage in Telangana

Several Telangana government COVID Vaccination Centres (GCVC) have run out of Covaxin doses. The shortage is being experienced from the past few days. Sources in the State Health Department told *The Hindu* that Covaxin doses were not given at GCVCs in Hyderabad, Rangareddy, and Medchal-Malkajgiri districts.

"Until a few weeks ago, we used to mobilise people for COVID vaccination. We are not doing it currently since the stock is not in abundance. And we don't know when we will get huge stock," sources said. Huge supply-demand mismatch continues to be an issue in Kerala, said officials. The State has assigned priority

status to specific groups in the population, like NRIs or students who are preparing to go abroad and college students between 18-23 years of age, but there is not enough vaccines to be distributed to all. Health officials say though the supply is regular, the consignments are quite small for a State which has the capacity to deliver 2.5-3 lakh doses per day. This has seriously reduced the pace of vaccination, despite the huge demand for the same.

Kerala has administered the first dose to 44% of its population above 18 years and the second to 16%. The State's vaccine requirement for July is 60 lakh doses, with 25 lakhs doses required for delivering second doses to those who are due for it.

Delhi's vaccine stock is expected to last for only two more days, as per a bulletin released by the Delhi government on Tuesday.

Due to the lack of sufficient doses of the vaccines, Andhra Pradesh has now prioritised giving the second dose to the beneficiaries due to receive it by limiting the administration of the first dose to eligible beneficiaries aged above 45, mothers of children aged below 5 years and people required to travel abroad. According to officials, the Central government promised 50 lakh doses in July. However, there are over 30 lakh beneficiaries due to receive the second dose in July and so far only about six lakh of them received it, according to the Cowin portal.

(With inputs from Serene Josephine, K Shiv Shanker, Shoumik Banerjee, Tharun Boda, Nikhil Babu)

Uttarakhand suspends Kanwar Yatra

The announcement came hours after Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath reiterated that the traditional yatra would be held following COVID protocol, suggesting that a negative RT-PCR test report could be made mandatory for out-of-State participants.

A senior official in the Uttarakhand CM's office said the decision to suspend the yatra had been taken after consultations with the Central government, as well as with Chief Ministers of the surrounding States from where the pilgrims or Kan-

wariyas come towards Uttarakhand. "For all other States, the Kanwar Yatra is simply a movement of people who are passing through, and they are not congregating at a central point in their respective states. But from our point of view, from all four directions, people congregate at a particular city within Uttarakhand and that too within an area of a few square kilometres," said the senior official, noting that up to two crore Kanwariyas pour into Haridwar, whose usual population was only four lakh.

SII to make Russian Sputnik V vaccine

"We have reached a partnership agreement with Serum Institute of India to manufacture Sputnik V," Russian Direct Investment Fund CEO Kirill Dmitriev said in a media briefing from Moscow. The process of technology transfer to SII was underway for the last three months, and the firm is expected to release the first batch in September. As part of the technical transfer process, SII has already received cell and vector samples from Gamaleya Center, the developer of

Sputnik vaccine. "With their import approved by the Drugs Controller General of India, the cultivation process has begun," RDIF said in a statement.

SII CEO Adar Poonawalla said, "We hope to make millions of doses in the coming months with trial batches starting in September. With high efficacy and a good safety profile, it is critical that the Sputnik vaccine is accessible in full measure for people across India and the world."

PM rejigs Cabinet panels; NDA allies largely ignored

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, too, does not have representation from the NDA partners, and has been reduced from 11 members to eight, including Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal. Ministers of State for Parliamentary Affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal and V. Muraleedharan are special invitees in this committee. The Cabinet Committee

on Investment and Growth, headed by the PM, has seen the inclusion of Narayan Rane, Jyotiraditya Scindia and Ashwini Vaishnaw, while the Cabinet Committee on Employment and Skill Development has new members in Mr. Yadav and G. Kishen Reddy, along with Railway Minister Mr. Vaishnav.

The crucial Cabinet Committee on Security has been left untouched with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the helm. The Cabinet Committee on Appointments also remains untouched with the PM heading it, and Mr. Shah as member.

Landslip destroys houses in H.P.

One dead, nine feared trapped under the debris; NDRF rescues 4 persons

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DHARAMSALA

Rescue operations are under way in the Boh valley in Kangra district after a landslip, in which one person died and nine are feared trapped beneath the debris.

A team of the National Disaster Response Force rescued four people on Monday, and efforts are on to pull others out of the rubble, an official said on Tuesday.

Superintendent of Police Vimukt Ranjan said a woman died and nine were still feared trapped under the debris after their houses collapsed in the landslip triggered by heavy rain.

CM promises houses

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, during his visit to the valley on Tuesday, said the State government would give new houses to those whose buildings were destroyed in flash floods or landslips in the valley. He thanked Union Home Minister Amit Shah for immediately sending the NDRF team to the Boh valley



Shocking loss: Family members of a person missing after a landslip at Boh in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh on Tuesday. ■ PTI

for carrying out relief and rescue operations.

"A village in Boh was severely hit during heavy rain on Monday. I am sad to hear that a woman has lost her life in this landslip. Nine people are still trapped under the debris. We are trying our best to rescue them," he told presspersons at the Gaggal

airport.

Mr. Thakur said eight houses were completely destroyed in the flash floods and landslip.

Being monitored

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday that the situation caused by heavy rain in Himachal Pradesh

was being closely monitored, with Central authorities working in coordination with those of the State government.

Kangra Deputy Commissioner Nipun Jindal and Mr. Ranjan visited the remote hill area of Boh on Monday to take stock of the relief work.

HC orders removal of tweets

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday directed freelance journalist Saket Gokhale to immediately take down all his alleged defamatory tweets related to Union Minister Hardeep Puri's wife and former Indian diplomat Lakshmi Puri.

Mr. Gokhale had, in a series of tweets, questioned how Ms. Puri could have bought a house for 1.6 million Swiss Franc in Geneva in 2006 with her then income. Justice C. Hari Shankar restrained Mr. Gokhale from "posting any defamatory or scandalous or factually incorrect" tweets. If he refused to do so within 24 hours, Twitter must take them down.

Mehul Choksi will return to Dominica when fit'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Diamantaire Mehul Choksi will "only" return to Dominica to face trial for illegal entry into that country when a doctor "certifies" that he is fit to stand trial, the media there reported citing conditions laid down by the Dominica High Court while granting him bail.

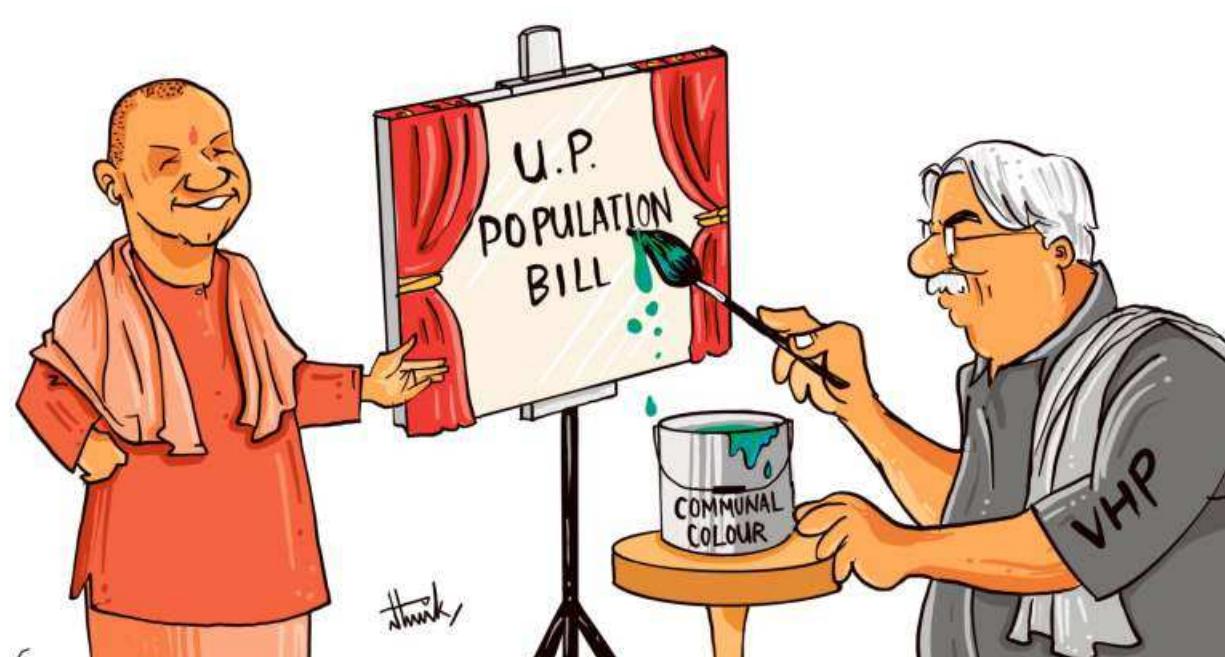
In a major setback to Indian efforts to bring him from the Caribbean country, Dominica High Court Judge Bernie Stephenson allowed the businessman to return to Antigua and Barbuda, where he has been living as a citizen since 2018 after leaving India, to seek medical advice from neurologist Hayden Osborne at the Mount St. John's Medical Centre, *Dominica News Online* reported.

'Clot in brain'
Mr. Choksi has a clot in the brain besides other health issues such as diabetes and hypertension, his legal team submitted. The court also ordered that Mr. Choksi must intimate it in the case of any change of specialist and his address in Antigua where he was going to stay.

The judge said Mr. Choksi will only return to Dominica when a doctor certifies that he is fit to stand trial, the website reported. Mr. Choksi has sought a judicial review of case of illegal entry into Dominica. The matter has now been deferred till January 26, 2022. His trial for illegal entry before a magistrate has also been stayed.

According to police sources, thousands of Bangladeshi nationals illegally entered India through the land borders in recent years and many families moved to Tamil Nadu posing as natives of West Bengal. With the help of some agents, they not only got employment in industries but also managed to get

On the draw



India to display relics of St. Ketevan

A part of them was gifted to Georgia on July 10; another part remains in Goa

DAMINI NATH
KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

Almost 400 years after she was murdered in present-day Iran, relics of St. Queen Ketevan that were found in Goa in 2005 are likely to be put on display in India as well as her native Georgia, according to Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) officials.

On July 10, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar handed over one part of the relics to Georgia as a gift from India. According to senior ASI officials with knowledge of the matter, parts of the bone of the right arm were found at St. Augustine Church in Old Goa in 2005.

Queen Ketevan was killed in 1624 in Shiraz for not converting to Islam and parts of her remains were brought to Goa by Augustinian monks.

Revered as a martyr, her relics remained lost till 2005 as the St. Augustine Church collapsed in 1842, another official said. A DNA analysis by the CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad, confirmed their authenticity in 2013.

The official said the larger part of the relic remained with the ASI in Goa and would be publicly displayed for the first time. The smaller part had been handed over to Georgia, where it was likely to be displayed publicly with the citation that it was a "gift from people of India to people of Georgia". The larg-

er part of the relic had been sent to Georgia for an exhibition for six months in 2017.

Shared past
When reached for his comment, Father Loiola Pereira, secretary to the Archbishop of Goa, said: "The relics of the martyred Queen Ketevan were found by the ASI in 2005 in the ruins of the Church of St. Augustine and have ever since been in the possession of the government. We are happy that at least 'part of the relics' were handed over by our government to the people of Georgia. St. Queen Ketevan belonged to Georgia and Georgia is where her relics should be."

In Georgia, Mr. Jaishankar said: "One part of the holy relic still remains in India as a reminder of our shared past."

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er part of the relic had been sent to Georgia for an exhibition for six months in 2017.

Georgian connect: The relics of Queen Ketevan were found in the ruins of St. Augustine Church in Goa. ■ ATISH POMBURFEKAR

peddling, immoral trafficking etc. Though they do not have any valid documents, the immigrants have Aadhaar cards. It is not clear whether they furnished fake documents or availed the norm that even foreign nationals who continuously reside in India for over 182 days are entitled to get an Aadhaar card," a senior police officer told *The Hindu*.

Using the Aadhaar card, the Bangladeshi immigrants got other documents which certify proof of identity or address which is required for opening a bank account, getting rental accommodation and applying for jobs. "Even if they are intercepted dur-

Official booked for issuing passports to Sri Lankans

He allegedly took bribes from agents

S. VIJAY KUMAR
CHENNAI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case against an official of the Ministry of External Affairs on charges of issuing Indian passports to Sri Lankan nationals after allegedly taking bribes from travel agents. In one case, which the investigation agency has stated in the First Information Report, ₹45,000 was deposited into the official's bank account in three instalments.

PC Act invoked

After obtaining sanction from the Ministry of External Affairs to register a case and investigate against the official, the CBI's Anti-Corruption Branch received specific information that V. Veeraputhiran,

Senior Superintendent of Regional Passport Office, Madurai, had entered into a criminal conspiracy with travel agents for fraudulently issuing Indian passports to Sri Lankans and others who were actually not eligible. The accused official, who knew that the applicants brought by the travel agents were not entitled to the is-

Plea of Bhima Koregaon accused rejected

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government on Tuesday told the Bombay High Court that Bhima Koregaon accused Rona Wilson's plea to quash his chargesheet is not maintainable.

Mr. Wilson is lodged at Taloja Central jail and relies upon a report by a digital forensic analyst Arsenal Consultancy in the U.S. that has debunked all the electronic evidence gathered by the NIA and said the attacker planted malware in Mr. Wilson's computer and that it was compromised.

Rajasthan BJP MLA sent to jail for forgery

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

A judicial magistrate in Udaipur district's Sarada town sent BJP MLA from Salumer, Amrit Lal Meena, to jail after he surrendered in the court in connection with a case of alleged forgery.

Mr. Meena has been accused of forging his wife's Class V marksheets to enable her to contest the panchayat election in 2015. The court remanded Mr. Meena in judicial custody till July 23 on Monday. His wife Shanta Devi, also an accused, is out on bail. She had contested and won the polls for sarpanch in Semri village. One of her opponents, Sugna Devi, had filed a complaint against her, after which the CB-CID of the State police investigated the case.

Crackdown on Bangladeshi immigrants in T.N.

Hundreds settled across the State posing a 'serious threat' to internal security, say officials

S. VIJAY KUMAR
CHENNAI

The presence of a large number of Bangladeshi immigrants in different parts of Tamil Nadu has emerged as a "serious threat" to internal security, forcing the State police to launch an intensive crackdown to weed them out.

According to police sources, thousands of Bangladeshi nationals illegally entered India through the land borders in recent years and many families moved to Tamil Nadu posing as natives of West Bengal. With the help of some agents, they not only got employment in industries but also managed to get

ing vehicle checks or surprise raids at vulnerable locations, they produce original documents relating to proof of identity or address and hence leaving no scope for any suspicion," the official who preferred not to be quoted said.

The case was similar to Sri Lankan Tamil refugees who sailed to Tamil Nadu shores in boats years ago and settled in different districts.

Their familiarity with the local language, culture and traditions made it easy for them to survive in the guise of local Tamils, the official said.

Using the Aadhaar card, the Bangladeshi immigrants got other documents which certify proof of identity or address which is required for opening a bank account, getting rental accommodation and applying for jobs. "Even if they are intercepted dur-

ing vehicle checks or surprise raids at vulnerable locations, they produce original documents relating to proof of identity or address and hence leaving no scope for any suspicion," the official who preferred not to be quoted said.

The case was similar to Sri Lankan Tamil refugees who sailed to Tamil Nadu shores in boats years ago and settled in different districts.

Similar arrests were made in the western districts where the foreigners were alleged to have indulged in drug peddling. Some of them were also accused of acting as agents who brought in more Bangladeshi immigrants and got them jobs in the hosiery industry.

Foreigners' Act
However, early this month

ANAND DEO

CM YK

Raw materials for test kits get duty waiver

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The government has granted basic customs duty exemption on import of raw materials used to make COVID-19 test kits till September 30, and on import of certain active pharmaceutical ingredients used to manufacture Amphotericin-B, used to treat mucormycosis, till August 31.

Imports of high-purity cholesterol and egg lecithin, critical ingredients used in the pharmaceutical sector, have also been exempted from basic customs duty till August 31, as per a notification issued by the Customs Department on Monday.

"This is a well-considered exemption being granted by the government to fight the COVID-19 crisis and is a step to make the domestic industry self-reliant in fighting the pandemic," said Abhishek Jain, tax partner at EY India.

Arunachal officials trek nine hours to vaccinate 16 grazers

Deputy Commissioner leads team to village at 14,000 ft

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

Away from home grazing their yaks, 16 residents of Luguthang village in Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang district could not make it to a COVID-19 vaccination camp organised on May 19 at Domstang, about a five-hour trek away.

However, the vaccines reached the homes of the grazers at 14,000 ft above mean sea level on July 12, brought in by a team that trekked for more than nine hours from the nearest motorable road at a place called Thingbu Hydel.

One of the farthest villages in Tawang district, Luguthang is close to the border with Tibet and is aerially 30 km from Tawang. All 10 families, comprising 65 people, in the village are yak grazers.

The district authorities organised a vaccination camp on May 19 at Domstang, a village midway between Luguthang and Thingbu Hydel. The camp catered to Luguthang and other villages in the area. Officials said 33 residents of Luguthang in the eligible age groups got vaccinated on May 19.

Message relayed
"This is the time when grazers move out with their livestock to far-flung areas. We sent special messages through trekkers for 16 such grazers, who were left out of the camp, to return home within a specific time for

Modi alerts northeast States

Step up vaccination, do aggressive testing to rein in COVID-19, he tells eight CMs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI/ GUWAHATI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday urged the Chief Ministers of eight northeastern States to ramp up vaccination rates, set up temporary hospitals and form micro containment zones with aggressive cluster testing and tracking to control the COVID-19 situation.

Mr. Modi addressed the Chief Ministers of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Tripura, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur via videoconferencing, as according to the Union Health Ministry, 80% of cases were from 90 districts, of which 14 were in the northeast. It was also the first such interaction where new Health Minister Mansukhbhai Mandaviya was present.

Crowds at hill stations

Mr. Modi expressed concern over the teeming crowds of holiday-makers at hill stations, saying that while trade

and tourism were important, "the main question in everyone's mind should be on how to prevent a third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic".

The Union government's ₹23,000 crore package for COVID-19 infrastructure was for ramping up testing laboratories, setting up oxygen units in hospitals and paediatric intensive care units, he pointed out.

"Looking at the specific challenges thrown up by the terrain in the northeastern States, I would urge that temporary hospitals be set up with oxygen facilities and ve-



Looking at the specific challenges thrown up by the terrain in the northeastern States, I would urge that temporary hospitals be set up with oxygen facilities and very importantly, training of manpower be done to handle oxygen-related care and ICU duties

NARENDRA MODI
PRIME MINISTER

ry importantly, training of manpower be done to handle oxygen related care and ICU duties," he said.

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu said his State was ensuring zero wastage of vaccine but raised the point about poor Internet connectivity. "Our data is being uploaded after four days, resulting in wrong conclusions by the ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research), whose portal says Arunachal's positivity rate today is 16.2%. But our data show the average of last one week is 8%", he said.

The State had about 1,000 oxygen beds ready and the occupancy rate was only 8% as of now, he said.

oxygen beds ready and the occupancy rate was only 8% as of now, he said.

Meghalaya situation

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma said the positivity rate in his State had not declined at the expected rate because of the scattered population, and two districts with a positivity rate of more than 10% were the biggest worries.

He admitted that the vaccination drive had been slow because of initial reluctance but the pace had picked up over the last couple of days because of the involvement of MLAs, MDCs (members of district council) and civil society groups.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said his State had ensured medical oxygen production, ICU beds, oxygen beds and isolation wards. He requested the Prime Minister to increase the allotment of vaccines to the State.

Be vigilant to prevent a third wave: NITI Aayog member

'Irresponsible behaviour will cause COVID-19 surge again'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A third wave of COVID-19 is being witnessed across the world and it is time to be very vigilant, NITI Aayog member (Health) V.K. Paul said on Tuesday.

"India needs to be responsible and not allow the COVID numbers to rise. The world is witnessing the third wave of COVID cases and we have to join hands to ensure that the third wave doesn't hit India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday clearly said that we should focus on keeping the third wave at bay instead of discussing when it could come in India," Dr. Paul said at the Health Ministry press conference.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said his State had ensured medical oxygen production, ICU beds, oxygen beds and isolation wards. He requested the Prime Minister to increase the allotment of vaccines to the State.



Points of concern: Residents crowding a water tanker in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh. ■PTI

Ministry joint secretary Lav Agrawal noted that 50% of the new cases were being reported from Kerala and Maharashtra.

Central teams in 11 States

"We would request everyone to take the COVID-19 surge across the world seriously. When we talk about the third wave, we are talking about it as a weather up-

date and not understanding its seriousness and our responsibilities associated with it," the official said.

He added that the Centre had deputed teams to 11 States to help them. "Besides northeastern States, the teams have been sent to Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Kerala and Odisha, as they were reflecting a growth trajectory," he said.

Deputy Commissioner leads team to village at 14,000 ft



On a mission: The team crossed two peaks, forests and marshy areas to reach the village in Tawang. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

vaccination," District Information Officer Nawang Chotia told *The Hindu*.

and the Luguthang river, a tributary of Tawang Chu, several times.

The team held a short meeting with the villagers the next morning after a night's stay, before the 16 grazers were inoculated by district reproductive and child health officer Rinchen Neema. Senior veterinary officer Thutan Tashi gave free medicines for diarrhoea, deworming and other ailments for the livestock.

"Apart from COVID-19 vaccination, 19 patients were treated for different ailments," Mr. Phuntsok said after the team returned to Thingbu Hydel on July 13.

"The trip was worth it as all the eligible villagers have received their first dose of the vaccine," he added.

Tough terrain

The route cut through dense forests, swampy stretches

Have enough vaccines, says Bhutanese PM

In a first, Himalayan nation accepts donations from U.S., China despite no diplomatic ties with them

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Bhutan has received enough vaccines to complete the inoculation of its adult population, said its Prime Minister Lotay Tshering on Tuesday. He announced that the country would have more than a million doses by the year-end, including, in a first, donations from the United States and China, two nations Bhutan does not have diplomatic relations with.

As *The Hindu* had reported, the Himalayan nation, with a population of about 5,50,000 eligible for vaccination, is receiving its second dose of AstraZeneca vaccines from the European Union, after India failed to fulfil its promises due to the second wave of the pandemic.

"With more countries coming forward with similar commitments, Bhutan has informed them of the vaccine sufficiency for now... However, the request for the need for future booster doses has been conveyed," Mr. Tshering said in a statement released by the Royal Government of Bhutan's PMO.

The statement thanked Bhutan's partners, including multilateral agencies such as the U.N. and specifically the U.S., the European Union, India and China, for "demonstrating unconditional support and playing an important part in the lives of all Bhutanese."

According to the PMO, Bhutan has now received, or is receiving, 5,00,000 doses of Moderna vaccines from the U.S., 3,50,000 doses of AstraZeneca from European countries, including Denmark, Croatia and Bulgaria, 50,000 doses of Sinopharm from the Chinese government and 5,850 through the international COVAX alliance facility. In addition, Bhutan has placed commercial or-



Lotay Tshering

ders for 2,00,000 doses of Pfizer, which will arrive in a few months.

Vaccine Maitri initiative

India had provided Bhutan with 5,50,000 doses of Covishield (AstraZeneca) under its Vaccine Maitri programme for its first round of vaccinations in March 2021, of which about 62,000 are still being administered, as Bhutan has crossed a record 93% of first-dose vaccinations.

While Bhutan has close development partnerships with India and the EU, the government's decision to accept 2,50,000 doses of Moderna from Washington and 50,000 doses of Sinopharm from China is seen as a departure from the past, given that Bhutan prefers not to maintain direct diplomatic relations with permanent members of the UNSC or P-5 countries.

since April, and the Ministry of External Affairs has repeatedly said that domestic production of vaccines would be used for "domestic vaccinations" for the present, with about 4 million being administered daily.

In his statement, Mr. Tshering disclosed that India had conveyed that it would "step in despite all the challenges" if Bhutan failed to get vaccines from elsewhere.

"For the second dose, His Majesty [King Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuk] had advised the government that sourcing vaccines from India once more would be inconsiderate given the shortage of vaccines and surge of cases in the country at the time."

New Delhi has suspended the Vaccine Maitri initiative

India's first COVID patient tests positive for virus again

Third year medical student from Wuhan not vaccinated

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRURUS

A medical student at Wuhan University, China, who was the first Indian COVID-19 patient in the country, has tested positive for the virus again.

District Medical Officer K.J. Reena confirmed here on Tuesday that the student, hailing from Mathilakam,

near Kodungallur, tested positive on Monday.

The student did the screening test for travelling to Delhi for academic purposes. "Her RT-PCR test is positive. As the student is asymptomatic, she is under observation at home," the DMO said. She has not taken COVID-19 vaccine.

The third year medical

student in Wuhan university tested positive on January 30, 2020, becoming the first COVID-19 case in the country, when she returned for holidays.

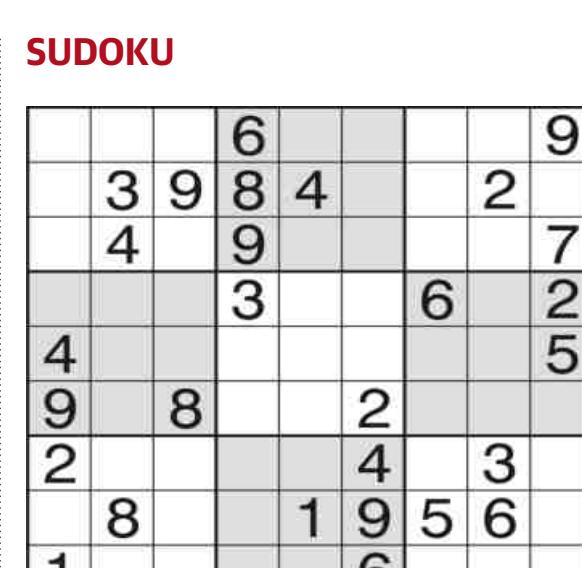
She was discharged from hospital on February 20, 2020, after she tested negative. The student was continuing her studies online at Wuhan University when she tested positive again.

from the court to protect doctors from being attacked.

Advocate General Ashutosh Kumbhakoni informed the court that complaints by doctors could be registered under the Indian Penal Code and complaints of medical negligence and professional misconduct against doctors could be registered by the expert cell constituted to protect doctors from unverified complaints.

A Division Bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice G.S. Kulkarni was hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by Dr. Rajeesh Joshi, seeking orders

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 13299

C	A	L	E	N	D	A	R	
S	L	N	E	V	E	L		
T	I	L	A	G	R			
I	L	L	E	N	A			
O	R	R	A	S	P			
C	R	E	T	H	E			
E	X	N	A	G	A			
R	E	O	N	A	G			
A	S	S	E	D	K			

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Rama bhakti

Deuba becomes Nepal PM for 5th time

Oli says the language used in the SC verdict 'has alarmed those who believe in multi-party democracy'

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE

NEW DELHI
Sher Bahadur Deuba, leader of the Nepali Congress, is the new Prime Minister of Nepal.

The 75-year-old centrist politician was sworn to office by President Bidhya Devi Bhandari on Tuesday evening, a day after the Supreme Court of Nepal, in a dramatic verdict, said former Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli had violated constitutional principles.

The coalition government in Kathmandu will consist of Mr. Deuba's Nepali Congress, the Maoist Centre of Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' and the Janata Samajbadi Party, which is a conglomeration of former Maoists and the Madhesi leaders. Mr. Deuba was sworn in with a small Cabinet. Gyanendra



Another chance: Officials greeting Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba, centre, in Kathmandu on Tuesday. ■ AP

Karki was sworn in as the Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs and Bal Krishna Khand took oath as the Minister of Home Affairs. The Maoist Centre got two portfolios – Janardan Sharma got the Finance Ministry and Purnima Bhusal

will be in charge of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation, an important Ministry of the Himalayan country.

The oath of office was administered by Ms. Bhandari, who was also subjected to criticism of the Supreme Court for her role in denying

Mr. Deuba a chance to prove majority in Parliament in May.

This is the fifth time that Mr. Deuba is returning to power as the Prime Minister of Nepal. Bishnu Raj Adhikary, personal secretary of Ms. Bhandari, told reporters that "in line with the apex court's verdict, President Bhandari named Deuba as the Prime Minister".

Previously, Mr. Deuba served as Nepal's Prime Minister four times from June 2017–February 2018, June 2004–February 2005, July 2001–October 2002 and September 1995–March 1997.

Lasting impact

Earlier, Mr. Oli delivered a speech before stepping down, and said the verdict of the Supreme Court would

have a lasting impact on Nepal. "The language used in the verdict has alarmed those who believe in multi-party democracy," said Mr. Oli, who was elected Prime Minister on October 11, 2015, following the adoption of the new Constitution. His second tenure began in 2018.

Throughout his tenure, Mr. Oli defended the Constitution against criticism from the Madhesis – people from Nepal's plains who said the document was partial to the established elite of Kathmandu.

"The Constitution is the document borne out of decades of struggle and sacrifice by the people of Nepal. We strengthened the political system of Nepal," Mr. Oli said in his farewell speech.

(With inputs from PTI)

Don't want to fight inside cities, say Taliban

They urge residents to reach out to them; warn Turkey against extending troop presence in Afghanistan

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

KABUL

The Taliban do not want to battle government forces inside Afghanistan's cities and would rather see them surrender, a senior insurgent leader said on Tuesday, as the militants also warned Turkey against extending its troop presence.

The hardline Islamist group has swept through much of the north as foreign troops complete their withdrawal, and the Afghan government now holds little more than a constellation of provincial capitals that must largely be resupplied by air.

As security deteriorates, France on Tuesday became the latest country to call on its citizens to leave – offering them a last flight out of Kabul, free of charge.



Heavy damage: Humvees belonging to the Afghan Special Forces are seen destroyed in Kandahar province. ■ REUTERS

centres and getting elders to negotiate a surrender. Hours after Muttaqi's message, a rush hour roadside bomb blast in the centre of the Afghan capital killed four civilians and wounded 11 others.

Muttaqi's comments came as the Defence Ministry said Afghan forces had cleared

Qala-i-Naw city after days of fighting.

Commandos executed

The Badghis province capital saw sustained street fighting last week in the first assault by the Taliban on a major urban centre since foreign troops commenced their fi-

nal withdrawal in May.

The call also came the same day as a video emerged that CNN said it had verified, showing a group of Afghan commandos being gunned down by the Taliban in June after surrendering.

In a separate statement, the Taliban said Turkey's decision to provide security to Kabul airport when U.S.-led forces leave was "reprehensible". "We consider stay of foreign forces in our homeland by any country under whatever pretext as occupation," the group said, days after Ankara agreed with Washington to provide security for Kabul airport.

As foreign forces wind up their withdrawal – due to be completed by August 31 – the situation on the ground is changing rapidly.

Death toll in S. Africa riots rises to 45

ASSOCIATED PRESS

JOHANNESBURG

The death toll from rioting in South Africa rose to 45 on Tuesday as the police and the military tried to halt the unrest in poor areas of two provinces that began last week after the imprisonment of former President Jacob Zuma.

Many of the deaths in Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal provinces occurred in stampedes as people stole food, electric appliances, liquor and clothing from stores, officials said.

Sporadic violence broke out after Mr. Zuma on Thursday began serving a 15-month sentence for contempt of court. He had refused to comply with a court order to testify at a state-backed inquiry investigating allegations of corruption while he was President from 2009 to 2018.

The unrest then spiralled into a spree of looting in township areas of the two provinces, witnesses said, although it has not spread to South Africa's other seven provinces. "Criminal element has hijacked the situation," said Premier David Makhura of Gauteng province, which includes Johannesburg.

Biden nominates Gupta as top anti-drug official

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden has nominated West Virginia's former health commissioner as the nation's top anti-drug official, tapping a doctor who served on the frontlines of the nation's opioid epidemic.

The White House said on Tuesday that Dr. Rahul Gupta will be the first physician to lead the Office of National Drug Control Policy, also known as the "drug czar".

The nomination drew bipartisan praise from West Virginia officials.

Republican Governor Jim Justice called it a "great



Rahul Gupta

news", and Democratic Senator Joe Manchin said the pick "means someone with firsthand knowledge of the opioid crisis, especially in West Virginia, will be coordinating the national fight against the drug epidemic that continues to ravage our nation".

Google fined €500 mn by French anti-trust agency

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS

France's competition regulator fined Google 500 million euros on Tuesday for failing to negotiate in good faith with French publishers in a dispute over payments for their news.

The agency threatened fines of another 900,000 euros per day if Google doesn't come up with pro-

posals within two months on how it will compensate publishers and news agencies for their content. Google said it was "very disappointed" by the decision.

The dispute is part of a larger effort by authorities in the European Union and around the world to force Google and other tech companies to compensate publishers for content.

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The dispute is part of a larger effort by authorities in the European Union and around the world to force Google and other tech companies to compensate publishers for content.

In a statement, U.S. President Joe Biden expressed support for the protesters' demand for relief "from the decades of repression and economic suffering to which they have been subjected by Cuba's authoritarian regime". Secretary of State Antony Blinken said it would be a "grievous mistake" for Cuba to blame the U.S. for the protests he said could be traced to the communist lea-

dership's "mismanagement" of the economy and COVID-19.

The Cuban authorities have also cut access to major social media platforms in an effort to stem the flow of information, a web monitoring organisation said.

Data from the London-based group NetBlocks showed disruptions from Monday to WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram and as well as some Telegram servers.

Cuba blames U.S. for anti-government protests

Authorities beef up police patrols across country, clamp down on social media

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

HAVANA

The Cuban police are out in force on the streets of the country after thousands of protesters rallied against the government on the weekend over high prices and food shortages.

More than 100 people, including independent journalists and Opposition activists, were arrested, various sources said.

President Miguel Diaz-Ca-

nel on Monday blamed the protests on the United States pursuing a "policy of economic suffocation to provoke social unrest in the country". Cuba has been under U.S. sanctions since 1962. He also accused Cuban Americans of using social media to spur the demonstrations. "What do they want? To provoke social unrest" with a view to "regime change", the President said in an address broadcast on

public television and radio.

Supreme Court offers a way out of Kathmandu political impasse

Verdict is another rebuke of Oli's attempts at one-upmanship

SRINIVASAN RAMANI

The decision by a five-member Constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court of Nepal to yet again overturn Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Oli's dissolution of the House of Representatives was expected.

Throughout his tenure, Mr. Oli defended the Constitution against criticism from the Madhesis – people from Nepal's plains who said the document was partial to the established elite of Kathmandu.

"The Constitution is the document borne out of decades of struggle and sacrifice by the people of Nepal. We strengthened the political system of Nepal," Mr. Oli said in his farewell speech.

(With inputs from PTI)



Activists from various student wings celebrating the verdict on Monday. ■ AFP

their individual agency during the trust vote by making it clear that they are free to defy their parties' whips. But in a party system that thrives heavily on patronage, whether individual lawmakers will apply such an agency during the trust vote remains to be seen.

It is still not clear if Mr. Madhav Nepal's faction within the UML will decide to vote formally for Mr. Deuba in the trust vote. Already Mr. Oli has sought to avoid a split within his party by coming up with concessions to the Nepal-Khalan faction, and this could still throw a spanner in the works for Mr. Deuba. If Mr. Deuba fails again, the extended stalemate could only result in calling for fresh elections later this year.

President's role

Nevertheless, the Supreme Court's decision is yet another rebuke of Mr. Oli's attempts at one-upmanship that set the stage for a constitutional breakdown.

The ruling also brings scrutiny on the role of Ms. Bhandari whose decisions to rubber-stamp her former party colleague, Mr. Oli, have now been overturned twice by the court.

The President's office had in fact argued in a petition to the court last month that her actions cannot be subject to a judicial review, but the verdict categorically rejected this view by saying, "The action taken by the President falls under the executive function. In such a situation, if the President's moves are kept out of the judicial review it will be an attack on the principle of the separation of power, control and balance", as reported in *The Kathmandu Post*.

What's next

The court's ruling also offered a way out of the political impasse – the Bench has allowed lawmakers to utilise

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Yashpal Sharma, India's 1983 World Cup winner, passes away

The 66-year-old succumbs to a massive heart attack after returning from a morning walk on Tuesday

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

Best remembered for his exploits in the 1983 World Cup, Yashpal Sharma succumbed to a massive heart attack on Tuesday morning. He was 66.

Known for his gritty batting, immaculate fielding and brisk running between the wickets, Yashpal returned home from his morning walk and collapsed. He is survived by wife, two daughters and a son.

During a career between 1973 and 1993, Yashpal played Ranji Trophy for Punjab (47 matches), Haryana (14) and Railways (6).

No duck in 42 ODIs

In an international career from 1978 to 1985, Yashpal was never out for a duck in 42 ODIs. During his 37-Test career that began at Lord's, Yashpal's 140 against England at Chennai in 1982 was the highpoint.

His top-score was part of a 316-run stand with wrist-artist G.R. Viswanath who scored a career-high 222. Yashpal "learnt by watching the master at work" as the duo batted throughout the second day.

Yashpal made up for limited strokes through sheer resolve. Perpetually battling the fear of being dropped, Yashpal turned circumspect. That perhaps explained his caution until the first 40-50 runs before shifting gears.

One such innings resulted in his maiden Test century, against Australia at Delhi's Ferozeshah Kotla, in 1979. Following a 'pair' in the previous Test at Kanpur, Yashpal was desperate.

For the better part of his half-century, Yashpal was booed for his defensive approach. He made up for lost time by going after Peter Sleep.

Three consecutive sixes into the stands behind mid-wicket and, instantly, Yashpal was the darling of the crowd.

A similar approach in ODIs rescued India thrice during the historic 1983 World Cup triumph!

In the opener against two-time champion West Indies, Yashpal scored a 120-ball 89 in India's 262 for eight in 60 overs.

Reviving the innings

K. Srikanth, Sunil Gavaskar, Mohinder Amarnath, Sanjeev Patil and Kapil Dev fell with just 141 on the board, but Yashpal and Roger Binny resurrected the innings with a 73-run sixth-wicket stand against the likes of Michael Holding, Andy Roberts, Malcolm Marshall and Joel Garner.

The resultant 34-run defeat was the first for West Indies in the World Cup.

In a must-win game against Australia, Yashpal top-scored with 40 in India's 247 in 55.5 overs. Here, the attack he negotiated included Geoff Lawson, Rodney Hogg, Tom Hogan and the feared Jeff Thomson.

After Madan Lal and Binny took four wickets each in India's 118-run triumph, Yashpal's contribution stood pushed to the background. But skipper Kapil never missed an opportunity to underline Yashpal's role.

In the tense semifinal against England, Yashpal



Yashpal Sharma. ■ FILE PHOTO



Gritty player: Yashpal Sharma made up for his limited repertoire with sheer resolve. ■ THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Yashpal's career in numbers

	M	Inns	Runs	HS	Avg.	50s/100s
Tests	37	59	1606	140	33.45	9/2
ODIs	42	40	883	89	28.48	4/0
First Class	160	245	8933	201 n.o.	44.88	46/21
List A	74	70	1859	91	34.42	12/0

THE YASHPAL SPECIALS

- 5th Test, Chennai, Jan. 13 to 18, 1982
- India 481/4 decl. & 160/3 decl. drew with England 328.
- First day: Gundappa Viswanath (64 batting), Yashpal Sharma (5 batting)

■ Second day: Viswanath (181 batting), Yashpal (102 batting) - the two were unseparated the entire day

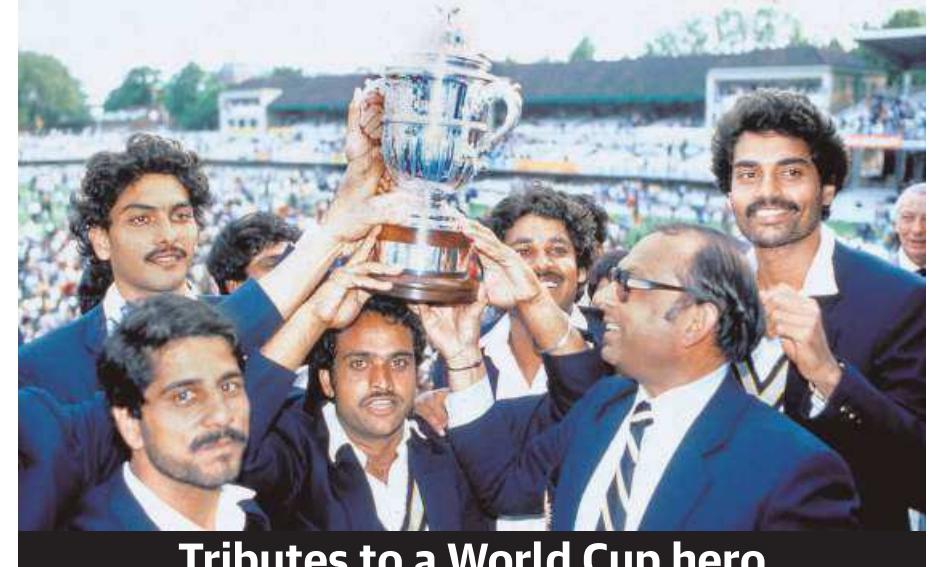
■ Third day: Viswanath was dismissed for 222 and Yashpal for 140. They added 316 for the third wicket but the third-wicket stand overall was 415 as Vengsarkar had retired hurt

1983 WORLD CUP

- India's first match: At Manchester: 262/8 in 60 overs bt West Indies 228 in 54.1 overs.
- Player-of-the-Match: Yashpal (89, 120b, 9x4)
- This was the first loss for Clive Lloyd's men in the World Cup

■ Semifinal: At Manchester: England 213 in 60 overs lost to India 217/4 in 54.4 overs

- Yashpal (61, 115b, 3x4, 2x6) was the top-scorer
- Yashpal finished as India's second-highest scorer (240 runs, 8 matches) behind Kapil Dev (303, 8 matches)



Tributes to a World Cup hero

■ I can't accept it. We love you, Yash KAPIL DEV

■ I still can't believe it. I can't say anything at the moment MADAN LAL

■ It is unbelievable. He was the fittest among all of us. I am just shocked DILIP VENGASKAR

■ Our team has been broken. We have lost the backbone of our team KIRTI AZAD

■ He was one of the main heroes who helped us lift the 1983 World Cup K. SRIKKANTH

■ Really saddened and shocked at losing a colleague of World Cup fame so early in life RAVI SHASTRI

Absolutely shocking news. He was worried about my health when we met last for the (World Cup special) book launch on June 25 in Delhi and today this happens... I can't believe that my room partner is no more BALWINDER SANDHU

■ It was Yashpal who gave the impetus to India's campaign in the knockout stages of the 1983

World Cup P.R. MAN SINGH

■ In our generation, he was one of the fittest guys. He was also a very jovial person G.R. VISWANATH

■ Yashpal was a great player and very fair as a selector N. SRINIVASAN

■ Have fond memories of watching him bat during the 1983 World Cup. His contribution to Indian cricket shall always be remembered SACHIN TENDULKAR

■ One of the heroes of our first World Cup win. Condolences to his family and friends ANIL KUMBLE

■ Heartbreaking to learn about the passing away of Yashpal Sharma VENKATESH PRASAD

■ Sad to hear the news of Yashpal Sharma. Had the opportunity to work with him as captain, player and then on TV SOURAV GANGULY

■ He was one of the heroes of the 1983 World Cup-winning team and was a very affable person V.V.S. LAXMAN

■ One of the heroes of our 1983 WC win. Heartfelt condolences VIRENDER SEHWAG

Yashpal through the lens



Memorable, most memorable: Yashpal's 140 in the 1982 Chennai Test against England, when he batted all day with Viswanath, and the 1983 World Cup triumph are stuff of legend. Keen on maintaining his fitness, he dashed off on regular runs and was ready to even don the big gloves when called for. ■ THE HINDU ARCHIVES

India to go all out in series-decider

INDIA IN ENGLAND

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHELMSFORD

India Women will aim to put up a complete performance instead of relying on individual brilliance to topple a hurting England here on Wednesday.

Another impressive outing in the field and tight 'death' bowling by the spin duo of Poonam Yadav and Deepti Sharma brought India back from the dead in the second match on Sunday.

And now Harmanpreet Kaur and her girls have a chance of enjoying their first T20 series success after the 2019 away triumph against the West Indies.

England's self-destructing from a commanding position also helped the visitors level the series in Hove.

While Shafali Verma was impressive at the top and the spinners came to the

rescue later in the game, the middle-order and the pace department needs to step up.

Pacers Shikha Pandey and Arundhati Reddy, who were all over the place on Sunday, will have to be much more accurate.

England leads the multi-format series 8-6 and therefore can't lose it.

The teams (from):

India: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Smriti Mandhana, Deepti Sharma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Shafali Verma, Richa Ghosh, Harleen Deol, Sneha Rana, Tanvi Bhatia, Indrani Roy, Shikha Pandey, Pooja Vastrakar, Arundhati Reddy, Poonam Yadav, Ekta Bisht, Radha Yadav and Simran Dil Bahadur.

England: Heather Knight (Capt.), Tammy Beaumont, Katherine Brunt, Freya Davies, Sophia Dunkley, Sophie Ecclestone, Tash Farrant, Sarah Glenn, Amy Jones, Nat Sciver, Anya Shrubsole, Mady Villiers, Fran Wilson and Danni Wyatt.

Match starts 11 p.m. IST.

IN BRIEF



Gayle on song as Windies seal series

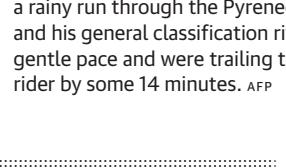
GROS-ISLET (ST. LUCIA) Chris Gayle's 67 took the West Indies to a six-wicket win and an unassailable 3-0 lead in the five-match T20I series against Australia on Monday.

The scores: Australia 141/6 in 20 overs (Aaron Finch 30, Moises Henriques 33) lost to West Indies 142/4 in 14.5 overs (Chris Gayle 67, Nicholas Pooran 32 no, Riley Meredith 3/48). AFP



Konrad wins Stage 16, Pogacar still in yellow

SAINTE GAUDENS Austrian Patrick Konrad won a hilly stage 16 of the Tour de France on Tuesday after joining an early breakaway and then attacking solo from 38km out on



Konrad wins Stage 16, Pogacar still in yellow

attacking solo from 38km out on

a rainy run through the Pyrenees. Overall leader Tadej Pogacar and his general classification rivals rode the 169km course at a gentle pace and were trailing the 29-year-old Bora-Hansgrohe rider by some 14 minutes. AFP

Ireland stuns South Africa



REUTERS
MALAHIDE

Captain Andy Balbirnie scored a century as Ireland recorded its first-ever ODI victory over South Africa with a 43-run win in the second match of the three-game series on Tuesday.

Balbirnie's 102 (10x4, 2x6) took the home side to 290 for five in 50 overs before it restricted the visitors to 247.

The scores: Ireland 290-5 in 50 overs (Andy Balbirnie 102, Harry Tector 79, George Dockrell 45) bt South Africa 247 in 48.3 overs (Janneman Malan 84, Rassie van der Dussen 49).

Perform without pressure, PM tells athletes

Reveals his knowledge of their background, journey and achievements

TOKYO OLYMPICS

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

It was the final blessing on behalf of the nation and a morale boost for the Olympics-bound Indian athletes as Prime Minister Narendra Modi goaded them to play without the pressure of winning and do their best wholeheartedly.

In an interaction that spanned more than an hour with 15 athletes and their family members, starting with World No. 1 archer Deepika Kumari and ending with tennis ace Sania Mirza, the Prime Minister revealed his knowledge of their background, journey and achievements.

The Prime Minister started in Gujarat with rifle shooter Elavenil Varalaru and ended with a Tamil Vanakam to her parents.

Deepika assured the PM she was focused on training and giving her best in Tokyo. Modi was impressed by archer Ashish Kumar said he was grateful to coach

Praveen Kumar Jakhar who had journeyed this far from a poor background.

Neeraj Chopra said he was determined to overcome the hurdles – injury and the pandemic – and do well at the Olympics.

Serving as an inspiration Sprinter Dutee Chand spoke on inspiring girls and women to aspire for a better life.

Boxer Ashish Kumar said he was grateful to coach Dharmendra Singh Yadav for supporting him at a crucial stage. The Prime Minister appreciated Ashish's ability to stay focused on training even after the death of his father.

Boxer Mary Kom said, being a left-hander she preferred the hook to stun her opponents, that Muhammad Ali was her idol and Olympic gold her dream.

Modi talked to P.V. Sindhu about her training and recalled how coach Gopi

Chand had kept her phone away and not allowed her to eat ice cream during the Rio Games.

"Sometimes I eat ice cream," said Sindhu with a smile and the Prime Minister promised to have ice cream with her when she returned from Tokyo.

You are very focused. You have a long journey. You will do very well," the Prime Minister told shooter Saubhagya Chaudhary.

Entertaining It was equally entertaining and inspirational as Modi talked to table tennis stars Sharath Kamal, Manika Batra, wrestler Vinesh Phogat, swimmer Sajan Prakash and hockey captain Manpreet Singh.

Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur, former Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju and Indian Olympic Association president, Narinder Batra were present among others who participated in the virtual interaction.

Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur, former Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju and Indian Olympic Association president, Narinder Batra were present among others who participated in the virtual interaction.

Roger Federer announced on Tuesday he has withdrawn from the upcoming Tokyo Olympics after a "set-back" with his recovery from a knee injury.

"I am greatly disappointed, as it has been an honour and highlight of my career each time I have represented Switzerland. I have already begun rehabilitation in the hopes of returning to the tour later this summer. I wish

Olympic Village opens its doors to welcome athletes

The residents, who will follow strict COVID-19 countermeasures, can avail a host of facilities like a 24x7 dining hall and fitness centre

TOKYO GAMES

ANI

The Tokyo 2020 Olympic Village officially opened its doors on Tuesday and began welcoming the athletes ahead of this year's Games, which will take place between July 23 and August 8.

Over 11,000 athletes from 205 National Olympic Committees and the IOC Refugee Olympic Team will compete in the Games, with the majority staying in the Olympic Village situated in the pictureque Harumi waterfront district of Tokyo.

Bach's message

Speaking about the athletes arriving, IOC President Thomas Bach in a release said: "The athletes are grateful that these Olympic Games



Hospitality at its best: A view of the Olympic Village and the autonomous electric vehicles that will ferry the residents around during the Games. ■ AFP



Right: The dining hall will offer around 700 food options, catering to all dietary requirements. ■ AFP

are happening under these circumstances, and that all measures are being taken to deliver safe and secure

Games.

"After all that they had to overcome during this last year – where they did not

know whether the next competition would take place, they did not know whether they could go to training the

next day, they did not know where they would meet with their coach again – after all this additional stress during

the pandemic, finally, they can shine on the Olympic stage.

"And I hope that they will,

IN BRIEF



Andreeșu to skip Games over COVID concerns

LOS ANGELES Canadian tennis star and World No. 5 Bianca Andreescu said on Monday she would skip the Tokyo Olympics, citing concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic. The 21-year-old 2019 US Open champion said in a statement on social media: "... I have made the very difficult decision to not play in the Tokyo Olympics later this month." ■ AFP



Injured Sagan to skip Olympics

BRATISLAVA Three-time World champion cyclist and seven-time winner of the Tour de France green jersey Peter Sagan of Slovakia will skip the Tokyo Olympic Games because of an injury. The 31-year-old hurt his knee in a bunch sprint fall during stage three. He later underwent surgery in Monaco, according to a statement on Tuesday. ■ AFP

Usha picks Neeraj to end India's medal drought

Feels young Sreeshankar can spring a big surprise; holds out hope for Kamalpreet and Annu Rani

ATHLETICS

**STAN RAYAN
KOCHI**

Whenever P.T. Usha saw javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra at the 2016 under-20 Worlds in Poland, she was reminded of her running days.

"Even when he was just walking around, I remember, he used to keep trying out throws as if he carried an imaginary javelin," said Usha, who was in Poland then with her trainee Jisna Mathew, in a chat with *The Hindu* on Tuesday.

"I used to do that often when I was young... if I saw a hurdle anywhere or even a stone on the road, I would run and try to clear it."

Strong "Neeraj looked so strong and confident then. And when he won the junior Worlds gold with a world record, I felt that he would go far," she said.

Usha, who narrowly missed winning an Olympic medal in the 400m hurdles in 1984 at Los Angeles, feels that Neeraj will end India's long wait for its first-ever

Olympic athletics medal. "Neeraj did 88m earlier this year, he could probably go past 90m. I think he is capable of winning a medal," said Usha, now a prominent coach.

She also feels that long jumper M. Sreeshankar can produce a big surprise.

"He is the No. 2 in the team. Considering his age, Sreeshankar has produced some big jumps. He may not be very consistent and that could be because he has not had any international competition this year."

"But he is young and that

is why I feel he can surprise us all with a big show," said Usha. "But he should not be under any pressure. If he is bold and free, he can reach the final and do very well after that," she said.

Usha picked discus thrower Kamalpreet and javelin thrower Annu Rani as two other athletes capable of making their respective finals.

"Kamalpreet has broken Krishna Poona's national record and has done 66-plus and Annu Rani has been very consistent, so I think both will enter the final."

"Shot putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor could also make it if he repeats his big throws," she said.

But she doesn't hold out much hope for the 4x400m relay teams (mixed and men).

"Amoj Jacob, Muhammed Anas, Revathi and Subha will probably run the mixed relay but the two girls are not capable of going below 53s, so it will be very difficult."

"And some of our top men have not run many quarter-mile races this year. So you can't predict anything in the men's relay," she said.

Anand and Kramnik set to resume rivalry in a new format

CHESS

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

Viswanathan Anand and Vladimir Kramnik often produced fascinating chess when they came face-to-face, until the Russian retired in 2019.

That rivalry resumes on Wednesday – albeit in a brand new format.

The 14th and 15th World champions are set to play a series of four games of No-Castling Chess at Dortmund

for the Sparkassen Trophy. The format will not allow the players to castle – that is, bringing the king, from the middle of the board, to the safety of a fortress at either of the flanks, by a single move.

Castling is the only move in chess with which you can move two pieces – the king and the rook – at the same time. Now, chess is a very theoretical game with professional players memorising the first few moves (called the opening).



Mind games: Former World champion Viswanathan Anand and Vladimir Kramnik will match wits in an innovative variant.

■ PHOTO

So the real, unpredictable action would begin only after the opening moves are

played out. Castling is very much part of the opening moves.

When you throw castling out of the window, an element of unpredictability comes into the game from early on. A player cannot depend on memorised patterns.

Chess could be more dynamic and exciting. That is what Kramnik felt when he proposed the idea about the new variant in 2019.

Anand, fresh from his stunning show at the Croatia Grand Chess Tour where he belied his age to take the runner-up spot in a strong field,

feels No-Castling Chess could be entertaining.

"I found the concept fascinating," he told *The Hindu*. "And I am looking forward to it."

So is International Master V. Saravanan. "Since Anand and Kramnik are very creative players, I think it would be interesting," he said. "Anand is in excellent form and Kramnik, though retired, is still a strong player, I feel."

The match concludes on July 18.

Kabra becomes first Indian gymnastics judge

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI**

Deepak Kabra has become the first Indian to be selected for judging the gymnastics competition at the Olympic Games, a life goal achieved for the man who knew he wouldn't have made it there as an active gymnast because of his not-so-strong fundamentals.



Neeraj. ■ FILE PHOTO

Kabra will be seen officiating the men's artistic gymnasts at the Tokyo Games, which gets underway on July 23.

"It takes a minimum of 12 years to reach Olympics and I was lucky to get it exactly after 12 years," said Kabra, who was appointed as a member of the Asian Gymnastics Union's technical committee in 2018.



Kabra. ■ TWITTER/JSW SPORTS

THE HINDU

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इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ बैंकिंग पर्सनेल सेलेक्शन (एन्ट्रीले रिकर्ड कंपनी, भौतिक वित्तीय संस्थानों व वार्षिकीय बैंकों के लिए ग्राह्य व्यापारिक सेवा)

INSTITUTE OF BANKING PERSONNEL SELECTION (An autonomous body set up by Reserve Bank of India, Central Financial Institutions and Public Sector Banks)

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय में, यह एक अमरीकी व्यापारिक सेवा है।

Website: www.ibps.in

In case of queries/complaints please log in to <https://cgrs.ibps.in/>

COMMON RECRUITMENT PROCESS FOR RECRUITMENT OF CLERKS IN PARTICIPATING BANKS (CRP CLERKS-XI for Vacancies of 2022-23)

The online examination (Preliminary and Main) for the next Common Recruitment Process for selection of personnel for Clerical cadre Posts in the Participating Banks is tentatively scheduled in August/September & October 2021.

The tentative schedule of events is as follows:

Activity	Tentative Dates
On-line registration including Edit/Modification of Application by candidates	12.07.2021 to 01.08.2021
Payment of Application Fees/Intimation Charges (Online)	12.07.2021 to 01.08.2021
Download of call letters for Pre-Exam Training*	August 2021
Conduct of Pre-Exam Training*	16.08.2021 onwards
Download of call letters for Online examination - Preliminary	August 2021
Online Examination - Preliminary	28.08.2021, 29.08.2021 and 04.09.2021
Result of Online exam - Preliminary	September / October 2021
Download of Call letter for Online exam - Main	October 2021
Online Examination - Main	31.10.2021
Provisional Allotment	April 2022

* In case it is possible and safe to hold PET

Candidates are advised to regularly keep in touch with the authorised

IBPS website www.ibps.in for details and updates.

Before registering online candidates are advised to read the detailed notification carefully and follow the instructions mentioned therein.

Mumbai Date: 12.07.2021

CHENNAI METRO RAIL LIMITED (A Joint Venture of Govt. of India and Govt. of Tamil Nadu) Admin Building, CMRL Depot, Poonamallee High Road, Kayambudu, Chennai - 600 107. Phone: 044 2379 2000

EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION

NO.: CMRL/HR/CON/06/2021 dated 08.07.2021

CMRL invites applications from qualified and experienced personnel for appointment for the under mentioned posts on contract basis:-

Post Code	Name of the Post	No. of Post	Consolidated Pay (Per Month)	Min. Exp. (Yrs.)	Max. Age Limit (Yrs.)
1	Chief General Manager (Planning & Design)	01	Rs.2,50,000/-	25	55
2	General Manager (Construction)	02	Rs.2,25,000/-	20	55
3	Additional General Manager (Safety)	01	Rs.1,20,000/-	17	47
4	Additional General Manager (Legal)	01	Rs.1,20,000/-	17	47
5	Joint General Manager (Design)	01	Rs.1,00,000/-	15	43
6	Manager (Design - UG)	02	Rs.80,000/-	07	38
7	Manager (Design - Elevated)	02	Rs.80,000/-	07	38

Note: