

For Students going to Class VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI & XII and Students presently in XII

Announcing

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*Classes will be conducted by FIITJEE Delhi

FIITJEE is the only institution known for taking initiatives directed towards the welfare of the Students & their parents and we continue to craft new opportunities – now introducing our Live Online Classroom Programs at ZERO Fee. The Students can pursue these programs from the comfort & safety of their homes with a golden advantage of being taught by the experienced and adept FIITJEE faculty.

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Limited seats are available | Students will be required to pay a token enrolment fee of Rs. 1000/- only | Selected Students of Class IX, X & XI are required to have their own tablet of desired specification & pay MDM Fee to our technology partner (Edfora)

Assessment Test for Admission : 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th & 28th March 2021

Take the Assessment Test for Admission on any of these days as per your convenience from your home (Test will be conducted in proctored online mode)

You can appear only once | Registration Fee for the Test : **Rs. 50/-** (including GST) | Last date to Register : Two days before the Test | For more details & to Register, visit www.fiitjee.com/liveonlinecrp

FIITJEE Live Online Classroom Programs

For Students going to Class VI, VII, VIII, IX & X having inclination towards any stream - Arts / Commerce / Engineering / Humanities / Medical

For Students going to Class IX, X, XI, XII and XII studying Students aspiring to ace Engineering Entrance and other Competitive & Scholastic Exams

Class	Program	Goals
VI	LITTLE GENIE - One Year Live Online Foundation Program <i>Batch Commencement Date : 18th April 2021</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ These programs comprehensively prepare you for school and all scholastic & competitive exams at city, state & national level for your class, and lay a strong foundation for higher level scholastic & competitive exams like NTSE, NSEJS / IJSO, Pre-RMO, RMO & Green Olympiad by raising IQ of the students i.e. sharpen analytical skills & mental ability and evolve students' thinking process making them capable of solving complex problems.
VII	UDAYA - Two Year Live Online Classroom Program <i>Batch Commencement Date : 14th April 2021</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ These programs lay a strong foundation for competitive exams like NEET, JEE Main & JEE Advanced etc.
VIII	UDAYA - One Year Live Online Classroom Program <i>Batch Commencement Date : 14th April 2021</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Along with Physics, Chemistry & Mathematics, Biology is also taught in these programs. Mental ability is exhaustively taken up.
IX	ASCENT - Two Year Live Online Classroom Program <i>Batch Commencement Date : 16th April 2021</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ These programs comprehensively prepare you for school, boards and all scholastic & competitive exams at city, state & national level, including NTSE, NSEJS / IJSO, Pre-RMO & RMO by raising IQ of the students i.e. sharpen analytical skills & mental ability and evolve students' thinking process making them capable of solving complex problems.✓ These programs lay a strong foundation for competitive exams like NEET, JEE Main & JEE Advanced etc.
X	ASCENT - One Year Live Online Classroom Program <i>Batch Commencement Date : 16th April 2021</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ These programs help students to easily adapt to the exponential increase in the level of academics in Class XI & XII vis-a-vis those who wait till Class XI to join a coaching institute.✓ Along with Physics, Chemistry & Mathematics, Social studies & Biology are also taught in these programs. Mental ability is exhaustively taken up.

Class	Program	Goals
IX	Four Year Live Online Classroom Program for JEE Main & Advanced 2025 <i>Batch Commencement Date : 16th April 2021</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ The long term goal of these programs is to help each & every student get an optimum Rank in JEE Main & Advanced.✓ Besides this, students will be holistically trained to ace scholastic exams like NTSE, KVPY, Jr. & Sr. Olympiads etc.
X	Three Year Live Online Classroom Program for JEE Main & Advanced 2024 <i>Batch Commencement Date : 16th April 2021</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ These four / three years of intensive preparation works like ambrosia even in X & XII Board Exams.
XI	Two Year Live Online Classroom Program for JEE Main & Advanced 2023 <i>Batch Commencement Date : 18th June 2021 (Support for Boards will be provided from 14th April 2021)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ The long-term focus of this transformational program is to enhance your analytical, logical & thinking ability which will empower you to not only achieve best possible ranks in JEE Main & Advanced but also attain phenomenal success in XII Boards, Olympiads & KVPY.
XII	One Year Live Online Classroom Program for JEE Main & Advanced 2022 <i>Batch Commencement Date : 15th April 2021</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Significant improvement in just one year in your preparation which will have positive impact in helping you get into an IIT with a desired Rank. You may be able to improve your JEE Main & Advanced Rank from below 5000 to Top 100. That's not all, this rigorous preparation will equip you to give a par-excellence performance in XII Boards too.
XII Pass (presently in XII)	One Year Extended Live Online Classroom Program for JEE Main & Advanced 2022 <i>Batch Commencement Date : 18th June 2021 (Support for Boards will be provided from 14th April 2021)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ This program will empower the preparation of those students who could not prepare well for JEE Main & Advanced 2021. These students will be nurtured under the guidance of the best faculty of the country who understand what academic inputs such students need at this stage.✓ Special emphasis is laid on plugging the loopholes, toning-up the skills and helping students build sound exam temperament which together consolidate their preparation and drive them to achieve optimum success in JEE Main & Advanced 2022.

Legends : NTSE (National Talent Search Examination) ; NSEJS (National Standard Examination in Junior Science) ; IJSO (International Junior Science Olympiad) ; KVPY (Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana) ; Pre-RMO (Pre-Regional Mathematical Olympiad) ; RMO (Regional Mathematical Olympiad) ; NEET (National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test for Medical)

www.fiitjee.com/liveonlinecrp | North & West Region : 9599597455, 9599282329, 9560021031 & 9205261239 | East Region : 6292236537 & 6292236538 | South Region : 9885321526, 9966255597 & 9885309633

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Admission Notice

For Students going to Class VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI & XII

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Admission Test : 21st Feb & 21st March 2021

Registration Fee for the Test : Rs. 500/- (including GST) | Last date to Register : Two days before the Test | Register at <http://admissiontest.fiitjee.com> | Test will be conducted in proctored online mode

Admission Test Dates from April to August 2021

Admission Test Date	Eligibility
4th April 2021	
18th April 2021	For Students going to Class VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII & XII appearing
2nd May 2021	
6th June 2021	For Students of Class IX, X, XI & XII appeared and Curate for Students of Class XI
20th June 2021	For Students of Class IX, X, XI & XII appeared

Admission Test Date	Eligibility
27th June 2021	For Students of Class IX, X, XI & XII appeared
11th July 2021	For Students of Class XI & FTRE for XII appeared / pass
25th July 2021	For Students of Class XI & XII pass
1st August 2021	Xtra Ray Edge Test for XII pass Students
8th August 2021	
22nd August 2021	For Students of Class XI & XII pass

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Exam will be conducted in proctored online mode

Syllabus : JEE Advanced 2021 - Full syllabus of JEE Advanced 2020 ;

JEE Advanced 2022 - www.fiitjee.com/syllabusjee2022.htm

Exam Pattern : Two papers exactly like JEE Advanced

Result Declaration : 31st January 2021

Registration Fee : NIL

Last date to Register : Two days before the Exam

To Register, visit www.fiitjee.com/assessmentexam or scan this QR Code



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Program	Inclusions			Last Date to Enrol & Fee (including GST)
	Details of Computer Based [#] Tests	Details of myPAT Online Tests	Number of hours of Live Online Concept Strengthening Classroom Program (CSCP)	
All India Test Series for JEE Main & JEE Advanced 2021	7 (Main) + 6 (Advanced)	12 (Main) + 18 (Advanced)	78	5th February 2021 Rs. 12,900/-
	5 (Main) + 6 (Advanced)	8 (Main) + 15 (Advanced)	66	25th February 2021 Rs. 10,900/-
	5 (Advanced)	4 (Main) + 10 (Advanced)	30	29th April 2021 Rs. 8,000/-
	4 (Advanced)	5 (Advanced)	24	31st May 2021 Rs. 5,400/-
For complete schedule, please visit https://fiitjeenonclassroomprograms.com/aitsschedule/				
All India Integrated (XI & XII) Test Series for JEE Main & JEE Advanced 2022	14 (Main) + 14 (Advanced)	29 (Main) + 32 (Advanced)	150	25th February 2021 Rs. 21,500/-
	13 (Main) + 14 (Advanced)	29 (Main) + 32 (Advanced)	144	22nd April 2021 Rs. 21,000/-
	12 (Main) + 12 (Advanced)	29 (Main) + 32 (Advanced)	126	27th May 2021 Rs. 20,500/-
For complete schedule, please visit https://fiitjeenonclassroomprograms.com/aitsschedule/				
All India Test Series for JEE Main & JEE Advanced 2022	12 (Main) + 10 (Advanced)	24 (Main) + 27 (Advanced)	114	31st March 2021 Rs. 15,000/-
				31st May 2021 Rs. 16,000/-
				31st July 2021 Rs. 18,200/-
				15th November 2021 Rs. 19,200/-
For complete schedule, please visit https://fiitjeenonclassroomprograms.com/aitsschedule/				

Enrol online at www.fiitjeenonclassroomprograms.com

FIITJEE Non-Classroom Programs Helpline : 9599597454, 9205261239 e-mail: query.ncrp@fiitjee.com

Come, study with the best.

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29 YEARS OF INNOVATION, SINCERITY, ETHICS, CONSISTENCY & HARD WORK

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Please note that the present cost* of pursuing a 4 Year Graduate / 5 Year Integrated Course at any IIT is approximately Rupees 14 - 15 Lacs (*including reasonable personal expenses)

Yes, it is possible

through



For Students presently in Class VIII, IX, X, XI & XII (Aspiring for JEE Main & Advanced 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022 & 2021 respectively)

Test Date: 21st February 2021

FIITJEE being at the forefront of innovative excellence recognises and rewards extraordinary talent through IIT Genius Scholarships every year. 10 Students from each Class VIII, IX, X, XI & XII will be bestowed with the honour of IIT Genius title and will also get their education at IITs sponsored* by FIITJEE. The scholarship will cover all institutional expenses, including Hostel Fee, Tuition Fee, Books Fee, & reasonable personal expenses (Rs. 5000 per month). Selection of Students will be based on IIT Genius Test followed by an interview.

*Visit www.iitgenius.com for more details

One doesn't have to be a FIITJEE Student to avail this Scholarship & Award or even join a course at FIITJEE after being awarded

Who should appear ?

School Toppers | NTSE Scholars | Jr. Science Olympiad qualifiers | Qualifiers of any stage of Olympiads till Class XI | KVPY Stage-I Qualifiers & KVPY Fellows | JSTSE qualifiers (in case of Delhi) | Any State / City level Scholastic / Competitive exam qualifiers | Those who have the potential to become one of the Top Rankers in JEE Main / JEE Advanced.

Registration Fee : Rs. 100/- (including GST)

Last Date to Register : 19th February 2021

For more details, visit www.iitgenius.com

Breaking Financial Barriers,
FIITJEE promises to help Students from Underprivileged Sections to realise their dream.

FORTUNATE 40

A Social Initiative by FIITJEE to Help the Economically Deprived

For Students presently in Class VIII & X

(Aspirants of JEE Main & Advanced 2025 & 2023 respectively)

100% Scholarship on FIITJEE Programs & 100% Waiver on Hostel Fee

Selection Date: 21st February 2021

Last Date to Register : 19th February, 2021

Test Fee : Till 12th Feb, 2021 Rs. 50/-*, and from 13th Feb. to 19th Feb. 2021 with Rs. 100/-* (inclusive of GST)

Eligibility : Student should be from a Central Government School or a State Government School for under privileged section of society, for example Students studying in Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti Schools. The total parental income should be less than Rs. 10,000/- per month. Other Students (studying in public / private schools) may also apply, however their application will be considered on case to case basis and on the discretion of the management.

For more details, visit www.fiitjee.com/f40.htm

The Premier Institute for JEE Main, JEE Advanced, Boards, various Olympiads, KVPY & NTSE



Men killed in Srinagar encounter were militants: J&K police
page 10



No Mallya extradition until legal issue is resolved, U.K. tells MEA
page 10



China's economy grows 2.3% in 2020, its slowest pace in 44 years
page 12



Siraj scalps five, India chases a target of 328 in Gabba Test
page 13

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NEARBY



Tamil Nadu CM calls on Amit Shah in Delhi

CHENNAI
Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami called on Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on Monday to invite him for the inauguration of a couple of key infrastructure projects. On Tuesday morning, the Chief Minister will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

NBA seeks Republic TV's expulsion from IBF

NEW DELHI
The News Broadcasters Association (NBA) on Monday said the WhatsApp chats of Arnab Goswami were shocking. In a statement, the NBA said Republic TV be expelled from the Indian Broadcasting Foundation. The NBA Board called for Republic TV to be left out of the Broadcast Audience Research Council rating system till the final court order in the matter.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 9

U Level Up IAS Available Online
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Covaxin not to be used in cases of allergy, fever, poor immunity

Bharat Biotech also warns against the use of vaccine in people on blood thinners

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN

NEW DELHI

Those with a history of allergies, fever and bleeding disorder, people on blood thinners and those with compromised immunity or on medication that affects the immune system have been told by Bharat Biotech, manufacturer of Covaxin, not to take the COVID-19 vaccine.

A statement uploaded on the company website on Monday said the vaccine was also contraindicated for pregnant and lactating women, those using other COVID-19 vaccines and people with any other serious health-related issues as determined by the vaccinator or the officer supervising the vaccination. The statement comes amid reports of a slow uptake of the first phase of COVID-19 vaccination that began on January 16.

"There is remote chance that Covaxin could cause severe allergic reaction including difficulty in breathing, swelling of face/throat/fast heart beat, rash all over the body and dizziness and weakness," it said.

Bharat Biotech has now released a fact sheet detailing the possible adverse events.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

In full swing

Over 3.81 lakh persons were vaccinated for COVID-19 as of 5 p.m. on Monday



The wait ends: A health worker getting vaccinated at the Rajiv Gandhi Women and Child Hospital in Puducherry on Monday. ■ T. SINGaravelou

- As many as **1.48 lakh** beneficiaries in 25 States and UTs were vaccinated on Monday
- In Karnataka, **36,888** persons were inoculated on Monday - the highest in the country followed by Odisha, where **22,579** persons were vaccinated
- A total of **580** adverse events have been reported since January 16 with

seven hospitalisations
▪ Two beneficiaries - a **52-year-old man** from Uttar Pradesh and a **43-year-old man** from Karnataka have died
▪ According to the Health Ministry, the death of the former was due to cardiopulmonary disease and not related to vaccination. The post-mortem result for the latter is awaited

1.48 lakh persons get the shot on Day 3, adverse events touch 580

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

By Monday evening, 3,81,305 beneficiaries - 1,48,266 on the day - have been vaccinated for COVID-19 with 7,704 sessions held across the country. A cumulative 580 adverse events were reported, the Health Ministry said on the third day of the drive.

"Post-mortem revealed that the death was due to cardiopulmonary disease [pockets of pus in lungs, enlarged heart], and was not related to vaccination," said Dr Manohar Agnani, Additional Secretary, Health Ministry.

the post-mortem report of the other is awaited," said

Manohar Agnani, Additional Secretary, Health Ministry.

He said one of the two deaths was of a 42-year-old man from Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh who was vaccinated on January 16 and died the following day.

"The cause was anterior-wall infarction with cardio-pulmonary failure. The post-mortem was to be conducted on Monday at the Vijaya-nagar Institute of Medical Sciences, Ballari," the Ministry said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

related to vaccination." The second, a 42-year-old male of Ballari in Karnataka, was vaccinated on January 16 and died on January 18.

"The cause was anterior-wall infarction with cardio-pulmonary failure. The post-mortem was to be conducted on Monday at the Vijaya-nagar Institute of Medical Sciences, Ballari," the Ministry said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

SC PANEL TO MEET FARMERS'

GROUPS FROM JAN. 21 ▶ PAGE 9

Back to school



New normal: Students of classes 10 and 12 arriving to attend the first day at a government school in Jahangirpuri after 10 months of COVID-19-induced closure of educational institutions, in Delhi on Monday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA (REPORT ON PAGE 3)

Fewer health workers turn up for vaccine

16.7% dip in numbers on Monday; 24 'minor', 2 'major' adverse events reported

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Delhi witnessed a dip of 16.7% in the number of healthcare workers turning up for the COVID-19 vaccination on Monday as compared to Saturday, the first day of the drive, when 4,319 beneficiaries were administered the vaccine shot.

A total of 3,598 workers were inoculated against a target of 8,136 on the second day of the drive, according to the data compiled from the 11 districts in the Capital. There are 81 centres in Delhi and the target is about 100 people per centre.

Several officials and hospital authorities said the numbers are less as many healthcare workers want to wait and watch, given the number of COVID-19 cases has dropped considerably.

"Since Covaxin is being used, people are apprehensive as its trials are still not complete. Also, many nurses



A shot in the arm: A beneficiary getting a vaccine jab at the Lok Nayak Hospital in New Delhi on Monday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

are saying they will wait for a while and take the vaccine later. The numbers would improve if there are more assurances and counselling," said a member of the nurses' union of AIIMS.

An official at the Lok Nayak Hospital said the workers are "apprehensive" and they are calling them over the phone. "Nothing can be done about it as it is completely voluntary," the official said.

"There were 26 AEFI (Adverse Event Following Immunisation) - 24 of them 'mi-

vaccination at the Delhi government-run Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital (RGSSH) on Monday, down from 45 on Saturday, said the hospital's spokesperson.

The figure was 12 at Lok Nayak Hospital, which inoculated 32 workers on Saturday. Only eight workers turned up at AIIMS, said officials.

In the Central government-run Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, the number increased to 69 on Monday from 31 on Saturday.

The authorities are trying to "motivate" the healthcare workers to take the vaccine. "All the HoDs (head of departments) of the hospital have been asked to motivate the staffers, tell them about the benefits of taking the vaccine," said Dr Chhavi Gupta of RGSSH. She said the hospital is calling each beneficiary over the phone as soon as it gets the list of the 100 names for the next day from the district administration.

planation from Amazon Prime Video on the issue.

Threat to makers

Shalabh Mani Tripathi, information adviser to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, issued a threat to the makers of the web series. Tagging the accused persons in a tweet, he said a team of U.P. Police had left for Mumbai in a car. The political drama series has Saif Ali Khan, Dimple Kapadia, Tigmanshu Dhulia and Mohammad Zeeshan Ayyub in the cast. The FIR was filed under various Sections of the IPC and the IT Act. Aparna Purohit, head, India original content of Amazon; Ali Abbas Zafar, director, *Tandav* web series; Himanshu Krishan Mehra, producer; and Gaurav Solanki, writer, were named in the FIR.

Mamata to challenge Suvendu in Nandigram in Assembly poll

Announcement assumes significance as it is Adhikari's fiefdom

SHIV SAHAY SINGH

KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday said she would contest the 2021 Assembly election from Nandigram in Purba Medinipur district.

She made the announcement at a public meeting in Nandigram, almost a month after Trinamool Congress heavyweight and former MLA from the constituency Suvendu Adhikari quit and joined the BJP.

The political drama series has Saif Ali Khan, Dimple Kapadia, Tigmanshu Dhulia and Mohammad Zeeshan Ayyub in the cast. The FIR was filed under various Sections of the IPC and the IT Act. Aparna Purohit, head, India original content of Amazon; Ali Abbas Zafar, director, *Tandav* web series; Himanshu Krishan Mehra, producer; and Gaurav Solanki, writer, were named in the FIR.



Mamata Banerjee

she said.

The announcement assumes significance not only because Ms Banerjee is all set to take on Mr. Adhikari in his fiefdom but also because Nandigram symbolises the party's struggle against forcible land acquisition in the Left Front regime.

She also announced a monthly pension to the families of those killed in the police firing on protesters on March 14, 2007 and those who went missing in the subsequent violence.

The Chief Minister, who has been contesting from Bhawanipur in Kolkata, said she would not neglect her constituency as its people might feel bad. Party sources said she may contest from Bhawanipur too.

Addressing supporters, Mr. Adhikari said: "Whether I am nominated or someone else [from Nandigram], I want to assure that if I am unable to defeat her by a margin of 50,000 votes, I will quit politics."

Aware of construction on LAC: MEA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

LUCKNOW

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Monday said it was aware of infrastructure construction by China in the past several years "along the Line of Actual Control (LAC)" and that India had also stepped up its construction, after a report by NDTV showed satellite images of a new Chinese settlement in Arunachal Pradesh.

This is the first time the government has acknowledged Chinese construction, although official sources say the land has been under the Chinese People's Liberation Army's (PLA) control since 1959.

FULL REPORT ON ▶ PAGE 10



BJP supporters protesting against Amazon Prime's new web series *Tandav*, in Mumbai on Monday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

An FIR has been lodged at the Hazratganj police station in Lucknow against the makers of the web series on charges of hurting the religious sentiments of Hindus and promoting enmity on grounds of religion. The complainant, a sub-in-

spector of the Hazratganj police, says he was asked to watch the show by senior officers after he alerted them about angry posts on the series, which started streaming on January 15. The Information and Broadcasting Ministry on Sunday sought an ex-

IN BRIEF



Treat Delhi on a par with J&K: Sisodia to Union FM

NEW DELHI
Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Monday urged Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to treat Delhi on a par with the Union Territory of J&K. He asked her to provide Delhi its share in Central Taxes and Disaster Response Fund. "Other State governments received financial assistance from the disaster fund but Delhi did not. Request to treat Delhi at par with the rest of the country," Mr. Sisodia said.

Air Quality of Delhi-NCR			
Delhi	372	Gurugram	292
Ghaziabad	381	Faridabad	332
Noida	363	Greater Noida	360
■ Good	■ Satisfactory	■ Moderate	
0-50	51-100	101-200	
■ Poor	■ Very Poor	■ Severe	
201-300	301-400	>400	
Air Quality Index at 4 p.m. yesterday (Average of past 24 hours) Source: CPCB			

Women take the stage at Singhu border

On Mahila Kisan Divas, protesters arrive in huge numbers to support agitation against new farm laws

HEMANI BHAMBHANI
NEW DELHI

Women took over the stage, security and stage management at the Singhu border as protesting farmers observed Mahila Kisan Divas on Monday. The crowd sitting in front of the stage primarily comprised women.

Behind the main stage, two women guarded the rear entrance and women volunteers managed the list of people going on stage to speak. All the speakers on Monday were women.

"I am the only daughter of my parents. I lost my mother in 2014. My father told me that more than my wedding, he will be happy if I get martyred fighting for the farmers. If he could send me here, other women too should reach in huge numbers," said a young Rupinder Kaur from the stage.

Santok Singh Sandhu, a member of the stage man-



Women protesters shout slogans during farmers' protest at the Singhu border on Monday. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

agement committee, said a message was sent to people in villages to carry out awareness drives for women to reach here on Mahila Kisan Divas. "They were also asked to carry out marches in their villages to observe the day. Also, today, no men are allowed to do anything around the stage. From kiran in the morning to other

things by the end of the day, everything has to be done by women," he said.

Groups of women reached the Delhi borders in buses, trucks and tractors to be a part of Mahila Kisan Divas and talked about how important their role is in the ongoing agitation.

An 18-year-old Amrit Kaur who arrived with her moth-

er and aunts said the best place for a woman is in the revolution.

Pushpinder Dosanjh, a law graduate from Nawan Shahr who had come with her group of friends from Chandigarh, said the langars were started here by women and men are only continuing it. Ms. Dosanjh's friend Kiran Dhillon, a businessman said: "Women are the backbone of the protest. If they were not holding the fort back in the villages by taking care of the farmlands, the men would not have been able to protest here. They have ensured that the protest goes on."

Protesters to Modi
Rajeshwari Randhawa from Karnal who had come with a group of 25 women said she wanted to urge Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take back the three farm laws and "if your people are ask-

ing women and children to go back, then I want to tell you that we are all a family. Men and women are incomplete without each other".

The youngest female protester today was a three-month-old baby whose mother identified her as Japjot Kaur, from Gurdaspur. "We have brought her here to show that if a little child can be here, those at home should also come out and protest," said the newborn's mother Harjot Kaur (26).

Observing the Mahila Kisan Divas, a special performance by Loh Rang Noor Art group consisting of men dressed up as women to perform Punjabi dance "giddha".

"We work toward preserving the culture of Punjab and we will exist if people of Punjab will. These laws are against the people of Punjab and we are here in solidarity," said Noor, one of the artists.

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Women volunteers to ensure peaceful farmers' parade

'Recognise their identity as farmers'

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ
NEW DELHI

Women are likely to play a major role in ensuring that the proposed tractor rally on Republic Day remains peaceful, according to Kavitha Kuruganti, the only woman delegate on the farm unions' team participating in negotiations with the Centre.

The fact that women have been a key part of the protest adds to the peaceful nature of the protest. Many of the youth can get very impatient, but having women there curbs them, and ensures that the protest stays peaceful," she told *The Hindu* on Monday.

Women farmers, as well as women students from Punjab's universities, were often seen in the forefront in the face-offs with the police at the borders between Punjab and Haryana, as the unions marched towards Delhi. Women are also training to drive some tractors for the rally on January 26.

"For Republic Day, thousands of volunteers are being enrolled with the specific task of keeping peace. Many of these are women," said Ms. Kuruganti, who is here as a representative of the Mahila Kisan Adhikaar Manch, an alliance of women farmers' organisations and supporters.

She was speaking at a small roadside shop on the side of the stage at the Singhu border as the unions marked Mahila Kisan Divas as a celebration of women farmers. "Their primary demand is for their identity as farmers to be recognised," said Ms. Kuruganti.

She pointed out that as per census data, 30% of all cultivators and 43% of all agricultural labourers are women, but few of them have land rights in their own names. The struggle for land and inheritance rights is unfortunately something that most mainstream farm unions have failed to take up, said Ms. Kuruganti.

However, the unions have made major strides in recognising women's identity as farmers over the last six to seven years, and have taken every opportunity to declare it during the protests, she added.

"There was widespread outrage at the Supreme Court's comments which serve to invisibilise women's roles. Apart from the fact that 15-20% of protesters here at the Singhu border are women, you must recognise that women play a double role. For every man who is sitting here at the border, there are women managing the farm responsibilities back in the village," she said.

Bangalore-based Ms. Kuruganti is not a farmer herself, nor does she come from a farming family.

On Tuesday, she will be the only woman on the farmers' side of the room at Vigyan Bhavan.



Kavitha Kuruganti is the only woman delegate in the farm unions' negotiation team.

Transit hubs, travelators part of railway station revamp project

L-G Baijal chairs second meeting on first-of-its-kind initiative

JATIN ANAND
NEW DELHI

Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal on Monday chaired the second meeting related to the proposed redevelopment of the New Delhi railway station along the lines of the Indira Gandhi International Airport as part of a first-of-its-kind initiative.

Apart from solving a significant issue related to public transportation – 1,400 buses plying on 46 routes travel to and from the station daily without a single bus terminal in its vicinity, two multimodal transit hubs and an un-

derground tunnel housing an Automated People Mover replete with travelators and electric vehicles are part of the proposal, which has been accessed by *The Hindu*.

Over the next four years, the project will seek to redesign the largest and second busiest railway station in the country with a daily footfall of approximately 4.5 lakh passengers, according to a senior government official.

Chaired the 02nd meeting of the Apex Committee to oversee & facilitate the 'Redevelopment of New Delhi Railway Station' under the National TOD Policy, the first of its kind in PPP mode [sic]," Mr. Baijal tweeted.

Emphasis was also given on the use of recycled water for non-potable purposes by

vehicles and 40 buses in addition to a commercial area.

As *The Hindu* reported on December 10, the project will see the height of the station being increased to 70 metres, construction of twin towers – each 40 metres high, a hanger for trains, the creation of a passengers' lounge similar to the airport, an underground parking for 2,000

way of provision of dual piping, the L-G stated.

"Directed UTTIPEC [Unified Traffic And Transportation Infrastructure (Planning & Engineering) Centre] for ensuring early examination and approval of the applications submitted by RLDA for the project. Called upon all Nodal Officers to work in tandem to make this project a success," he also tweeted.

Keeping in line with the policy, multimodal transit hubs are proposed at Ajmeri

The National Transit Oriented Development policy is focussed on development around a transit node or corridor to facilitate ease of access to transit facilities, and was approved by the L-G in his capacity as chairman of the Delhi Development Authority in September 2019.

Four entry ramps on Basant Lane, Chelmsford Road, DDU Marg and near the RUB on Minto Road, and five exit ramps on Bhavbhati Marg, JLN Marg, Minto Road, Chelmsford Road and D.B. Gupta Road are proposed.

and Paharganj access points of the station – replete with bus bays for 51 and 40 buses, respectively, and walkways for direct connectivity to the railway station as well as metro stations in its vicinity.

An underground Automated People Mover with travelators on either side, walkways with sitting spaces and electric vehicles for commuters is also part of the initiative, along with widening of Panchkuan Road, Basant Lane, Chelmsford Road, Bhavbhati Marg, and Minto Bridge railway under bridge.

She was speaking at a small roadside shop on the side of the stage at the Singhu border as the unions marked Mahila Kisan Divas as a celebration of women farmers. "Their primary demand is for their identity as farmers to be recognised," said Ms. Kuruganti.

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New facilities
As *The Hindu* reported on December 10, the project will see the height of the station being increased to 70 metres, construction of twin towers – each 40 metres high, a hanger for trains, the creation of a passengers' lounge similar to the airport, an underground parking for 2,000

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It is with this view, Directorate of Health Services on behalf of H&FW invites bids on L1 (Least Cost) method for Selection of Centralized Health Helpline (Call Center) Service Provider (HHSP) to supplement the cause of HIMS implementation in Delhi, with following broad scope of requirements:

Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi
Health & Family Welfare Department
9th Level, A-Wing, Delhi Secretariat, I.P. Estate, New Delhi- 110002

Public Notice
Inviting Bids for Selection of "Centralized Health Helpline (Call Center) Service Provider (HHSP)" in National Capital Territory of Delhi

RFP Dated 18th January 2021

Department of Health & Family Welfare, GNCTD, is the largest public healthcare provider in Delhi. The hospitals / institutions in Delhi provide a range of preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative healthcare services, including teaching, training and research. The Health Department intends to leverage the advancements in Information Technology to implement state of the art ICT Health Management System (HIMS) which is citizen centric, and which improves the productivity of the State Health Department and the state-run hospitals / institutions, thereby improving the overall healthcare system in Delhi.

It is with this view, Directorate of Health Services on behalf of H&FW invites bids on L1 (Least Cost) method for Selection of Centralized Health Helpline (Call Center) Service Provider (HHSP) to supplement the cause of HIMS implementation in Delhi, with following broad scope of requirements:

1. Supply, design development customization, configuration, and implementation of a comprehensive Health Helpline solution
2. Integration with HIMS
3. Services - Information, Complaints, Feedback, Service requests, Follow-up, Tele-Advisory

For RFP document, pre-bid meeting, eligibility criteria, pre-bid query responses, corrigendum and other details, please visit <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in/>

-Sd-
DIP/SHABDARTH/0556/20-21 Director General, DGHS



Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi
Health & Family Welfare Department
9th Level, A-Wing, Delhi Secretariat, I.P. Estate, New Delhi-110002

Public Notice

Inviting proposals for Selection of "Health Card Issuing & Distribution Agency (IDA)" in National Capital Territory of Delhi

EOI Dated 18th January 2021

Department of Health & Family Welfare, GNCTD, is the largest public healthcare provider in Delhi. The hospitals / institutions in Delhi provide a range of preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative healthcare services, including teaching, training and research. The Health Department intends to leverage the advancements in Information Technology to implement state of the art ICT Health Management System (HIMS) which is citizen centric, and which improves the productivity of the State Health Department and the state-run hospitals / institutions, thereby improving the overall healthcare system in Delhi.

It is with this view, Directorate of Health Services on behalf of H&FW invites proposals for Selection of "Health Card Issuing & Distribution Agency (IDA)", to supplement the cause of HIMS implementation in Delhi. Overall selection would be based on 70:30 QCBS method through open tender post EOI.

For EOI document, pre-bid meeting, eligibility criteria, pre-bid query responses, corrigendum and other details, please visit <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in/>

-Sd-

DIP/SHABDARTH/0556/20-21

Director General, DGHS

**Timings
DELHI**

TUESDAY, JAN. 19
RISE 07:15 SET 17:50
RISE 11:16 SET 23:42
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 20
RISE 07:15 SET 17:51
RISE 11:46 SET 00:00
THURSDAY, JAN. 21
RISE 07:14 SET 17:52
RISE 12:15 SET 00:34

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	20	09
Safdarjung	20	09
Palam	18	10

Delhi Palam Today
19°C A cold morning with moderate fog. A pleasant day would prevail with mainly clear sky.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
18°C Moderate cool surface wind expected. A cold morning and pleasant day with sunny sky.

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THE HINDU
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Delhi records 8-month low in new cases

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Delhi witnessed 161 new COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours - the lowest in more than eight months - taking the total number of cases to 6,32,590, according to a health bulletin released by the Delhi government on Monday. This is the lowest number of daily cases since April 30, when 76 cases were reported.

Eight more deaths were reported in the past 24 hours, taking the total number of deaths to 10,754. Also, 50,523 tests were done in a day. Of the total cases, 6,19,501 people have recovered and there are 2,335 active cases.

The positivity rate of COVID-19 cases was 0.32% on Monday and the overall positivity till now was 6.37%, as per the bulletin.

Out of the total 10,128 beds available for COVID-19 treatment in Delhi, 9,073 beds were vacant. There were 2,253 containment zones in Delhi as of Monday.

NGT directs govt. on Ridge demarcation

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Delhi government to issue notification pertaining to the demarcation of the Southern Ridge area within three months.

A Bench headed by NGT chief Justice A.K. Goel directed the government to protect the forest area by fencing and maintaining vigil. It said, "Identification of the remaining area and action for removing the encroachment be ensured. Execution of the plan will be primarily under the Chief Secretary who is also the chairman of the Ridge Management Board."

Tamil Nadu CM calls on Home Minister Amit Shah

Palaniswami invites him to inaugurate infrastructure projects

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami called on Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on Monday to invite him for the inauguration of a couple of key infrastructure projects, including the extension of Metro Rail Phase-I (Washermanpet to Wimco Nagar). On Tuesday morning, the Chief Minister will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Mr. Palaniswami, who was accompanied by Fisheries Minister D. Jayakumar, requested the Home Minister to inaugurate the 9-km stretch between the two important places of north Chennai, constructed at a cost of ₹3,770 crore, and the Indian Oil Corporation's Thoothukudi gas pipeline project (₹800 crore).

Cauvery-Gundar project
The Chief Minister pointed out that there were a few more projects, which were ready for laying of foundation stones.

Among them were the Cauvery-Gundar rivers link, costing ₹4,400 crore, the Grand Anicut extension, renovation and modernisation, at a cost of ₹2,640 crore, and the modernisation of the lower Bhavani project system at a cost of



Reaching out: Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami greeting Union Home Minister Amit Shah at his residence in New Delhi on Monday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

₹934 crore.

The total cost of the five projects was put at ₹22,544 crore, according to sources in the government.

The meeting between Mr. Palaniswami and Mr. Shah lasted around 45 minutes. The Chief Minister and the Home Minister were closeted for nearly half an hour.

This is the first meeting between the two after Mr. Shah's visit to Chennai last November. At an official event then, Mr. Palaniswami and Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam had chosen the AIADMK, being the dominant constituent of the coalition, would choose the candidate.

Sources added that the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister were expected to declare open the renovated mausoleum for former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa, on the Marina, on January 27.

Mr. Panneerselvam's declaration of Mr. Palaniswami as its Chief Ministerial candidate. The BJP, which had earlier given the impression of being the deciding authority in announcing the Chief Ministerial candidate for the alliance, relaxed its stand last week, when its national general secretary and prabhami (in-charge) for Tamil Nadu, C.T. Ravi, said the AIADMK, being the dominant constituent of the coalition, would choose the candidate.

Sources added that the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister were expected to declare open the renovated mausoleum for former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa, on the Marina, on January 27.

Speaker reiterates promise of free vaccine

'Govt. may double vaccination centres'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Delhi government is considering doubling the number of COVID-19 vaccination centres in the city and will fulfil its promise of providing free immunisation to the people of the Capital over the coming days, Delhi Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel said here on Monday.

During a visit to the Rajiv Gandhi Super Specialty Hospital in Tahirpur, Mr. Goel witnessed the ongoing inoculation drive and also interacted with healthcare workers being administered their first dose of the vaccine. "The government is considering increasing the number of



A healthcare worker readying a vaccine dose in New Delhi on Monday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

"The number of people getting vaccinated may be low now, but these will soon increase as more and more people gain confidence in its efficacy," he also said.

Vaccine for homeless

The Centre for Holistic Development (CHD) on Monday appealed to Union Health Mi-

Flowers, smiles greet students as schools reopen after 10 months

Sisodia visits schools to assess readiness, says parents' trust will build over time

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Smiles were hidden behind masks as Class 10 and 12 students returned to school after nearly 10 months on Monday. Colourful posters, floral welcomes and seeing teachers in person brightened up a cold, grey winter morning for students at government schools across the city. However, most private schools decided to take a little more time to open their doors to students again.

The students were eager to hi-five and hug their friends but were reminded constantly by temperature checks, sanitisers that things were still not back to normal.

Abhishek Patel, a Class 12 student said: "We have gotten used to online class and have managed to finish the syllabus, but there are many parts for which we still need clarification and it is necessary for us to attend school so that we get good marks in the board examinations."

Parents' consent

The government has allowed students of Classes 10 and 12 to attend school after getting written consent from their parents so that they may finish their practical course and clear doubts by interacting with their teachers in person. The CBSE Board exams



Teachers welcome senior students at Geeta Bal Bharti School in Delhi on Monday. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

are scheduled in May.

Outside schools, efforts were made to ensure that students enter from different gates to prevent overcrowding. At labs and classrooms, efforts were made to leave one-desk space between students, and children were not allowed to visit the canteen or play during break time.

Sneha Lata, a parent who had come to drop off her daughter at a government school in Lajpat Nagar, said that she was happy that schools had reopened as attending classes was important for her daughter as she had not taken to online classes easily and was having difficulty. "There is still time before the boards, she will be able to learn properly in

school and have a proper schedule.

Even the students were happy. They told me that they were bored at home and were looking forward to getting back to their schools," Mr. Sisodia said after interacting with students.

Deputy Chief Minister and Education Minister Manish Sisodia visited two schools – SKV Chirag Enclave and DPS Mathura Road – to assess schools' readiness. "It is only after careful consideration that we've reopened the schools for Class 10 and 12 students. Since the CBSE has announced the dates for board exams in May, it would've been unfair for the students to directly sit for the examinations without any counselling or pre-board classes," Mr. Sisodia said.

He added that the Delhi government has reopened schools so that children can be better prepared to take their exams, especially after such a long disruption in their schooling.

"Though this will not make up for the loss of almost a year, we wanted to do everything from our end," the Minister said.

Registered for exams

Over three lakh students have registered from Delhi to take the CBSE Class 10 board examination while 2.5 lakh students will be taking the Class 12 exam.

"Even the students were happy. They told me that they were bored at home and were looking forward to getting back to their schools," Mr. Sisodia said after interacting with students.

Addressing the concerns of parents about reopening schools before children had been vaccinated, he said that though the parents have offered mixed reactions, and are a little nervous, it was only natural for the parents to feel so.

"Their confidence will build over time which will lead to more students coming to schools", he added.

The government did not share any figures on attendance at its schools.

Teachers not to be assigned administrative, field duties

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

vind Kejriwal-led government and on the other hand they are indulging in corruption with the money of their own employees," he added.

Mr. Bharadwaj said that as per the insurance scheme, retired employees would pay some money to the corporation, and the municipal body in turn would ensure free treatment for them at any hospital in Delhi.

"This shameful act by the

BJP

has created havoc

among the 34,000

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," said Mr. Bharadwaj.

"The Delhi High Court Bench came down heavily on the civic bodies regarding this matter and observed that this was 'cheating' and a 'criminal breach of trust' by the BJP-led municipal corporations," said the senior Aam Aadmi Party leader.

"It has been brought to my notice that about 20,000-25,000 teachers are currently posted with district authorities for COVID-19-related duties. Considering the importance of education and the present status of the virus situation in Delhi, district authorities are to substantially scale down the present level of deployment and direct the teachers to report back to schools for their regular duties," he said.

Services rendered

Teachers have been at the forefront of virus-related duties ever since the first lockdown in March last year. They have rendered their services whenever the district administration asked them to do so such as door-to-door survey, enforcement of COVID-19 protocol, screening at airport, and many of them have also been engaged in activities related to vaccination trials. For non-COVID-19-related duties, Mr. Sisodia said that prior permission of the Education Minister will be mandatory before assigning any teacher.

Delhi sees 30% dip in street crime

Police received 523 calls as against 604 this time last year

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

ing the period from January 1, 2021 to January 15, 2021 - 523 calls related to robbery were reported to the PCR as against 604 in the corresponding period of last year (from January 1 to January 15). This resulted in a decline of 13.42% in incidents of robbery, it said.

There has been a sharp decline of 29.72% in PCR calls regarding robbery, snatching and motor vehicle theft till mid-January this year as compared to the corresponding period, 2020, said Eish Singh, Delhi Commissioner of Police (New Delhi).

Similarly, 945 incidents of snatching have been reported to PCR this year during January 1 to January 15

as against 1,621 in the corresponding period of the year 2020, he said.

The data shows a decline of 41.70% in incidents of snatching in the first 15 days of the month as compared to the corresponding period last year.

In cases of motor vehicle thefts, 1,463 calls have been received by the PCR this year during the first 15 days of the month as compared to 1,945 in the corresponding period of 2020, the data also cited.

There has been a decline of 24.78% in cases of motor vehicle thefts in the first half of January this year as compared to the corresponding period last year, as per the data.

HC asks medical team to submit report on siblings with muscular dystrophy

January 28.

The High Court's order came on a plea by Rojalini Parida (29) and Rakesh Kumar Parida (26) who are suffering from progressively worsening life-threatening disease called muscular dystrophy. The petition filed through advocate Ashok Aggarwal sought direction to make sure the siblings have free access to gene therapy or any other new treatments once it is made available.

The duo said that as of now they are not able to do any task by themselves and they are in need of other persons help for all their work. The plea said they are

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Sahjada, S/o Mursaleem @ Sanno Pehlwan, R/o H.No. B-1, New Seelampur, Delhi, has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 209/20 U/S 498A/304B/34 IPC, P.S. Seelampur, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Sahjada cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Sahjada has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Sahjada of FIR No. 209/20 U/S 498A/304B/34 IPC, P.S. Seelampur, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 19.02.2021.

By Order

Ms. Richa Parihar,
Metropolitan Magistrate,
Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

DP/513/NE/2021(Court Matter)

Date :- 12.01.2021

NIB No. - 23/2020-21

Bids for 1. Work of disposal of effluent of community septic tank, Kotputli 2. Operation and maintenance of street light at I.G. Nagar, Sector-1 to 14 Jagatpura, Jaipur are invited from interested bidders from 22.01.2021 to 01.02.2021 upto 6:00 PM. Other particular of bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://spptt.raj.nic.in>) of the state & <http://urban.rajasthan.gov.in/rhb> department website.

UBN : RHB2021WSOB0290, RHB2021WSOB0292

Addl. Chief Engineer-I, Jaipur

Samwad/C/8909/2020-21

Date :- 12.01.2021

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

In compliance of orders dated 09.09.2010 passed in C.W.P. No. 8604 of 2007 titled as 'Surendra Kumar Mishra and Others Versus State of Haryana and Others' subsequently upheld by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The Higher Education Department is in the process to implement the Hon'ble Court directions in true spirit, but for want of complete service record of the eligible candidates the same could not be finalized since the matter is very old and number of the claimant has already been retired from the service.

Through this public notice all the candidates whose claim regarding benefits of adhoc service towards seniority is involved in the above matter are requested to assist the department to settle the above claim by providing the relevant record of the service which is available with you within 10 days from the publication of this notice to this office, on the e-mail address i.e. hechrycollege5@gmail.com. Since efforts are being made by the department to implement the above order and to avoid unnecessary harassment to the eligible candidates. Thus, co-operation of the eligible candidates whose right is involved in this matter is awaited. It is necessary to mention here, the claim of the candidate will be settled in light of the final gradation/seniority list dated 26.11.2020 as stood on 01.09.1997 of lecturers now designated as Assistant/Associate Professors (College Cadre), which was published on 26.11.2020 and is available on <https://www.higherduhry.com>.

(GULZAR AHMED)

Joint Director Administration,
Higher Education Department,
PRDH 1031/11/3/2021/1451/199/7
Haryana, Panchkula

QUOTATION NOTICE

Dated: 30/12/2020

Department	Medical Education
Name of Office	Govt. Dental College, Kozhikode, Kerala
Item Name	Purchase of Dental Books for library
Last Date of receipt of quotation	01/02/2021 4 PM

Date of opening of quotation form

02/02/2021 11 AM

For more details contact - 0495 235056

For PRINCIPAL
94/F/2021/I&PRD DENTAL COLLEGE, KOZHIKODE, Kerala

SEARCH FOR MISSING


Rinky
General public is hereby informed that a female namely Rinky, (along with her daughter namely Sona, Age 04 Years) W/o: Ramesh, R/o: Village Sannoth, Delhi has been reported missing since 02.03.2020 at 06:00 PM from the above address. In this regard DD No. 50-A, dated 02.03.2020 has been registered at P.S. Narela Industrial Area, Delhi. The description of missing female and her daughter is as under:

Name: Rinky, Age: 22 Years, Height: 5'1", Face: Round, Complexion: Shallow, Built: Medium, Wearing: Unknown Cloths, Mental Condition: Normal.

Name: Sona, Age: 4 Years, Height: 2'6", Face: Round, Complexion: Fair.

If anyone have any information about this missing female and her daughter please inform P.S. Narela Industrial Area, Delhi

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in

Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 SHO

Police Station Narela Industrial Area, Delhi

DP/698/ON/2020 Ph: 011-27787502, 7065036324

Online Tender GOVT. OF GUJARAT (R&B) DEPARTMENT Tender Notice No.11 of 2020-21

In the name and on behalf of Governor of Gujarat State the Executive Engineer, City (R&B) Division, Near Raopura Police Station, Vadodara (0265-2439100) invites online tenders for Resurfacing of road works from the contractors registered in Sp. Cat-II (Road) with "A" class and above. Estimated cost upto Rs.670.00 lakh. Last date of online submission for the work is Dt.15/02/2021 18:00 hrs. Tenders available on Website <https://rnb.nprocure.com>. Tender notice also available on Information Department's website www.statetenders.com. The corrigendum will be made online only.

(INF-VAD-1141- 2020-21)

Online Tender GOVT. OF GUJARAT (R&B) DEPARTMENT Tender Notice No.08 of 2020-21

In the name and on behalf of Governor of Gujarat State the Executive Engineer, Chhotaudepur (R&B) Division, Chhotaudepur (Phone No: 02669-233862) invites online tender from registered contractors for 08 works of Road (Esti. cost of Rs.560.00 Lakh to Rs.1713 lakhs) in from B-1

The Bid documents will be available for the above works up to 04/02/2021 up to 12:00 Hrs. on Website <https://rnb.nprocure.com>.

Last date of Online Submission of bid are as above up to 04/02/2021 up to 18:00 hrs.

For further particulars please visit above website and website of Gujarat Govt. www.statetenders.com or contact this office during office hours. Any Changes/modifications will be seen online.

(INF-VAD-1140- 2020-21)

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

FIRST ANNIVERSARY



Our Beloved Amma,
Smt. PUSHPA HARIDASS

D.O.B: 19.01.2020

W/o: Late Shri S.Haridas

Remembering every moment

in silent grief dearly missed

and cherised by

Sons, Daughter,

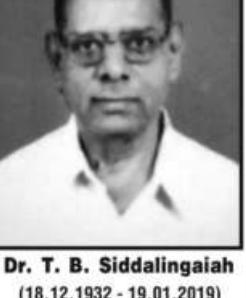
Son in law, Daughter in law,

and loving Grand Children

984093940 / 9948399999 / 9246580603

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

SECOND DEATH ANNIVERSARY



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DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

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Rajasthan night curfew lifted after drop in cases

Stick to health protocols, says CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

JAIPUR

The Rajasthan government on Monday announced lifting of night curfew in 13 districts and other relaxations in a phased manner following a decline in the number of COVID-19 cases.

After presiding over a review meeting, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said that it would be necessary to adhere to the health protocols, failing which the number of infected persons might increase. "No situation should arise where we are compelled to take harsh measures again," Mr. Gehlot tweeted.

The curfew, between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., was imposed in eight districts on November 21, 2020. Jaipur, the capital, was the last city to impose the curfew.

Jodhpur, Kota, Bikaner, Udaipur, Ajmer, Alwar and Bhilwara districts were initially under the curfew, which later got extended to Nagaur, Pali, Tonk, Sikar and Sriganganagar.

The number of COVID-19 cases, which had crossed 3,000 per day in November, has now registered a significant decrease. According to Rajasthan health department figures, the number of new cases in the State on Monday was 213.

Traders' organisations had demanded the lifting of night curfew because of its adverse impact on business in the 13 districts. All shops, restaurants and business establishments, except those of chemists, were being closed by 7:00 p.m. every day.

Haryana seeks ₹5,000-crore special aid

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI
Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal demanded a special assistance of ₹5,000 crore for the State in a pre-budget consultation meeting here on Monday.

Taking part in the meeting, convened by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Mr. Lal demanded the special financial assistance for development of Haryana in addition to the regular financial allocation.

The demand for special package includes ₹1,000 crore for creation of capital infrastructure under micro irrigation and ponds rejuvenation and ₹1,000 for NCR area development, besides ₹3,000 crore for COVID-19 management, creation of health and medical infrastructure and for rural development.

Vaccination drive receives good response in Odisha

STAFF REPORTER

Bhubaneswar
A day after the Odisha government resumed the COVID-19 vaccination, 95% of the registered frontline health workers turned up to receive the jab on Monday.

"Of the listed beneficiaries, 30,161 healthcare workers – 95% – have been vaccinated," said Pradip Mohapatra, Additional Chief Secretary (Health) here.

"On Tuesday, we are going to receive 3,34,500 doses of Covishield, which will cover all health care beneficiaries," said Mr. Mohapatra.

The State government launched the much-anticipated drive through 161 sessions in which 13,980 healthcare workers were vaccinated registering 85% achievement on Saturday.

On the second day, 380 sessions were planned and 31,902 beneficiaries were targeted. Covaxin was used at 39 sites.

More session sites

To double the number of sessions, it was planned to have five in the medical colleges and big private hospitals and one to two in the district headquarters hospital, sub-divisional hospital and community health centres. All categories of staffs were planned to be included in them.

As per the Health and Family Welfare department sources, one minor adverse event following immunisation was reported on Monday.

The State government has started enlisting the frontline workers under the revenue department and all districts were instructed to complete the registration process by January 25.

EDUCATIONAL

ECONOMICS OPTIONAL

by Ravindra N. Jha



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

Forecast for Tuesday: Cold wave conditions likely in isolated pockets over Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. Dense/very dense fog likely in isolated pockets over Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Bihar and Odisha. Cold day conditions likely in isolated pockets over Haryana, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh

CITY RAIN MAX MIN CITY RAIN MAX MIN

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	24.4	11.5	Kozhikode	—	33.6	24.0
Ahmedabad	—	31.1	14.3	Kurnool	—	31.1	19.1
Aizawl	—	21.0	—	Lucknow	—	21.3	7.2
Allahabad	—	19.2	8.3	Madurai	—	30.0	22.4
Bengaluru	—	28.8	15.5	Mangaluru	—	34.7	23.5
Bhopal	—	30.5	15.3	Mumbai	—	31.6	20.2
Bhubaneswar	—	25.7	16.0	Myanmar	—	30.6	18.0
Chandigarh	—	22.9	9.5	New Delhi	—	19.6	9.0
Chennai	—	30.3	20.6	Patna	—	15.2	7.4
Coimbatore	—	29.0	18.7	Pond Blair	0.1	31.0	25.8
Dehradun	—	23.1	6.9	Puducherry	—	29.7	19.3
Gangtok	—	14.7	7.7	Pune	—	32.7	20.2
Goa	—	32.9	23.5	Raipur	—	30.9	14.0
Guwahati	—	24.8	12.9	Ranchi	—	25.7	9.1
Hubbballi	—	31.0	19.0	Shillong	—	18.1	7.1
Hyderabad	—	29.2	19.4	Shimla	—	15.5	4.1
Imphal	—	24.4	7.4	Srinagar	—	9.6	7.3
Jaipur	—	22.6	10.4	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.2	22.6
Kochi	—	32.2	24.0	Tiruchi	—	30.2	18.8
Kohima	—	16.4	4.5	Vijayawada	—	29.6	21.0
Kolkatta	—	24.1	12.7	Visakhapatnam	—	29.0	22.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m. Rohtak, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 409 indicating a very unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 33.

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

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

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

Cong., NCP demand JPC probe into chats between Arnab, ex-BARC CEO

It's shocking how issues related to national security have been used to gain TRP'

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

The Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) have demanded that the joint parliamentary committee on defence take cognisance of the chats between Republic TV editor-in-chief Arnab Goswami and former BARC CEO Partha Dasgupta, and probe their origin.

"The Mumbai Police have exposed the chats between Mr. Goswami and Mr. Dasgupta. It is extremely shocking and disturbing to know how issues related to national security have been used to gain TRP. The question also arises how Mr. Goswami was privy to such sensitive information. The Ministry of Home Affairs has to identify the source and immediately take action," NCP chief spokesperson Mahesh Tapase said.



Arnab Goswami

We are going to take a thorough look into these chats. Some highly sensitive topics such as Balakot airstrike and Pulwama attack are mentioned in these chats

ANIL DESHMUKH
Maharashtra Home Minister

Mr. Chavan said. Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh on Monday said the chats between Mr. Goswami and Mr. Dasgupta were now no longer limited to the TRP scam, but raised serious questions about national security.

"We are going to take a thorough look into these chats. Some highly sensitive topics such as Balakot airstrike and Pulwama attack are mentioned in these chats. We are looking at how Mr. Goswami got access to such sensitive information," said Mr. Deshmukh, adding that a meeting of senior officials had been called on Tuesday to decide on the future course of action.

Senior Congress leader and former Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan said the voluminous transcript of Mr. Goswami's chats released by the Mumbai Police was deeply disturbing.

"Who gave access to such sensitive information from national security to constitutional amendments and political appointments? The government of India must begin a thorough probe. Also the parliamentary standing committee on defence must take this matter with utmost priority,"

Ward boy dies a day after vaccination

He died of a cardiopulmonary disease, say U.P. officials

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

A 52-year-old ward boy of a district hospital in Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh, died on Sunday a day after receiving COVID-19 vaccine.

On Monday, officials said he died of a cardiopulmonary disease.

A report was released based on the autopsy.

Mahipal Singh was given the first dose of Covishield at 1 p.m. on January 16,

Chief Medical Officer, Moradabad, M.C Garg, said. On Sunday, he complained of chest pain and breathlessness and when he was taken to the hospital, he was declared brought dead, he CMO added.

"As per the guidelines, after the vaccination, he was kept in an observation room for 30 minutes, during which time he did not face any complaints," he said in a statement.

On January 16, 91 persons were given Covishield in the district men's hospital Moradabad and all of them were fully healthy, he added.

Mahipal Singh's son Vishal told reporters that he believed his father died due to the side effects of the vaccine. After the vaccination, he took his father home around 1.30 p.m.

"He already had a bit of pneumonia, cough and cold, but after returning home [following the shot], he started feeling worse. We gave him some warm water and tea and made him lie on the bed," Mr. Vishal said.

Night duty
The CMO said late on Saturday that the death "doesn't appear to be a reaction" of the vaccine. Mahipal had also done night duty and did not face any problem.

On Sunday, the government released a report based on the autopsy. It said Mahipal died of cardiogenic and septicaemic shock due to a cardiopulmonary disease.

A panel of three doctors found that his heart weighed 500 gm as against the normal range of 200 gm. The chambers and aorta of the organ were found with blood clots. They also found pus pockets in the lungs. The lungs, heart and blood were secured for further examination, said the CMO in his report.

Maharashtra among 3 States with highest deaths in road accidents

Road safety drive should be conducted on a regular basis: CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI
With 11,452 deaths in 2020, Maharashtra figured among the top three States that had reported the highest number of deaths in road accidents in the country, State Transport Minister Anil Parab said on Monday.

Expressing concern, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said these figures were serious, as he launched the 32nd Road Safety Week 2021.

"In 2020, Maharashtra witnessed 25,456 road accidents and 11,452 road fatalities. Maharashtra is one of the three States that have reported the highest number of deaths in road accidents," Mr. Parab said at the function.

Mr. Thackeray said ideally, Maharashtra should not figure in the list of the States which had reported deaths in road accidents.

"These figures are serious. Rather than being in top ranks, Maharashtra should not ideally figure in the list of States with road accident fatalities," he said.

The Chief Minister said a road safety drive should not be limited to period of a week, fortnight, month or a year, but it should be conducted on a regular basis.

"Booster doses of road safety rules should be given at regular intervals," he said.

Mr. Thackeray further appealed to motorists to follow the "Niyam" (rules) and maintain "Sanyam" (restraint) to keep "Yam" (god of death) away.

"I have heard about a new technology which alerts drivers if they fall asleep while driving due to fatigue. I would like to examine such vehicle, if available," the CM said.

Mr. Thackeray said it was important to provide facilities to the public instead of only creating awareness.

Mr. Parab said 50 high quality driver training centres would be opened in Maharashtra through the schemes funded by the Union government.

Mr. Parab said getting a driving licence would not be easy once these centres became operational.

"Every driver will undergo a test at an automatic

centre. Human interference will be less and a driver will get their licence only after going through quality training," Mr. Parab said, adding that a meeting was scheduled in Delhi about setting up such training centres.

The Transport Minister said the road safety drive should be held annually and not on a weekly or a monthly basis. "Every citizen should be part of this drive," he added. Mr. Parab said his department had sought new interceptor vehicles fitted with advanced gadgets like speed guns.

Mumbai Guardian Minister Aslam Shaikh said lane-cutting was one of the major causes of road accidents.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER WATER WAYS DIVISION, RANCHI WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, JHARKHAND

e-Procurement Notice (SBD)

e-Tender Reference No.: WRD/WWD, RANCHI/10/2020-21 date-12.01.2021

1. Name of Work	Special Repair of Dam & Civil work of different component of Getalsud Reservoir Scheme, Dist.-Ranchi.
2. Estimated Cost	Rs. 6,84,77,582.00
3. Cost of Bid	Rs. 10,00,000.00 (Ten thousand only) Non-Refundable
4. Earnest Money	Rs. 6,84,800.00
5. Time of Completion	1 (One) Year
6. Date and Time of Publication of Tender on website	Date- 19.01.2021, Time 5:00 PM
7. Bid Submission Period	From 19.01.2021 to 08.02.2021 upto 5:00PM
8. Last Date and Time of Submission of Hard copy of Bid cost and EMD	Date 09.02.2021 Time- up to 03:00 PM
9. Date of opening (Technical Bid)	Date 10.02.2021 Time 11:00 AM.
10. Date of opening (Financial Bid)	To be announced latter
11. Place of opening of Bids	e-Procurement cell, Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department, Jal Bhawan, Doranda, Ranchi.
12. Name and address of office inviting e-tender	Executive Engineer, Water Ways Division, Ranchi Mobile No. 7004365660
13. Help Line No of e-Procurement cell	0651-2481716

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2. Further - Details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>

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Chief Executive Officer
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Whatever it takes

The government must do all within its powers to combat vaccine hesitancy

Faith in entities is often an act of personal commitment not amenable to falsification, but trust in a scientific process can be established with confidence-building measures and full disclosure of all relevant data. Any mass campaign that involves voluntary effort on the part of the public can succeed only when transparency and open communication channels are the tools of choice. If the poor rate of uptake of the COVID-19 vaccine in most of the States in the country is any indication, the government has not taken the people of the country along, in what is a purely voluntary exercise, but one vested with great power to retard the pace of the epidemic. For instance, Tamil Nadu, a State perceived to be largely health literate, and relatively well-equipped with health infrastructure, achieved only over 16% of its targeted coverage on the launch day. On the second day of vaccination, the compliance further dropped; in some States, vaccination was suspended. A marked favouring of the Covishield vaccine over Covaxin was also noticed in multiple States.

But none of this is a surprise. The signs, verily, were out there for everyone to see, for a long time indeed. Studies measured high levels of vaccine hesitancy among the general population, and among health-care workers, the first in the line list of people to receive free vaccination. Clearly, vaccine hesitancy was not addressed sufficiently, or not taken seriously enough. With the sequence of events that followed the clearance of Emergency Use Authorisation (in Covaxin, it is emergency use authorisation in 'clinical trial mode') – a high-handed announcement with little attempt to put out compelling evidence in the public domain, or answer multiple queries in press conferences – vaccine hesitancy merely dug its heels in deeper. The inability of the government and agencies involved to amicably resolve controversies surrounding the clearance for Covaxin, even before it was able to produce interim data on efficacy from phase-3 trials, has had a direct consequence, as witnessed by poor numbers in its uptake so far. A vaccine, unequivocally, is public good, but the lack of transparency surrounding the roll-out of the COVID vaccines has done little to enhance trust in this experiential principle. This uncommon haste in trying to lunge towards the tape while still some distance from the finish line might have been justified if the state had taken the people along. Vaccinating the nation, however, is less a race than a slow and steady process. Building confidence in the process is crucial to achieving the task at hand. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's oft-repeated mantra, 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas', is very relevant here. And the Health Ministry must do whatever it takes to make a success of the vaccination drive.

Poison and prison

Navalny is growing as an oppositional figure in Russia as Putin unleashes state power on him

Russian authorities have repeatedly tried to play down the political importance of Alexei Navalny, the opposition politician who was poisoned in Siberia five months ago, saying he is unpopular. President Vladimir Putin, while answering questions from reporters in December on the poison attack, said, 'who needs him anyway'. But the arrest of the 44-year-old Kremlin critic upon his return to Moscow on Sunday – he left the country in a coma from the near-fatal chemical attack – only belies such claims. The authorities diverted his plane to a different airport on the outskirts and detained him before he could get past the passport control, while riot police were deployed to stop his supporters from entering the arrival zone of another airport. Russian authorities had warned that he would be arrested if he returned from Germany, where he was recovering from the poison attack, as he had been wanted since late December for violations of his suspended sentence from an embezzlement case. But Mr. Navalny, who has accused Mr. Putin of ordering the poison attack, still chose to travel to Russia, in an open defiance of Mr. Putin's power, and courted arrest. On Monday, a judge remanded him in custody for 30 days.

In Mr. Navalny, Mr. Putin has found his strongest political opponent in his two-decade-long rule. Once known for his extreme nationalist and anti-immigrant views, Mr. Navalny has turned himself into the embodiment of the anti-Kremlin politics in Russia, which remains tightly controlled by Mr. Putin. And it is no secret that the Kremlin has tried its best to suppress his political movement. He has been detained several times and criminal cases launched against him. He was barred from contesting the 2018 Presidential election. And in August, he collapsed while on a domestic flight from Siberia. German doctors who treated him later confirmed that he was poisoned with a Novichok nerve agent. Western media investigations had implicated Russian agents, an allegation the government has denied. Even if Russian agents were not involved, Mr. Putin cannot escape questions about his most prominent political opponent being poisoned within Russia. His government has the responsibility to investigate what happened in Siberia and bring the perpetrators to justice. That is what any government that believes in the rule of law should be doing. But instead of finding and punishing those who attacked him, Mr. Putin's government, like any dictatorial regime, is going after the victim. It is ironic that Mr. Putin, who recently got the Constitution amended so that he could stay in power beyond two consecutive terms, is still perturbed by the presence of a leader who he says nobody wants. If the long years of attempts to suppress Mr. Navalny's political activism have achieved anything, it is that he is now a stronger opposition figure with international standing.

Being tethered to bars during a pandemic

In India, COVID-19 must lead to an immediate review of the vulnerability of those in jail and the issue of decongestion



GOPALKRISHNA GANDHI

A distance of two yards – *do ghaz ki duri* – we are enjoined to maintain between oneself and anyone else. The 'pandemic' message is relayed on recorded caller messages in all our official languages.

But there is a category of persons by which the injunction cannot be observed – prisoners. By the very nature of their situation, the physical limits of their confinement, they are obliged to stay in poorly ventilated and over-crowded cells. Being holed up in that condition almost seems to form part of the punishment. A jail and a dungeon are almost interchangeable terms.

Data from the U.S., the U.K.
Criminal justice has 'activists' in the United States observing with a sharp eye, prison conditions. We do not. At least not in the same numbers or with the same capacity to influence policy. Writing in *Diplomatic Courier* on December 29, 2020 (<https://bit.ly/2M41HfT>), Carolyn Nash reported that in March 27, last year, a letter signed by over 40 public health experts called federal prisons and immigration detention centers "breeding grounds for uncontrolled transmission" of the virus. By September, 44 of 50 COVID-19 clusters were found to be located in prisons. In Texas, the virus had, by then, killed more than 230 people in jails and prisons, 80% of whom had not been convicted of a crime. By November, the number of cases in Michigan prisons more than doubled in two weeks. A Minnesota organiser called his state's soaring rate of prison infections "a human rights disaster", she says.

England and Wales have 121 pri-

sons housing about 79,000 prisoners. As the novel coronavirus grew alarmingly in Britain, a mass testing programme commenced for all prisoners in 28 of these prisons in July, starting with symptomatic prisoners. The United Kingdom Ministry of Justice figures (*The Guardian*, November, 2020; <https://bit.ly/39Itmg5>) showed that prisoners testing positive in September stood at 883 (By October the number rose to 1,529, with five deaths. This rise was doubtless computed on account of increased testing).

The Indian situation
Do we have such statistics for India?

They do exist, surely but not in handy, ready form in the public domain.

But the tragedy in human terms is that such statistics are not being demanded of our criminal justice system. In the United States and in the U.K., pandemic control in prisons is being driven by enlightened public opinion. Not so in India. When we hail an 'unlocking', we are not thinking of our lock-ups. This is not surprising in a society such as ours which seems to have concluded, prematurely, that the novel coronavirus is behind us, which is not the case. But more pertinently, this is not surprising in a society that has a poor tradition of human rights activism.

It takes a prominent prisoner such as the writer, Varavara Rao, or the Khudai Khidmatgar Faisal Khan going down with the virus for the enormity of the disease combining with imprisonment to dawn on us. That our 1,400 or so prisons, 'housing' over 4.5 lakh prisoners are breeding grounds for the virus does not occupy our thoughts, even our virus-related thoughts.

But how about the Indian state?

The Prisons Act of 1894 (<https://bit.ly/39G9473>) makes prisons the exclusive responsibility of State governments. Over the years the condition of prison life has moved



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up on the human civility and dignity scale, with the venues now being called correctional homes and over 60 'minimum security' open prisons having been set up.

Of the 4.5 lakh prisoners that our correctional homes hold, according to the National Crime Records Bureau's report for 2019 (<https://bit.ly/3qlbl8T>), about 3.3 lakh are 'under-trial prisoners', against whom investigation or trial is supposed to be 'in progress'. These 3.3 lakh 'under-trial prisoners' have been detained under Section 167 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) which provides for "Procedure when investigation cannot be completed in 24 hours". The original CrPC of 1898 specified the period of detention as 15 days. This has, by amendments, been extended to periods that can go up to 90 days and, in some exceptional situations, even indefinitely.

Violation of rights

Surendra Nath, a former Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Justice, Government of India and member of the Constitutional Conduct Group, has pointed out : "...(O)ut of 3.3 lakh, about 2.2 lakh are either not likely to be even charge-sheeted, or they are likely to be acquitted."

B.D. Sharma, a former Head of Correctional Services in West Bengal, who has done amazing work in giving that nomenclature true meaning, describes their condition thus: "This huge violation of the basic human rights of UTPs in

such large numbers is made further unbearable by overcrowding, poor living conditions, inadequate healthcare facilities and torture by other rowdy prisoners (which often occurs with the connivance of jail staff) in our prisons." And he highlights the huge injustice caused to the families of the 'under-trial prisoners' 'languishing in prisons for long years particularly their children who are denied a normal childhood, proper education, and are exploited by cruel sections of the society in various ways especially the girl children and many of whom are forced to take to the path of crime'.

Double punishment

So, while the plight – to use a cliché – of all prisoners is by definition bad, in terms of exposure to disease, it is 10 times worse for 'under-trial prisoners', for the majority of them are and are likely to be found to be innocent. Theirs is a case of innocence in jail and in jeopardy – the jeopardy of a potentially fatal infection contracted while in detention.

Is this acceptable in a country which boasts of a Constitution, in the Preamble to which we give unto ourselves, before anything else – Justice?

The virus gives cause for an immediate review of all prisoners' vulnerability to the epidemic, starting with that of 'under-trial prisoners' who are suffering two privations – one, being immobilised, most probably unjustly, and two, being tethered to the risk of infection.

This review has to comprise 100% and repeated testing procedures in all prisons, especially sub-jails, which form the biggest category among them and the least 'equipped' and an arrangement for the isolating and hospitalisation of those testing positive. No prisoner who has tested positive can be allowed to remain within the crowded confines of that venue without transmitting the disease to a progressively rising con-

centric circle of inmates.

But above all, the population of prisons has to be vigorously bought down.

A case for prison reform

Through a salutary amendment, the Code Of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2005, a much-needed Section 436-A has been introduced in the CrPC. Excluding offences for which capital punishment is envisaged, it provides for an under-trial to be released on a personal bond, with or without sureties if the period spent in detention by the under-trial has been for more than half the maximum period of imprisonment prescribed for that offence. (The public prosecutor can move the court to deviate from this.)

The 2005 amendment had two aims : one, de-congestion and two, fairness. Today, in our COVID-19 times, if congestion is *per se* held to be dangerous, de-congestion in prisons through a prescribed legal procedure becomes not just a desirability but a duty. And I urge the immediate and massive activation of Section 436-A without sureties so as to benefit all under-trials eligible for it.

It is not just desirable but axiomatic that the 2005 amendment to the CrPC be activated on a nationwide and urgent basis as a penological imperative, a state duty and a human right. And while their release is being actuated, it also follows that even as anyone in a state hospital may rightly expect to be vaccinated on a priority against the virus, so should inmates of the 'Hospitals of Correction'.

While 'Prisons' is in the 'State List', as is 'Public Health', the Constitutional responsibility of handling infectious and contagious diseases figures in the Concurrent List. It is the Centre that must show the States its concern in this and lead from the front.

Gopalkrishna Gandhi is a former administrator, diplomat and governor

Mining in India equals selling the family gold

Treating mineral sale proceeds as revenue or income hides the real transaction – the sale of inherited wealth



RAHUL BASU

The principle that the economy must be "sustainable" – we cannot compromise the ability of future generations to meet their needs – is beyond question. Climate change and high levels of consumption already threaten to rob future generations of a planet that is liveable. The principle of Intergenerational Equity would make it imperative for us to ensure future generations inherit at least as much as we did.

If we are successful in abiding by intergenerational equity, our children will be at least as well off as we are. If we leave a bequest as well, they will be better off than us. To consume what we have inherited without a thought for generations to come will leave the whole world poorer; like an addict selling the family gold.

How it is unsustainable

India's National Mineral Policy 2019 states: "natural resources, including minerals, are a shared inheritance where the state is the trustee on behalf of the people to ensure that future generations receive the benefit of inheritance." (<https://bit.ly/2Xy5wyd>). The primary objective of a trustee/manager is to maintain the corpus of the trust, the shared inheritance of natural resources.

The extraction of oil, gas and

minerals is effectively the sale of this inheritance, with royalties and other proceeds being the consideration paid in exchange for the mineral wealth extracted. Unfortunately, governments everywhere treat the mineral sale proceeds as revenue or income, a crucial error which hides the real transaction – a sale of inherited wealth.

This results in governments selling minerals at prices significantly lower than what they are worth, driven by lobbying, political donations and corruption. For example, it is estimated from the annual reports of Vedanta that over eight years (2004-2012), the State of Goa lost more than 95% of the value of its minerals (<https://bit.ly/39tFKQZ>) – after extraction costs and a reasonable profit for the extractor. Any loss is effectively a hidden per-head tax which makes a few extractors and their cronies super rich. Inequality grows sharply. This is the economics of loot.

Worse still, the trifles received by the government are treated as "revenue" and happily spent, leaving neither the minerals nor their value for future generations to inherit. This is just not sustainable.

Losses, error in accounting

There is growing empirical evidence of large losses in mining from around the world (<https://bit.ly/2LjmDRV>).

There is also growing evidence from the International Monetary Fund that many governments of resource-rich nations, including the United Kingdom and Norway, face declining public sector net worth, i.e., their governments are



GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO

becoming poorer (<https://bit.ly/3i81c2I>). Both indicate unsustainable mining.

Losses in mineral value drive many of the other problems with mining. In effect, the people and future generations of Goa have sold mineral wealth worth ₹100 for ₹5, a loss of ₹95. Naturally the extractors are keen to extract as quickly as possible and move on. Trees, tigers and tribals are labelled as anti-development or anti-national.

If ₹5 is received for allowing mining, doubling mining would result in ₹10. Politicians and voters perceive more mining equals more government revenue equals good. Further, since extraction is not recognised as the sale of inherited wealth, the true loss of ₹95 is hidden. More mining would make a bad situation significantly worse.

It is important to understand that as long as the Government Accounting Standards Advisory Board does not correct this error in the standards for public sector accounting and reporting for mineral wealth, politicians and voters will advocate increasing extraction. This will lead to every bit of mineral being extracted if there are no moral or legal safeguards

against such wanton loot. It is essential that as a nation we change our paradigm (<https://bit.ly/2LIEJNd>) to understand minerals as a "shared inheritance", not a source of "windfall revenue".

How to manage it

Since minerals are a shared inheritance held in trust for the people and future generations, our foremost duty is to maintain the value of our children's inheritance by avoiding theft, loss, waste or consumption. Leaving the minerals undisturbed fulfils our duty.

Therefore, if we extract and sell our mineral wealth, the explicit objective must be to achieve zero loss in value; the state as trustee must capture the full economic rent (sale price minus cost of extraction, cost including reasonable profit for extractor). Any loss is a loss to all of us and our future generations, and makes some rich; that is patently unfair. India's National Mineral Policy 2019 says: "State Governments will endeavour to ensure that the full value of the extracted minerals is received by the State."

Like Norway, the entire mineral sale proceeds must be saved in a Future Generations Fund. The Future Generations Fund could be passively invested through the National Pension Scheme framework.

Setting a global judicial precedent, in 2014 the Supreme Court ordered the creation of a Goa Iron Ore Permanent Fund, which already has a corpus of around ₹500 crore – *Goa Foundation vs UOI & Ors.*, WP (civil) 435 of 2012, judg-

ment on April 21, 2014 (<https://bit.ly/2Kts4gA>).

The real income of a fund of this nature may be distributed only as a citizens' dividend, equally to all as owners. Future generations would benefit from the dividend in their turn.

On fair mining

For the Indian economy this is sustainable – capital has been maintained; the savings rate would rise, making available more long-term domestic capital; it diversifies risk while likely improving returns – it is nearly impossible to outperform the market rate of return; the dividend is in effect a Universal Basic Income; lower inequality leads to higher economic performance, and as budgets no longer have easy mining money, public investment, and tax administration will become more effective and efficient. This is a six-fold economic boost.

These principles of fair mining are fully constitutional, promoting justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity. They are moral, ethical, fair, right and sustainable. The reduction in losses would limit corruption, crony capitalism and growing inequality. They fulfil our duties to our future generations. Let us be the generation that changes the course of history for the better, not the one that consumed the planet.

Rahul Basu is the Research Director at the Goa Foundation and a member of 'The Future We Need', a global movement to make intergenerational equity foundational for civilisation beginning with minerals

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.

To read more letters online, scan the QR code



- Short of the target**
It is not very encouraging news that States have fallen short of the inoculation target (Page 1, January 18). Perhaps, the non-availability of efficacy data for Covaxin appears to have played a role in increasing vaccine hesitancy even among frontline health-care workers. If this continues to be the state of affairs, then the hesitancy levels for ordinary citizens are bound to be much higher. There needs to be clarity on this issue too. It is not clear whether those who refuse to get vaccinated with Covaxin will be given a chance to get a shot of

How co-morbidities make COVID severe

Physicians are confronted with a complex problem that involves multiple organ systems



T. JACOB JOHN & M.S. SESHDRI

Medical students are taught to classify diseases as either congenital or acquired. Acquired diseases are infectious or inflammatory, nutritional or metabolic, vascular or neoplastic (tumours, benign or malignant). COVID-19 is acquired, infectious/inflammatory. The microbe is SARS-CoV-2.

What are co-morbidities and why do they make COVID-19 severe and life-threatening? Chronic nutritional/metabolic diseases start as diabetes, hypertension, metabolic syndrome or obesity. They in turn lead to chronic heart, brain and kidney diseases because of damage to the lining cells of the blood vessels, the 'endothelium'. For someone with an acute disease, a pre-existing chronic disease is now a co-morbidity.

The immune system is highly conserved even in undernourished people; the impact of co-morbidities on the immune system is mild. Exceptions occur: TB is more common in undernourished adults and uncontrolled diabetes; metabolic syndrome, however, is associated with over-nutrition. If someone with a co-morbidity gets COVID-19, the disease severity is increased out of proportion to any subtle or mild effect of the co-morbidity on the immune system.

Opening the lock to gain entry
There are four ubiquitous coronaviruses, highly adapted to human hosts, causing only common cold. Three coronaviruses – SARS-CoV-1, MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV-2 – have recently jumped the host species, presumably bats or dromedary camels, and caused severe disease in humans, primarily pneumonia. SARS-CoV-1 and SARS-CoV-2 latch on to a human cell surface protein called 'angiotensin converting enzyme 2' (ACE2), mediated through the viral surface spike protein, a key that opens the lock to gain entry. Once inside, the virus hijacks cell functions for its own multiplication. There is no precedent of viruses using ACE2 as cell receptors.

ACE1 and ACE2 are widely distributed on the lining 'endothelial' cells



REUTERS

of all arterial, venous and capillary blood vessels and on smooth muscles that surround them. They also abound on the lining epithelial cells of the respiratory tract, kidneys and gut. Blood carries oxygen and nutrition to all organs; anything that affects the blood vessels affects the organs as well. Contrast this with influenza virus receptors that are present only on epithelial cells of the respiratory tract – the virus cannot invade and infect inner organs and tissues. COVID-19 may invade and infect any tissue or organ from the head to the toes and cause damage through reduced blood supply.

The vaccine solution

The poor response to convalescent plasma that rapidly reduces virus load in the body surprised experts. They act on angiotensin-1 and convert it to active peptides. ACE1 converts angiotensin-1 to angiotensin-2, a potent constrictor of blood vessels. ACE2, on the other hand, converts angiotensin-1 and angiotensin-2 to peptides that dilate blood vessels. Through their balanced and contrasting effects on blood vessels, these peptides regulate regional blood flow in organs and tissues. In chronic diseases there is widespread dysfunction of these activities.

By occupying ACE2, COVID-19 interferes with angiotensin conversion to vaso-dilatory peptides; the balance tilts in favour of vaso-constriction resulting in decreased oxygen and nutrient supply to organs. If the person's blood sugar level is very high, the blood becomes viscous. Damaged endothelial cells hasten blood clotting and further reduce blood supply. If someone has, say, diabetes, SARS-CoV-2 can further severely reduce oxygen supply to tissues. This synergy could be fatal. Well-controlled diabetes carries less risk as damage to the endothelial cells is minimal.

COVID-19 is an infectious disease

and especially affects the lungs. The immune system responds as best as it can. Within 2-3 weeks of infection, when immunity is at its peak, the immune system may clear the virus from the organs, but the damages to the organs take time to repair. In the absence of co-morbidities, the body physiology can bounce back to normal quickly, but in those with co-morbidities, the ailing organs may not recover in time to avert death due to damage to the lungs, heart, kidney or brain. The borders between infectious pathology and metabolic/vascular pathology are blurred or breached.

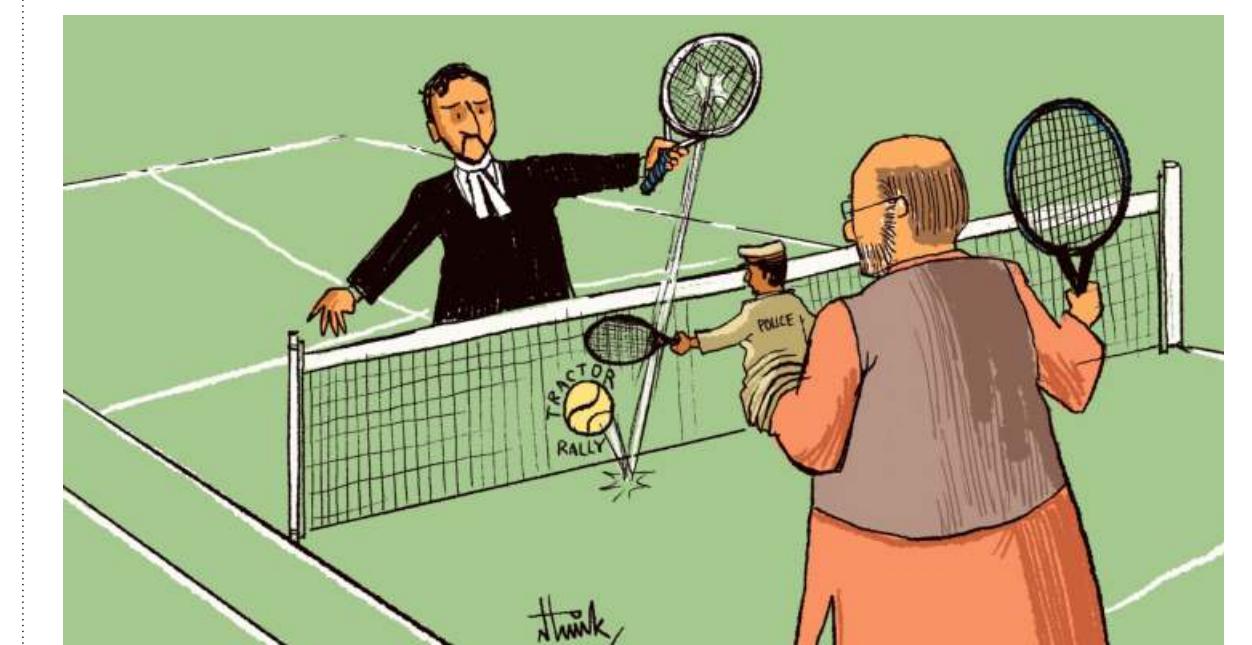
Those who recover from COVID-19 are prone to develop chronic diseases. Those with obesity, diabetes and hypertension who recover from COVID-19 are at increased risk of heart attack and stroke because of severe blood vessel narrowing during COVID-19. Some people develop chronic sequelae, called chronic or 'long' COVID-19 – some of them due to damage to blood vessels in the lungs, kidneys, heart and brain. COVID-19 also seems to trigger auto-immunity, that is, one's immune system turns against one's own tissues/organs. These conditions may lead to severe muscle or joint pain, severe fatigue, memory loss and mental depression.

The damage to the lungs in COVID-19 starts as infection, but quickly becomes massive inflammation with outpouring of plasma into the air sacs, sludging of blood flow in capillaries and clotting. The reason for these is what is called a 'cytokine storm': a reaction of blood vessels to substances called cytokines that are excessively secreted by immune cells. This cascade leads to further decreased oxygen in blood. The widespread narrowing of blood vessels and hypoxia serve as twin triggers to damage vital body organs.

Physicians are confronted with a complex problem that involves multiple organ systems. For the elderly and those with co-morbidities, prevention is better than cure. COVID-19 vaccines should induce protective immunity in youngsters, adults and the elderly, except in those with diseases or treatments that directly suppress the immune system (such as those with cancers and organ transplants). As the immune system is only modestly affected by co-morbidities, we expect vaccine-induced immunity sufficient to avert severe disease. Yet, there may be disappointing surprises. Therefore, people with obesity, diabetes and hypertension should ensure that they are diligent in the practices of mask wearing, physical distancing, hand hygiene and avoiding crowds. Until we know more details, vaccination, good control of co-morbidity parameters and good infection control practices together will save lives.

T. Jacob John is former Professor and HOD, Clinical Virology Department, CMC Hospital, Vellore; M.S. Seshadri is Medical Director, Thirumalai Mission Hospital, Ranipet

There is another sinister association: the insulin-secreting Beta cells in the pancreas are studded with ACE2 and are easy targets for COVID-19. In COVID-19, insulin secretion is decreased. Non-diabetics sometimes develop diabetes for the first time after COVID-19 and those with diabetes may develop very high blood sugar levels.



DATA POINT

A heavy lifting

The costs of the two COVID-19 vaccines that were rolled out in India are lower compared to others in use around the world. However, the vaccine manufacturers have indicated that they may raise the cost going forward. The overall cost of vaccination against COVID-19 in India would trump that of others. The estimated cost of vaccinating 50% of India's population using the cheapest available vaccine (at ₹200 per dose) would require an allocation of more than 40% of India's FY21 health budget. This allocation would be more than twice the share of all other routine vaccinations if the FY17 health budget is considered.

By Vignesh Radhakrishnan, Naresh Singaravelu, and Sumant Sen

1. COST FACTOR | Bharat

Biotech's Covaxin is among the cheapest vaccines in use around the world. The table lists the average cost of select vaccines in rupees

Manufacturer	Price per dose (₹)
Pfizer-BioNTech	₹1,431
Moderna	₹2,348-2,715
Sinopharm	<₹5,650
Sinovac Biotech	₹1,027
Novavax	₹1,114
Gamaleya Centre	<₹734
Johnson & Johnson	₹734
Bharat Biotech	₹206.5-295*
Serum Institute	₹200-1000*

*SII will sell the first 100 million doses to the Indian govt. for a 'special price' of ₹200 per dose, after which the price will be higher. The vaccine will be sold in the private market at ₹1,000 per dose. Bharat Biotech will provide 55 lakh doses to the govt., of which 16.5 lakh will be free of cost and the rest will cost ₹295 per dose. The adjusted cost after accounting for the free doses is about ₹206.5 per dose

2. COMPARATIVE COST

At ₹200 or \$31* per dose (assuming the lowest available price in India as the base price), the COVID-19 vaccines available in India are slightly more expensive than routine vaccines. Prices of other vaccines were sourced from a 2016 IJMR paper*. The conversion rate is set at \$1 = ₹65 for this table

Vaccine	Price per dose (\$)
PCV	\$3.3
COVID-19	\$3.1
Pentavalent	\$2.11
Rotavirus	\$1
Japanese encephalitis	\$0.18
Measles	\$0.16
Oral polio	\$0.06
BCG	\$0.05
Hepatitis B	\$0.05
Tetanus	\$0.02

Source: "Current costs & projected financial needs..." Susmita Chatterjee et al (IJMR) | PIB | Budget documents | CGA

3. SHARE IN BUDGET |

Assuming a cost of ₹400 per vaccine (two doses), vaccinating even 50% of India's population would cost 42% of the FY21 health budget

Population to be vaccinated	Estimated cost (₹crore)	% of FY21 health budget
50%	27,052	42%
60%	32,463	50%
70%	37,873	58%

An IJMR paper* estimated that India's immunisation budget was ₹9,451 cr. in 2017, which was 25% of the FY17 health budget. This includes the cost of injection supplies, personnel, transport, cold chain maintenance, training and more. So, the cost of the Indian COVID-19 vaccines, assuming the lowest possible cost and the population target of 50%, is more than 1.5 times the usual budget



PTI

Don't doubt Indian vaccines

Vaccination is important to prevent a second wave



G. PADMANABAN

Several people have questioned the emergency approval given to the indigenously developed COVID-19 vaccine. They have demanded efficacy data and cast aspersions on the regulatory machinery. Such views will only increase vaccine hesitancy.

It is not the case that the vaccine developed indigenously is being pushed by vested interests, while the international vaccines are great. Questions have been raised about the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines too, which have reported more than 90% efficacy. As Peter Doshi wrote in *The BMJ*, questions have been raised about the exclusion of individuals from the efficacy analysis for 'important protocol deviations'; the higher rate of medication in the vaccine arm to prevent side-effects due to reactogenicity; the processes of the primary event adjudication committees, comprising the companies' own employees; vaccine efficacy in those who already had COVID-19; the non-availability of raw trial data; and so on.

Efficacy assessment

Efficacy would actually mean testing, say, 10,000 individuals who have been given the vaccine versus an equivalent number not given the vaccine in terms of the number who get the infection. Can these vaccines prevent transmission? We may have to wait at least six months to get meaningful results. Efficacy would reflect in the rate of hospitalisation, ICU cases and deaths. With a declining level of infection, perhaps the virus is weakening in India on its own, as is the case with most pathogens. This makes efficacy assessment of a vaccine very difficult.

The question of antibody-dependent enhancement, a phenomenon in which virus-specific antibodies enhance the severity of the virus, and in some cases the replication of the virus, has been put on the backburner with experts suggesting it may not be a major issue. It depends on vaccine design and it is not known whether all the candidate vaccines have been tested for this phenomenon.

In the case of the rabies vaccine, efficacy assessment is based on the virus neutralisation capacity of the serum from the vaccinated individual, assessed in terms of international units. It is a surrogate marker for efficacy, since the candidate vaccine cannot be tested in an experimental population that is administered the virus or bitten by rabid

dogs, for validation. At this stage, no one can predict whether the COVID-19 vaccine candidates can protect against the circulating mutants. The SARS-CoV-2 virus is both intellectually and medically challenging. But there has been no prevention strategy in history other than vaccination to save lives. Therefore, vaccination of the population is very important for protection against fresh infections and a second wave, although the duration of protection is not known for any vaccine candidate. It is well known that some people take the flu vaccine every year.

The SARS-CoV-2 pandemic has been extraordinary, both in terms of positive and negative developments. The cooperation among the scientific community, industry and regulatory agencies has been truly remarkable in making vaccine development and deployment possible in less than two years, a process that would otherwise take 10-15 years. The future timelines for research and development, product development and expectations will be very different. On the negative side, we have tall claims by political leaders in the West on vaccines, major scientific journals coming under pressure to publish data with poor peer review, vaccine nationalism, etc.

Moving ahead

Given the context of the pandemic, it would be prudent for India to go by safety studies (Phase I and II) and assessment of virus neutralisation assays with the serum. It is also not appropriate to doubt the integrity of the expert committee advising the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI). The DCGI is not just an individual to be pressured; it follows due process for making an informed decision regarding emergency use, or, as is called in India, approval for restricted use.

It is understandable that limited approval has been given in clinical trial mode, where individuals vaccinated will be monitored regularly. Though no particular vaccine candidate should be favoured, candidates with proven safety studies and efficacy, as assessed based on the virus neutralisation potency of the sera, should be allowed to go ahead. One or two more months into the trial could have given partial data to satisfy interim efficacy assessment, but we will get real data on efficacy only after vaccinating the masses. Eventually, affordability could become an issue. Selective criticism of indigenous efforts will only jeopardise such efforts. India has a huge population to be vaccinated and we need to move ahead.

G. Padmanaban is former Director, Indian Institute of Science, and Senior Science Innovation Advisor, Department of Biotechnology. Email: gEEPee@alumni.iisc.ac.in

The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 19, 1971

Shiv Sena's new look

(From an editorial)

The great cities of India, with their trading and industrial concentrations, are highly cosmopolitan and it may even happen that the majority of the urban population are not local people. This is not surprising, especially in agricultural countries where the higher standard of life in the cities pulls in more people from the villages than the jobs available to them. In this sort of situation, political parties demanding priority for the sons of the soil are likely to nourish and the Shiv Sena in Bombay had grown powerful on this basis. But the Shiv Sena is by no means unique: with the growth of linguistic States, regionalism and parochialism have flourished all over the country especially in a period of food shortage and unemployment. Even the communist parties, despite their ideological claims, have developed in West Bengal and Kerala on the basis of local sub-nationalism and won success at the polls by raising the cry of discrimination by the Central Government which stands for the equal treatment of all regional groups.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 19, 1921

India's challenge

(From an Editorial)

In the scramble among European nations for economic exploitation and Imperial expansion that marked the history of the world for the last two centuries and threatens still to continue undiminished, Britain may well claim to have competed with considerable success. Her national tenacity, naval supremacy and diplomatic skill, aided by the workings of an inscrutable Providence, have helped her till now not merely to survive the external attacks of jealous enemies, but also to proudly come out invariably with enlarged territories at the end of such combat. But British Imperialism cannot, with the same degree of pride, glorify itself on its success against internal shocks and challenges to British domination from within the Empire. The declaration of American independence was also at once a proclamation of early British bankruptcy in Imperial statesmanship. And judged by the unhappy picture of the Empire at the present day, with the climax of a ghastly tragedy in Ireland, the beginnings of a desperate struggle in India and the increasing clamour for freedom and equality in the other parts of the Empire, Britain does not seem to have yet learnt the lessons of Imperial immortality.

FROM PAGE ONE

Covaxin not to be used in cases of allergy, fever

The clinical efficacy of COVAXIN was yet to be established and it was still being studied in phase 3 clinical trials. Hence, it was important to appreciate that receiving the vaccine did not mean that other precautions related to COVID-19 need not be followed, it added.

A Health Ministry order has said people currently can't decide on which vaccine they will get. Getting vaccinated is voluntary.

Health experts and the Indian Medical Association (IMA), advocating an aggressive awareness campaign, especially in the light of the 447 adverse events following immunisation that included three needing hospitalisation, said their "members have been told to reach out to population using public forums, media, social media etc to increase the awareness about the vaccine."

The IMA stated that all its members would now provide the right, scientific information to people across the country and promote the vaccine.

"The IMA lost its 732 expert doctors during the past one year and now we have a vaccine. It stands with the government during this

1.48 lakh persons get the shot on Day 3

The Ministry said three of the seven cases reported from across the nation requiring hospitalisation were reported from Delhi.

Two have been discharged whereas one case with reported fainting is under observation at the Max Hospital, Patparganj.

"The reported case in Uttarakhand is stable and un-

'Only police should decide on tractor rally'

Mr. Venugopal said people were camping outside the city. There was a threat of illegal entry on January 26. The government was looking to the court to "strengthen its hands".

"Why do you want us to tell you how to use your powers. We are not the first authority in law and order issues. Authorities prohibit and then the court acts. It is not that the court prohibits and the authorities carry out," the CJI said.

He pointed to how the court had intervened in just "one matter" in the farmers' protest case, and how it was misunderstood.

The court, on January 12, stayed the implementation of the farm laws and formed an expert committee to negotiate between farmers and the government.

Mr. Mehta said there was also an issue of constitutional dignity at stake in this case. "Where is the constitutional issue in this case," the CJI enquired.

The SG urged the court to list the case on Wednesday,

Farm unions, Ministers to meet only tomorrow

"The court has not said we must not enter Delhi. They are not going to stop us. It has told the government it is your job to deal with the situation and you do it. Now let us see what the government does," said All India Kisan Sabha general secretary Hannan Mollah.

He said that Surendra Singh Yadav, Joint Commissioner, Delhi Police had visited the Singh protest site for initial discussions with the Samyukt Kisan Morcha leadership present there.

"We have informed our plans for January 26, includ-

ing our route on Outer Ring Road. They spoke of difficulties from their side. We discussed how to conduct it peacefully. We told them even a single incident will be more harmful to us, and we will take every step to ensure that there is no problem," Mr. Mollah told *The Hindu* after the discussions.

The farm unions observed Mahila Kisan Divas at all their border protest sites on Sunday, with women taking over the stage and declaring their intention to stay put until the three laws are repealed.

The Hindu

Yediyurappa slams Uddhav for border remarks

Maharashtra CM's statement smacks of arrogance, linguistic chauvinism'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU

A day after Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray spoke about integrating "Karnataka-occupied Marathi speaking and cultural areas into Maharashtra", Karnataka Chief Minister S.B. Yediyurappa on Monday slammed the former for "displaying regionalism and linguistic chauvinism." He reiterated that the Mahajan Commission report on the border issue was final.

Mr. Thackeray's tweets from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) handle and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar's tweet on Sunday drew criticism from across the political spectrum in Karnataka, with several leaders calling it an equivalent of the "Chinese expansionist attitude."

Taking serious exception, Mr. Yediyurappa hit back

and said Mr. Thackeray's statement smacked of arrogance.

"Display of regionalism and linguistic chauvinism will hurt the integrity of the nation. I condemn this. Maratha speakers have integrated well with Kannadigas in Karnataka and similarly Kannada speaking people in the border districts of Maharashtra have integrated with Marathas," the Karnataka Chief Minister tweeted in response.

In a tweet on Sunday, Mr. Thackeray had said his government was committed towards incorporating into the State the areas of Karnataka where Marathi speaking people were a majority, and that it would be a "true tribute" to the martyrs of the cause.

"Bringing Karnataka occupied Marathi speaking and cultural areas to Maharashtra will be the true tribute to those who accepted martyrdom in the boundary battle. We are united and committed towards it. Respects to the martyrs with this promise," the CMO had tweeted.

The CMO's tweet coincided with Martyrs Day that is observed on January 17 by the Maharashtra Ekikarana Samithi and other organisations as a mark of respect to



Fresh row: Members of a Kannada outfit protesting against the Maharashtra CM's remarks in Belagavi. ■ BADIGER P.K.

those who laid down their lives to the cause.

Accusing Mr. Thackeray of trying to break the harmony between Kannadigas and Marathas, Mr. Yediyurappa said: "It is painful that such an effort is happening from the Maharashtra Chief Minister. As an Indian, Uddhav Thackeray should show commitment to the federal structure of the country."

Kannada organisations to chart out future action

STAFF REPORTER BENGALURU

Kannada organisations criticised Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray for his statements on Belagavi and burnt his effigy at a protest in the city on Monday. A coalition of Kannada organisations will meet on Wednesday to chart out the next course of action. "We need to make this a people's movement in Belagavi and our agitation will also begin from there," said Vatal Nagaraj, president, Kannada Okkut.

Criticising the Shiv Sena's role in keeping the border dispute alive for "cheap politics", Mr. Nagaraj said the dispute was settled long back as per the Mahajan Committee report. "It was Maharashtra that insisted

on the formation of the Mahajan Committee and said everyone must accept its report, which we have done. Maharashtra is unnecessarily raking up the issue," he said. He said successive governments of Karnataka failed to constructively develop Belagavi and create a groundswell of support for the State in the district. "While we built Suvarna Soudha, no departments have been moved to the district. The Karnataka government needs to get investments to Belagavi, start industries, which will change the narrative in the district. Sadly, all parties have a keen eye on Maratha vote and incumbent BJP government created a Maratha Development Corporation too," Mr. Nagaraj said.

IN BRIEF



Akhila Priya's bail plea sent to sessions court

HYDERABAD
The Xth Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate on Monday forwarded the bail petition of former Andhra Pradesh Minister Bhuma Akhila Priya Reddy to a sessions court at Nampally in Hyderabad.

Tribute paid to NTR on 25th death anniversary

VIJAYAWADA
The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leaders in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana paid tribute to the party's founder president and former Chief Minister N.T. Rama Rao on the occasion of his 25th death anniversary on Monday. TDP national president N. Chandrababu Naidu paid floral tributes to Rama Rao at the NTR Ghat in Hyderabad.

414 Indian star tortoises seized in Andhra Pradesh

KAKINADA
Forest Department personnel on Monday seized as many as 414 live endangered Indian star tortoises from a gang that was smuggling them from the Samalkot area in East Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh to Malkangiri district in Odisha by a van.

Convict in Abhaya case moves Kerala HC

KOCHI
Fr. Thomas Kottoor, one of the two convicts in the Sister Abhaya murder case, on Monday filed an appeal in the Kerala High Court against the verdict of the

Thiruvananthapuram CBI special court finding him guilty and sentencing him to life term in the case. He contended that the sentence passed by the special court was improper and incorrect.

Where is evidence that you are spiritual guru: SC

Kerala man seeks release of a woman from 'illegal custody' of her parents

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday questioned a Kerala-based man seeking the release of a 21-year-old woman, who he claimed was his "spiritual live-in partner," from the "illegal custody" of her parents and family.

He said he was her "spiritual guru". The man said she was being detained and subjected to physical violence for considering him as her "acharya" and expressing her intention to go with him. "What is the evidence on record to show that you are a spiritual guru, and her spiritual guru?" Chief Justice Shri

rad A. Bobde, heading a three-judge Bench, asked the man's lawyers, senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan and advocate A. Karthik.

The man had appealed to the Supreme Court against a Kerala High Court order of January 4 on his *habeas corpus* petition.

Mr. Sankaranarayanan submitted that the woman had appeared before the High Court to clearly state that she wanted to join the man. Despite this, the High Court had given her into her parents' custody. "The violation of two adults is being questioned here," Mr. Sankaranarayanan submitted.

The senior lawyer referred to the Hadiya case judgment in which the apex court had noted that "social

values and morals have their space but they are not above the constitutionally granted freedom ... Parental love or concern cannot be allowed to fluster the right of choice of an adult."

"But has she made a complaint to the police that she is being illegally detained?" the CJI asked.

'Modesty questioned'
In her petition, the man alleged that the police had questioned her modesty. Her SIM card, ATM card and other personal belongings were taken from her, and she was not allowed to leave home independently.

"Infuriated that the woman chose to practice the Vedantic principles of moksha, sanyasa and divine

guru with the petitioner, her parents and family resorted to harassing and torturing her. This is evident from the emails sent by her to the petitioner as well as to the Kerala State Human Rights and Women Commissions. The woman has been threatened with honour killing," the man claimed.

The man said he was a doctor who renounced worldly life at 42 and turned to spiritual practice on Vedanta Upanishad. He said he was married with two children who were in his care and shelter, though living separately.

The Bench finally listed the case for next week while asking the High Court to go ahead and determine the petition pending before it.

5 MLAs in Kerala test positive amid session

Assembly session began on January 8

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Five members of the Legislative Assembly in Kerala, all of whom had attended the current session, have tested positive for COVID-19.

Legislators K. Ansala (Neyyattinkara) and K.D. Dasan (Koyilandy) are admitted to the government medical college hospital here, while E.S. Bijimol (Peerumedu) and M. Mukesh (Kollam) are said to be in home isolation. Unconfirmed reports said Vamanapuram MLA D.K. Murali has also tested positive. All these MLAs had attended the Assembly session which began on January 8.

Minister for Cultural Affairs A.K. Balan, who had

CPI(M) MLA dies from post-virus complications

THIRISSUR

K.V. Vijayadas, MLA of Kongad, who had undergone surgery at Government Medical College Hospital, Thrissur, a few days ago following a brain haemorrhage, died on Monday. He was 61. The CPI(M) leader was hospitalised on December 11 after he tested positive for COVID-19. He had developed post-COVID complications and was being treated.

tested positive earlier, is still convalescing.

The Budget session of the Assembly is expected to go on till January 22. The session, which was earlier planned till January 28, was cut short by the Speaker.

Following this, the district-level Adverse Effects Following Immunisation (AEFI) met and had a detailed discussion. They concluded that the death was due to "cardio respiratory arrest secondary to acute anterior septal wall MI". The man, identified as Nagaraju, a resident of Ballari district, was a permanent employee of the Health Department.

A note by the Department said nothing had occurred in the 24 hours after he was vaccinated. He had reported for duty on Monday. He complained of a chest pain around 9.30 a.m. and col-

lapsed. "He was treated immediately and was admitted to the Jindal Sanjeevani Hospital at 11.15 a.m.," the Health Department note stated and added that although the best treatment was provided, he could not be saved. It also added that none of the healthcare workers who took the vaccine had any adverse reactions.

Meanwhile, 61% of the target was achieved on Monday, the third day of the vaccination drive.

A total of 81,326 beneficiaries were to have been vaccinated, but 49,918 were inoculated. As against the plan of holding 1,018 sessions, 1,006 sessions were held.

AICC taps Oommen Chandy to head Kerala electioneering

Panel of veterans to guide campaign, candidate selection

G. ANAND THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The All India Congress Committee (AICC) has reportedly tapped former Chief Minister Oommen Chandy to lead the party into the electoral fray in the coming Assembly election in the State.

The AICC had nominated a high-power committee to finalise candidate selection and formulate electioneering strategy. It has tipped Mr. Chandy to head the panel.

The Congress has not named Mr. Chandy or any other leader as its Chief Minister candidate.

However, Mr. Chandy's track record as a powerful mobiliser in the provincial Congress party seemed to have powered his "ascendancy". The AICC also hoped to draw on Mr. Chandy's

Oommen Chandy

dy's long innings in government and Opposition to bring the Congress closer to coalition partners, social organisations and community leaders ahead of the election.

Mr. Chandy is among equals on the panel. A.K. Antony, Tariq Anwar, KPCC president Mullappally Ramachandran, UDF convenor M.M. Hassan, and Leader of

the Opposition Ramesh Chennithala are among those on board.

Congress office-bearers from Kerala were in New Delhi on Monday to hold consultations with the national leadership, including Rahul Gandhi.

The AICC has reportedly trashed the traditional practice of "mindlessly" apportioning Assembly seats to opposing party factions. It has insisted that the Congress consider only candidates who could secure a win for the party.

A party insider said more youth, women, opinion leaders, popular independents and Congress workers from backward classes and Dalit communities would find themselves on the candidates' list.

Resolve issues in the party locally: Shah

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BELAGAVI

Before winding up his two-day visit to Karnataka, BJP's key strategist and Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday conveyed a message to the faction-ridden State unit of the party: "Don't bring all issues to the party.

"Issues within the party should be resolved locally. Village issues should be resolved at the village level, district issues at the district level, and State issues at the State level. There is no need to bring every issue to Delhi. You should develop a method of decentralised decision-making," Mr. Shah said at a party meeting in Belagavi. He was responding to concerns raised by some leaders that people who had worked for the party for decades were not getting their due.

The off-Budget borrowings are "not in accordance with the Constitution."

KIIFB borrowings bypass limits for State, says CAG

'They do not have legislative approval'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The off-Budget borrowings made by the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) for critical infra projects have bypassed the limits set on government borrowings under Article 293(I) of the Constitution and such borrowings do not have legislative approval, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has said.

The off-Budget borrowings are "not in accordance with the Constitution."

The borrowings are not taken into the disclosure statements in the Budget documents or in the accounts, the CAG has noted in the State Finance Audit Report for the year ending March 2019 that was laid in the Legislative Assembly on Monday.

The KIIFB had borrowed and raised ₹3,106.57 crore from financial institutions till 2018-19 by issue of bonds, which were to be repaid from the petroleum cess and motor vehicle tax.

An amount of ₹2,150 crore raised through Masala Bonds in foreign countries is part of the borrowings. The KIIFB had incurred ₹1,511.67 crore expenditure on various infra projects till 2018-

IN BRIEF



Rafale to make debut in Republic Day parade

NEW DELHI
The Rafale fighter jet inducted into the Indian Air Force last year would fly over Rajpath during the Republic Day parade, the IAF said. The fly-past will culminate with a single Rafale aircraft carrying out a 'vertical charlie' formation, the IAF said.

'Roshni' scam: former Pulwama DC booked

NEW DELHI
The CBI has booked then Deputy Commissioner of Pulwama Mehraj Ahmed Kakroo and 12 others in connection with the alleged illegal conferment of ownership rights on unauthorised occupants of the State land in Jammu & Kashmir under the now repealed Roshni Act.

Two children die due to frosty weather in J&K

SRINAGAR
Two children of a nomadic family – Sahil Zubair, 10, and Shazia, 6, – died due to frosty weather in two days in south Kashmir's Kulgam, where the family has set up a temporary shelter on the highway leading to Jammu's Reasi district.

Modi elected chairman of Somnath temple trust

AHMEDABAD
Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on Monday elected Chairman of the Somnath Temple Trust at a meeting of trustees held virtually. Mr. Modi will take over as the chairman after the demise of former Gujarat Chief Minister Keshubhai Patel, who previously headed the trust.

SC-appointed panel to meet farmers' groups from Jan. 21

Unions protesting on Delhi borders have refused to meet committee

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ
NEW DELHI

The committee appointed by the Supreme Court will start meeting farmers' groups from Thursday, according to one of its members.

"The three of us will hold our first meeting tomorrow [on Tuesday] afternoon, probably at Pusa campus [of the National Agricultural Science Complex]. We will decide on our plans and the modalities for consultation with all stakeholders as directed by the Supreme Court. We will hold the first meeting with farmers' groups on January 21," Shetkari Sanghatan president Anil Ghanwat told *The Hindu* on Monday.

Apart from Mr. Ghanwat, the other members of the committee are agricultural economist Ashok Gulati, who is a former chairman of the Committee for Agriculture



The wait continues: Farmers standing in a queue to receive food at a community kitchen in Ghaziabad on Monday. • AFP

and Prices; and policy expert Pramod Joshi, who is a former South Asia director of the International Food Policy Research Institute.

The fourth member, veteran farmer leader Bhupinder Singh Mann, who heads his own faction of the Bharatiya Kisan Union, has recused himself from the panel in solidarity with protesting farm unions demanding repeal of

three farm reform laws. The unions protesting on the borders of Delhi for almost two months have refused to meet the committee, but Mr. Ghanwat who heads a pro-reforms union, is unfazed.

Will listen to all'

"There are hundreds and thousands of farmers and farmers groups who are in favour of the laws and who

are willing to meet with us. We will listen to them first," he said. "We will keep on urging all farmers groups to talk to us as the Supreme Court has directed it. We are here to listen to everyone," he added.

The committee would also meet with millers, food processors and other representatives of the agribusiness and food industry, said Mr. Ghanwat.

However, there was currently no plan to meet government representatives or agricultural scientists for their point of view, he added.

Even as the committee holds its first internal meeting at Pusa tomorrow, protesting farm unions will be meeting Central Ministers for direct negotiations at the same time in Vigyan Bhavan, continuing a parallel dialogue process.

Panel to probe member's political outreach

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The joint platform of protesting farmer unions, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), has disassociated itself from the political outreach of one of its key members, Haryana leader Gurnam Singh Chaduni. However, Mr. Chaduni will continue to be part of the delegation of unions negotiating with the Central government for now.

Mr. Chaduni had written letters to political parties in relation to the ongoing protest against farm laws on Delhi's borders, and allegedly met some politicians at Delhi's Constitution Club on Sunday. The SKM had decided not to invite political parties to its stage or rallies, both to avoid government accusations that politics had hijacked the protest as well as in acknowledgement that

there is a range of political opinions among the protesters themselves.

"SKM is not associated with the 'all-party meeting' taken up by Mr. Chaduni with political parties. SKM,

after taking note of Mr. Chaduni's ongoing activities with political parties, after due discussion on the same in a general body meeting of SKM yesterday, has formed a Committee that will inquire

into the matter and give its report in three days' time. SKM will take further steps thereafter," said a statement signed by six other leaders of the united front.

Mr. Chaduni will still be among the leaders meeting Central Ministers for the 10th round of talks on Tuesday, as that list is determined by government invitation, not by the unions themselves.

Imran attacks Modi govt. over Arnab Goswami's chats

Pak. PM says there is unholy nexus between Centre, media

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan waded into the controversy over leaked conversations between a television channel head and the chief of television ratings agency Broadcast Audience Research Council (Barc), saying that they proved that the Modi government had planned the Balakot air strikes in February 2019 to "win general elections", and to "push our nuclearised region to the brink of a conflict it cannot afford".

Mr. Khan's statement, which followed a similar statement by Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Sunday, raised a response from the Editor-in-Chief of the "Republic media network".

He claimed that there was a "Pakistani hand" in the case against Republic and Barc's former CEO Partha Dasgupta, currently in police custody.

Mr. Khan said the communications revealed the "unholy nexus between the Modi govt & Indian media", and accused the government of "dangerous military adventurism to win an election".

'Plot against Republic'
Mr. Goswami said the comments by Mr. Khan made it clear that Pakistan had a role in what he claimed was a "conspiracy against Republic".

"If the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Pakistan



Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan. • FILE PHOTO

have come out in support of the malicious police action against the Republic, then nothing much is left to be said," Mr. Goswami added.

He also alleged that there was evidence of "calibration" between the Congress party and Indian media which, he said, were "anti-Republic" in order to "assist the Pakistani narrative".

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) did not comment on the exchange.

"We dismiss the allegation with the contempt it deserves," Congress general secretary Randeep Surjewala told *The Hindu* when asked about the remarks, and accused Mr. Goswami of "hiding his misdeeds behind Imran Khan".

As *The Hindu* reported some days ago, transcripts of the conversations between Mr. Goswami and Mr. Dasgupta that have been released into the public do-

main are understood to be part of the Maharashtra Police's chargesheet in the case on fixing of TRPs (Television Rating Points) by Barc and Republic TV.

Advanced knowledge

According to the messages purportedly exchanged on WhatsApp, three days before Indian Air Force jets bombed a building believed to be Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terrorist training camp in the Pakistani town of Balakot on February 23, 2019, Mr. Goswami told Mr. Dasgupta that India would carry out something "bigger than a normal strike" on Pakistan.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) did not comment on the exchange.

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As *The Hindu* reported some days ago, transcripts of the conversations between Mr. Goswami and Mr. Dasgupta that have been released into the public do-

NIA postpones examination of 2 members of Khalsa Aid

The agency has examined 12 persons in a case against SFJ

VIJAYA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has examined 12 persons so far in connection with a recent case registered against Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), a foreign-based group banned by the Union Home Ministry in 2019 for advocating secessionist and pro-Khalistani activities in India.

The NIA had on January 15 summoned around 40 persons to be examined by the agency as 'witness' in the SFJ case registered on December 15, 2020. All the persons who received NIA notices have either participated in the ongoing farmers' agitation at the Delhi borders or have provided humanitarian aid at the protest site.

The examination by the NIA of two key members of Khalsa Aid, an international NGO, has been postponed indefinitely.

"There was meant to be a hearing of two key Indian team members today and tomorrow [Monday and Tuesday], they [the NIA] postponed it. They were informed on phone that the



A file photo of a protest held by Sikhs for Justice in New York. • AP

hearing is postponed till further notice," Ravinder Singh, founder of Khalsa Aid, said.

The NGO had set up food stalls and provided foot massage machines and geysers to farmers protesting at Delhi border since November.

Punjabi actor Deep Sidhu, who campaigned for the BJP's Sunny Deol during the 2019 general elections, did not appear before the NIA on Sunday. Mr. Sidhu, who has been camping at the

Singhu border for the past two months, said, "I have not received a single penny in my account or my family's account from overseas or anybody in India or any NGO," he said.

"Even though the notice asks us to appear as a witness, they have kept it open under Section 120 B IPC [criminal conspiracy]. Tomorrow they might use this case to charge sheet us. I am a lawyer and I can see the pressure tactics," he said.

WhatsApp use a matter of choice: HC

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

"If you feel WhatsApp is likely to compromise with your data, leave WhatsApp," the Delhi High Court commented on Monday while hearing a petition challenging the messaging app's new privacy policy.

Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva asked advocate Manohar Lal, who had filed the petition, if he had read the terms and conditions of any mobile application he uses. "You will be shocked and surprised as to what all you consent to. And it's a voluntary thing Mr. Lal, don't accept it. This is a private app. Don't join in," Justice Sachdeva remarked as he posted the case for detailed hearing on another date.

Coal India Limited (A Maharatna Company)
"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of Coal India Ltd www.coalindia.in/respective Subsidiary Company, CIL e-procurement portal <https://coaliadtenders.nic.in> and Central Public Procurement Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in>. In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal <https://gem.gov.in>."

NBA seeks Republic TV's ouster from IBF

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The News Broadcasters Association (NBA) on Monday said the WhatsApp chats of Arnab Goswami were shocking. In a statement, the NBA said Republic TV be expelled from the Indian Broadcasting Foundation. The NBA Board called for Republic TV to be left out of the BARC rating system till the final court order in the matter. These WhatsApp

messages not only reflect manipulation of ratings but is also about power play, it said.

The messages exchanged go on to refer to the appointment of Secretaries, Cabinet reshuffle, access to the PMO (Prime Minister's Office) and the workings of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

"This only confirms the many and continuous allegations made by NBA in the last four years that rat-

ings were being manipulated by a non-NBA member broadcaster in connivance with BARC's top management officials," the statement said.

Lack of transparency

It is indeed with dismay that NBA notes the fact that in spite of having a damning verdict in its possession since July 2020, BARC sat on the forensic report for several months, which brought to

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Task force on marriage age submits report to PMO

It contains 'concrete suggestions on all aspects'

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

The task force set up to take a re-look at the age of marriage for women has submitted its report to the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Women and Child Development, it is reliably learnt. A government source said the report was submitted either "late December or very early in January".

Chairperson of the committee Jaya Jaitley refused to comment on the contents of the report submitted after a delay of five months. When the panel was formed in

June last year, it was given until July 31, 2020, to finalise its report. A person close to the development said the report contains "concrete suggestions on all aspects".

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day speech last year spoke about a panel formed to decide on the "right age of marriage" for women and have cited evidence to show that such a move may be used to incarcerate young adults marrying without parents' consent.

NATIONAL BOARD OF EXAMINATIONS

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DNB/DrNB FINAL THEORY EXAMINATION – DECEMBER 2020

NOTICE

National Board of Examinations shall conduct the next DNB/DrNB Final Theory Examinations on 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st March 2021.

Please refer to the Information Bulletin at NBE website www.natboard.edu.in for eligibility criteria, fee structure, scheme of examination and other details.

Important Dates

Availability of Information Bulletin	19 th January 2021 Onwards
Online Submission of Application Form	19 th January 2021 to 14 th February 2021
Examination Date	18 th , 19 th , 20 th and 21 st March 2021

SC directive on quota in promotions

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday asked Attorney General K.K. Venugopal to compile the various issues being raised by States with regard to the application of a Constitution Bench judgment of 2006 in M. Nagaraj case, which had upheld the application of creamy layer principle to members of the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe communities in promotions.

A three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice Sharad A. Bobde said the issues raised by States are not common. "Promotions which have been made or proposed to be made in several States are in question in these matters. The issues are not common in all the cases which have arisen from several States," the court order said.

"We therefore consider it appropriate and expedient in the interests of justice that the Advocates-on-Record appearing for each State should furnish a note clearly stating the issues involved in that particular State to the Attorney General for India within two weeks from today." The court asked Mr. Venugopal to hold a conference with counsel for the States.

Editors Guild seeks release of 3 journalists

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Editors Guild of India on Monday called for the immediate release of three journalists of the website The Frontier Manipur.

"The Editors Guild of India considers the recent arrest of a writer and two editors of Manipur website The Frontier Manipur under the Indian Penal Code applicable to sedition and the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) as a brazen violation of every constitutional safeguard given for freedom of expression," a statement said.

Lone under pressure to end electoral pact

He was part of alliance for J&K polls

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Top leaders of the Sajjad Lone-headed People's Conference (PC), an important constituent of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), met Srinagar on Monday, with most leaders weighing in for the discontinuation of any electoral tie-up within the alliance.

Mr. Lone, who faced public criticism from party leaders Imran Reza Ansari and Abdul Ghani Vakil over his move to stitch an electoral alliance for the District Development Council (DDC) polls with allies, chaired the meeting. It was

'Legal issue' delaying Mallya's extradition

Centre informs SC about the stance taken by the U.K.

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The U.K. government has told the Indian side that businessman Vijay Mallya cannot be extradited until a confidential "legal issue" concerning him is resolved, the Centre informed the Supreme Court on Monday.

An official letter from the Ministry of External Affairs, quoting excerpts from the U.K. government's communication, was read out by Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta before a Special Bench led by Justice U.U. Lalit.

The letter quoted the U.K. government saying there was a "further legal issue" to be resolved before Mr. Mallya could be extradited.

The U.K. has refused to provide details of this "issue", saying it was judicial in nature. It has also refused to disclose how long it would take to resolve the issue, though reassuring that it



Vijay Mallya

knew how important the Mallya case was to the Government of India.

The Ministry letter quoted the U.K. assuring that it was "seeking to deal with the issue as quickly as possible".

Mr. Mehta said the government had been making frequent and repeated efforts to extradite Mr. Mallya.

The letter itself related how the Foreign Secretary had raised the issue of Mr. Mallya's extradition with the U.K. Home Secretary in No-

vember. The Foreign Minister had done so with the U.K. Foreign Secretary in December. This was followed by the Home Secretary raising it with the U.K. Permanent Under Secretary of Home in January 2021.

The court listed the case for March 15.

On October 5, the court had asked Mr. Mallya's side to come clean about the nature of a "confidential" proceeding going on after the rejection of his appeal against extradition in the U.K. Supreme Court.

The government had informed that Mr. Mallya's case in the U.K. was over, but some "secret" proceedings were on. The court had wanted to know about the nature of these confidential proceedings.

On August 30 2020, the Supreme Court had dismissed Mr. Mallya's review petition against a May 9, 2017 verdict of contempt.

Land under PLA control since 1959'

MEA says India too has stepped up construction

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Monday said it was aware of infrastructure construction by China in the past several years "along the Line of Actual Control (LAC)" and that India has also stepped up its construction. The statement came after a report by NDTV showed satellite images of a new Chinese settlement in Arunachal Pradesh.

This is the first time the government has acknowledged Chinese construction, although official sources say the land has been under the Chinese People's Liberation Army's (PLA) control since 1959.

"The Chinese have been holding the area since 1959 and it is not a new development. Prior to that, there was an Assam Rifles post there which was overrun.

They have been doing construction there on and off. There were some temporary



Hot spot: The MEA says that India is improving connectivity for the local population along the border with China. ■ REUTERS

constructions few years back. They have now done permanent construction there," an official source said.

Stating that the government remains committed to the objective of creating infrastructure along the border areas for the improvement of the livelihood of its citizens, including in Arunachal Pradesh, the MEA said in a statement, "Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a

Congress MPs raise concerns

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Congress MPs on Monday said reports about Chinese construction activity on the Arunachal Pradesh border were very serious.

Former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram asked on Twitter if the government would "give another clean chit to China?" His party colleague Manish Tewari asked the Prime Minister and Defence Minister to tell the nation if the report of a whole village coming up was indeed true.

bearing on India's security and takes all the necessary measures to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity."

It said that India, too, has stepped up border infrastructure, including the construction of roads and bridges among others, which it added has provided "much needed connectivity to the local population along the border."

Slain men were militants: J&K police

Inspector-General says there is 'conclusive evidence' on the 3 killed in encounter

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Keeping vigil: Jawans at the encounter site in Lawaypora, near Srinagar, on December 30, 2020. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

Inspector-General of Police (IGP) Vijay Kumar on Monday said the Jammu and Kashmir Police have almost gathered "conclusive evidence" to prove that the three youth killed in a disputed encounter in Srinagar on December 30 were militants, and reiterated that "the bodies will not be handed over to the families".

"The data collected so far showed that all the three associates killed in the encounter were involved in providing logistics. Their involvement has been proved almost by 60%.

We will place everything before their parents to convince them about the involvement of their children," Mr. Kumar said at a function organised as part of the traffic awareness week.

The slain youth, who were killed in a night-long encounter, were identified as Ajaz Maqbool Ganie, Ather Mushtaq from Pulwama and Zubair Lone from Shopian.

Their families disputed the version of the security forces, and claimed that their kin were not militants and were killed in a staged encounter. They have ap-

pealed to the Lieutenant-Governor's administration to return the bodies for a burial at their ancestral graveyards.

"Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a protocol is followed. If we return the body of any militant or associate, people will turn up in thousands. The burial was carried out in the presence of families, including their pa-

rents. There is no logic of re-

turning the bodies as burial does not take place twice," the IGP said.

On the Shopian "staged encounter" last year, he said "money was paid to the source in every encounter but not to officials".

"Sources are given money [for tipping off on militants' presence] and not to the officer whether from the police, military or paramilitary," he stated. Mr. Kumar confirmed that the sources, who apparently worked with the Army captain, were paid money "as promised". "The source has himself recorded before the Magistrate under Section 164 of the IPC that money has been given," he added.

Three youth from Rajouri were killed in an 'encounter' in Shopian's Amshipora on July 18, 2020.

Gig and platform workers are covered under the Centre's new labour codes.

fety would be finalised by the end of the month. The rules under the Code on Wages, 2019 have already been finalised.

Along with the implementa-

Experts to be assigned to review State labour laws

They will check if rules are in sync with the Centre's codes

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

The Union Labour and Employment Ministry is likely to appoint legal consultants this month to look at whether the States' labour laws are in consonance with the Centre's four new labour codes, according to senior Ministry officials.

The codes on wages, social security, industrial relations and occupational safety, health and working conditions could be implemented before the April 1 target. Labour and Employment Secretary Apurva Chandra told presspersons on January 12 that the rules framed under the codes on social security, industrial relations and occupational sa-

cial said the Ministry would appoint legal consultants soon to review the various State laws. The official added that the matter would be taken up with the States if the laws are found to be out of tune with the codes. The work would start with two or three States, the official said.

The four codes have amalgamated 29 Central labour laws, including those covering matters of minimum wages, benefits for workers and strikes. For the first time, gig and platform workers have been covered under the social security schemes.

Most Central trade unions, however, have protested against the codes, terming them anti-worker.

He was part of alliance for J&K polls

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) may introduce new monsoon models this year to better forecast changes in rainfall.

At a day-long meet, via video conference, involving several senior meteorologists across the IMD's offices and those from affiliated climate research institutes, discussions took place on the accuracy of the existing models, emerging weather models and their strengths and weaknesses in capturing the vagaries of the monsoon and the extent to which they were effective, over varying time-scales, in forecasting heavy rain or an extended dry patch.

At the meeting, the IMD failed to forecast the magnitude of the excess monsoon rainfall in 2019 and 2020. ■ FILE PHOTO

The monsoon that concluded in 2020 was unique, in that with monsoon 2019, it was only the third time in a century that India saw back-to-back years of above normal rainfall. In both years – and monsoon 2019 was a 25-

year high – the IMD failed to forecast the magnitude of the excess and only indicated that the monsoon would be "above normal".

D.S. Pai, who heads the IMD's Climate Research Services, Pune, said in his talk

there were three different models that could be tested this year. Two of them were dynamical models and one a statistical model.

Computer simulation

In the former, the climate on any particular day is simulated on supercomputers and meteorologists observe the changing daily output. The other is the traditional statistical model that equates relationships of physical parameters, such as for instance sea surface temperatures, snowfall, the temperature of landmass etc, with the actual observed rainfall in the past.

The three models under consideration are: 12 global circulation models (dynamical

cal) whose outputs would be combined into a single one; a model that gauges rainfall based on the sea surface temperature in the tropics (developed by Professor Sumant Nigam, University of Maryland, U.S.) and the statistical model based on climate variables observed during the pre-monsoon. All of them are 'ensembles' meaning smaller models are combined to arrive at an average value.

M. Mohapatra, Director General, IMD, told *The Hindu* that the traditional statistical model would continue to be used this year. "However, we will continue to have discussions and will decide later on what new approach can be added."

Centre's affidavit pushes for wide roads



The famed Badrinath temple, which is one of the Char Dham shrines.

and discuss a plea by the Ministry that narrowing the feeder roads along the India-China border in Uttarakhand would cause "serious repercussions" to national security. The Bench scheduled the case for hearing in January last week.

The minority view, however, said the circular needed a rethink considering its "long-term impacts on the fragile Himalayan terrain and sensitive ecosystem".

The Centre, in its affidavit, said it was "unfortunate" that the HPC members, who are in the minority, have given such an opinion "notwithstanding the security of the country and the need of the defence forces to resist

external aggression".

The government urged the court to accept the majority view of 21 members on the HPC who support the circular, which had amended an earlier MoRTH one of March 2018 that called for narrower roads to protect the Himalayan ecosystem.

The Forces have to take heavy vehicles, tanks, self-propelled artillery and troops to the Indo-China border... It is the specific need of the Armed Forces to defend the country against any possible external aggression at the northern border – this had required amendments in the March 2018 circular".

In a circular issued on December 30, 2020 to all Chief Vigilance Officers, the cen-

tral agency expressed concern that despite clear guidelines issued by the CVC and the Department of Personnel & Training, investigators were not adhering to the prescribed time limit, resulting in investigations taking a much longer time.

"Any delay in finalisation of such matters is neither in the interest of the organisation nor that of the employee concerned. Undue delay on one hand provided prolonged opportunities to a corrupt public servant to in-

dulge in inappropriate activities. On the other hand, any unwarranted delay in the conclusion of vigilance related matters is detrimental for an honest public servant, who may have got involved in a vigilance case, due to various reasons," Rajiv Verma, Officer on Special Duty, CVC, said in the circular.

The official reminded the CVOs of the prescribed time-frame in issuing chargesheet and conducting departmental enquiry/submission of report by the Inquiry Officer.

SC to soon hear case related to Char Dham

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Central government supported the majority view taken by the Supreme Court's Char Dham High-Powered Committee (HPC) for the necessity of broadening the Himalayan feeder roads to India-China border in order to facilitate troop movement.

The Ministry of Defence, in an affidavit, said it was unfortunate that three of the HPC members had given a minority view to reconsider a December 15, 2020 circular

that narrowed the feeder roads along the India-China border in Uttarakhand would cause "serious repercussions" to national security. The Bench scheduled the case for hearing in January last week.

The minority view, however, said the circular needed a rethink considering its "long-term impacts on the fragile Himalayan terrain and sensitive ecosystem".

The Forces have to take heavy

vehicles, tanks, self-propelled artillery and troops to the Indo-China border... It is the specific need of the Armed Forces to defend the country against any possible external aggression at the northern border – this had required amendments in the March 2018 circular".

In a circular issued on December 30, 2020 to all Chief Vigilance Officers, the cen-

tral agency expressed concern that despite clear guidelines issued by the CVC and the Department of Personnel & Training, investigators were not adhering to the prescribed time limit, resulting in investigations taking a much longer time.

"Any delay in finalisation of such matters is neither in the interest of the organisation nor that of the employee concerned. Undue delay on one hand provided prolonged opportunities to a corrupt public servant to in-

dulge in inappropriate activities. On the other hand, any unwarranted delay in the conclusion of vigilance related matters is detrimental for an honest public servant, who may have got involved in a vigilance case, due to various reasons," Rajiv Verma, Officer on Special Duty, CVC, said in the circular.

The official reminded the CVOs of the prescribed time-frame in issuing chargesheet and conducting departmental enquiry/submission of report by the Inquiry Officer.

of the defence forces to resist

external aggression".

The government urged the court to accept the majority view of 21 members on the HPC who support the circular, which had amended an earlier MoRTH one of March 2018 that called for narrower roads to protect the Himalayan ecosystem.

In a circular issued on December 30, 2020 to all Chief Vigilance Officers, the cen

Must we talk in code?

With more businesses moving online, the inclusive tech space accommodates this growth through the popularisation of no-code and low-code apps

ISHAN PATRA

Developing an application involving the use of coding platforms may appear daunting at first, and can be difficult to use. As a result, 2020 saw hopefuls in the developers' communities attending numerous coding marathons and camps in a move to upskill, but there has been a quiet and equally fascinating alternative.

Enter low-code and no-code platforms. These are quite different from the traditional coding platforms used in app development, and have been a hot topic for many people this year, across Reddit communities, as well as Product Hunt. The platforms witnessed a significant demand as they proved to be a quicker, secure, and cost-effective way of developing applications.

Some of these entities include Appsmith, Bubble, NoCodeAPI, and NoCode.tech, as well as Microsoft Power Platform, Amazon Honeycode, and Google's AppSheet. The aforementioned programmes have been designed to offer a simple interface which not only allows the platforms to be operated by individuals with limited or no coding knowledge, but also speed up app development processes.

"A traditional coding environment is completely text-based. You first write the code, then check it somewhere else to see if it has come out properly," Abhishek Nayak, co-founder of Appsmith, Bengaluru, explains over the phone. The repeated writing and checking process is painstaking and time-consuming, he adds.

While the low-code plat-



Ease of output (Clockwise from above) NoCode.API founder Mohd. Danish, Praveen Mellacheruvu of Microsoft India, Emmanuel Straschnov of Bubble • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

form can be used to develop applications with minimal coding, and the majority of the coding process is replaced with a drag-and-drop visual interface, a no-code platform shortens the development process even further, by eliminating the need for coding. "It is simple," says Mohd. Danish, founder of NoCodeAPI, Aligarh, and adds, "With these no-code tools, you don't have to do anything except use your mouse to drag-and-drop. Not a single line of code is needed. You will get output in seconds." Danish's NoCodeAPI simplifies the process of building Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) and connecting with third-party APIs with a no-code approach.

Is it for all?
NoCode.tech, UK, offers numerous tools and resources for people to build the software they

need. During a demo call, Nile Frater, who runs NoCode.tech, says, "If you are a non-technical person, the idea of getting into coding can be daunting. No-code is a lot more accessible, as you can get your app with a click of a button." He adds, "You might not understand how to do everything yet, but it's there. No-code tools tend to teach you how the software and programming work."

These platforms also help people learn how to use the available tools through short tutorials and courses. So, depending on what they want to build, people can choose the platform, the tools, and the associated services necessary to develop their app.

New York-based Bubble aims to help non-tech savvy people build sophisticated web applications without code. In a video interview, Bubble co-CEO Emmanuel Straschnov says, "It is important that we make a more inclusive tech world. To do that, teaching everyone to code is not the answer. So, let us change the tools, and that is what the no-code platforms do."

He adds most of the users on Bubble have never written code in their life. So, they don't have coding

knowledge, what they have though is a technical understanding of how applications work, and they can be further trained. "The citizen developer can actually build a nice finished product if they want to. The basic building block of framing an app can be done in a few days, and they can probably get a fully finished product in a fairly short time," says Praveen Mellacheruvu, Business lead, Business Applications, Microsoft India, over a video call.

However, depending on the complexity of the app they are building, people with limited technical knowledge, might need some assistance in order to complete the development process, he adds.

Apps and gaps
Explaining Microsoft's low-code platform, Praveen says, Power Platform leverages Mi-

crosoft's core offerings such as Office, Azure, and Dynamics 365, and in combination with tools such as Power BI, Power Apps, and Power Virtual Agents, solve niche app needs and help automate processes with a focus on digital transformation in an agile way.

NUMBERS FOR PERSPECTIVE

Over 500 million digital apps and services will be developed by 2023, according to International Data Corporation research

By 2024 about 65% of apps will be developed using low-code platforms, and around 66% of big companies will use at least four low-code platforms for app development, according to Gartner research

The global low-code development platform market is projected to reach \$112.43 billion, by 2026, according to Verified Market Research

This simpler approach of app development is not new and some of these platforms have also existed for quite a while. For instance, Microsoft Excel, can be considered a no-code tool, elaborates Abhishek. These platforms can be used to develop apps to connect the gaps in business workflows. Abhishek's Appsmith, is an open-source low code platform, which is used by

developers to build internal apps or enterprise apps, that are used by companies to run their business.

"In many situations, you can build whatever you like. There is a middle ground where you might be able to build 80% of it, but the last 20%; sometimes it is just not quite possible in no-code yet, but those situations are getting rarer and rarer," Nile explains. Danish adds, if automation is available during an app development process, he uses it and does not code – unless he is seeking more customisation.

Coding culture's future

Praveen asserts, "[Low-code and no-code platforms] democratise coding culture. What might have been accessible to maybe a smaller portion of the technology community now is being opened up to a broader base of users."

As these platforms grow, offering more services, there is a very real possibility that they may eclipse the traditional coding platforms by catering to more netizens. These platforms have the potential, if leveraged right, to be one of the most important things in the tech world as there is a desperate need for more accessible tools, says Emmanuel. "Software is everywhere, and the company that will make software truly easy to create, will take over the technology world in the way that not many companies can do," he adds.

Developers will continue to develop for a very long time because a lot of the problems that no-code tools solve are actually simple, such as building another marketplace, another delivery service, or another website, Nile explains. "Code is going to solve harder problems, and then more people are going to solve their problems with no-code tools. There is always going to be code."

Masking for a friend

CES 2021 saw a lot of COVID-19 tech coming to the fore — the most prominent being in the form of upgraded masks



DIVYA KALA BHAVANI

At Consumer Electronics Show 2021, the smartification of the face mask was on full display, owing to the Coronavirus pandemic. At the virtual expo, more than 2,000 exhibitors were showcasing their work while thousands more were in digital attendance.

Leading the pack was Razer's transparent voice-amplifying, light-up concept mask. This would be the world's smartest mask with a new reusable N95 respirator called Project Hazel. The design features a glossy outside shell made of waterproof and scratch-resistant recycled plastic, which is transparent to allow for lip-reading and seeing facial cues when you chat with people. The company has stated it plans to work with medical experts if it ever decides to produce and sell its mask.

AirPop promoted its Active+ Smart Mask, which monitors users' breathing rates and alerts them via a smartphone app, just like with a FitBit, when the mask's filter needs changing. The washable mask itself has a pre-formed 3D structure to keep the filter away from your face, and hidden under the soft shell is a medical-grade membrane that seals around your mouth. AirPop claims its four-layer filters will remove 99.3% of particles and 99.9% of bacteria.

Binatone's MaskFone has earbuds and a mic for phone calls, all built into a mask with pockets for disposable PM2.5 or medical-grade N95 filters.

CM YK

REVIEW

Oppo Reno5 Pro 5G is significantly superior to its predecessor without being too expensive

A mid-range powerhouse

PRAVEEN SUDEVAN

In the Oppo Reno4 Pro advertisement, Mahendra Singh Dhoni video-calls an aspiring cricketer's father to convince him of his son's talent and passion for the sport. The father expresses inadequate surprise at seeing one of the country's most famous personalities on the call. He calmly tells Dhoni, like a stereotypical Indian dad, "But he should concentrate on his studies, right? What about his future?" So, Dhoni has to send him videos of his

practising wicket-keeping at school.

The video, however, makes the father realise his son's talent and passion. He lets his son attend the selection trials. The son gets selected. All is well.

Apart from the father's remarkable nonchalance at speaking to Dhoni, another thing to note in the ad, which is more pertinent to this review, is the video Dhoni sends the father. It is shot, using Oppo Reno4 Pro, at night in low light. It is suspiciously pris-

SPECIFICATIONS

SCREEN SIZE & WEIGHT: 6.55"; 173 g

RESOLUTION: 1080 x 2400 pixels 402 ppi

CAMERA: REAR: 64 (wide)+8(ultrawide)+2 (macro)+2(depth) MP; **FRONT:** 32MP

CPU: Octa-core MediaTek Dimensity 1000+ processor

RAM AND STORAGE: 8GB and 128GB

BATTERY: 4350 mAh (non-removable) with 65W Super VOOC Charging

For the impatient With 65W Super VOOC charging, the battery level goes from 0 to 100 in about 30 minutes • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

from the Indian cricket team.

Perhaps it is only to al-

lay this suspicion that

Oppo has made the AI

Highlight Video feature

as its USP for its latest

phone, Reno5 Pro 5G,

which launched on Jan-

uary 18.

We put it to test in-

side a dark room with a

candle; the clip still

looked like it belonged

in a found-footage

horror flick. But that

also had to do with the candle-in-a-dark-

room setting. The vi-

deo was slightly

clearer; but grains

and shakes were still

apparent.

The sharp sides of

the phone make it a

tad uncomfortable to

grip. The fingerprint sensor

fails to recognise your finger-

print even if you are slightly off

the mark. The lack of expandable memory (128GB internal) is conspicuous. Despite these disappointments, the Oppo Reno5 Pro is not a bad phone.

Significant improvements
The back camera is beefed up from 48MP+8MP+2MP+2MP to 64MP+8MP+2MP+2MP, which is more than adequate for amateur, casual photography. There are options aplenty for photos and videos. The dual-view video, which simultaneously shows the view from the front and back camera, might be of particular interest to vloggers, especially with a 32MP front camera. The other usual features — slo-mo, time-lapse and panorama — are present, too.

Reno5 Pro is the first major 5G release of 2021 in India. 5G phones are predicted as a major tech trend this year. So, expect more of them in the following months. The MediaTek Dimensity 1000 Plus chipset in Reno5 Pro replaces Qualcomm Snapdragon 720G in Reno4 Pro. The processor also gets an upgrade. RAM remains unchanged at 8GB. But the difference in speed might not be tangible.

The battery is amped up from 4000 mAh to 4350 mAh, which might seem inferior to some of the 5,500-plus mAh midrange phones. But with 65W Super VOOC charging, you hardly have to worry about the battery level. It just takes about half an hour to go from 0 to 100.

The inbuilt tools — compass, sound and screen recorders, phone management and others — come in handy. It was good to see the USB C-type earphones, considering that some flagship brands are trying to do away with these accessories.

The price-tag of ₹35,990 should work in Reno5 Pro 5G's favour; it is just ₹1,000 more than the Reno4 Pro. For this rate, there are not too many phones in the market with as many features.

REVIEW

OPPO Reno5 Pro 5G is significantly superior to its predecessor without being too expensive

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A clothing brand works with artisan clusters of women in rural India providing them with sustained employment



Threads of change (Clockwise from left) Asha Scaria, the artisans of Dungarpur and a model in a Swara sari • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

basic tailoring, owned sewing machines and had been sewing for local customers. It took some convincing over several rounds of conversations with them – as groups and individually too.

Although the women had been stitching, they were put through a month's up-skilling so that their work would be on a par with what is available online.

The first collection was made of indigo-dyed, Dabu fabric – a mud-resist, block technique – sourced from artisans in nearby Akola. The engagement continues, Swara brands and markets saris the artisans make.

Asha has already established a rapport with the women as part of her work related to the Gandhi Fellowship. Explaining the idea of online shopping took some time, all devices at hand – smartphones and tablets – were put to use to show how it works. While Swara has trained 40 tailors, it has worked with more than 70 tailors (artisans) directly or through NGOs. The number of tailors the brand works with has come down due to the lockdown.

Currently Swara works with clusters identified by SEWA Bharat, a federation of women-led institutions which works towards providing economic and social support for women. Asha works with NGOs that have already mobilised women artisans. Swara works with women in need of support – women in rural and/or tribal areas or survivors of human trafficking.

The core areas are product development and marketing. "We help take the artisan's product to the consumer. Product development is the key, as is understanding the market. We want to help the women who get left behind," she says.

She started with an Instagram handle (@swaravow) and built a base. Swara is registered as a 'for profit social enterprise' as she wants to show that a sustainable model, with social welfare at its heart, is possible. She hopes more people would perhaps do the same.

The payoff for Asha is the empowerment of the women she works with: "They understand the value of their work when they see it being valued outside. It gives them exposure to the outside world."



more pressing sustainability issues? What if there is no culture left to preserve?" she asks.

The brand pivots on the artisan who is acknowledged as an equal partner. In this case women artisans. "We want to enable and empower them," she says. "The women work from home; they don't have to step out and they set the pace. This way there is no reason for them to sacrifice their jobs and it keeps them employed, empowered," says Asha, who hails from Ettumanoor in Kerala.

Asha embarked on the project in 2018, when she was in Dungarpur doing the Gandhi Fellowship. It [the Fellowship] grooms fellows to become 'change leaders' to initiate change in existing social and public systems. Asha had been interacting with local women so she knew them, their lives and skills. Plus, she had help from others who were part of the Fellowship and were in Dungarpur with her.

As part of Government run skill development programmes or CSR initiatives, the women had acquired

todians and transmitters of traditional knowledge, designs and manufacturing techniques.

Asha says preservation of culture – cultural sustainability – is perceived as the 'luxury pillar' of the sustainability movement. Cultural sustainability is defined as the preservation of culture – beliefs, practices, and heritage among others aspects. "What happens to culture when we are done dealing with the



more pressing sustainability issues? What if there is no culture left to preserve?" she asks.

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Power to the women

SHILPA NAIR ANAND

When Asha Scaria, founder of ethical clothing brand Swara VOW (Voice of Women), broached the idea of an online portal for garments stitched by the women from the tribal communities of Dungarpur, it was met with scepticism.

"The women were suspicious of the idea: they wondered whether, and how it would work. The concept of e-commerce – selling and buying online – was foreign to them. They could not understand how that could happen, and why anybody outside Dungarpur would buy what they made," says Asha. Two years later, not only has the brand provided sustained employment to women employed by it, but also created in them a sense of empowerment.

Actors Priyanka Chopra and Bhumi Pednekar have mentioned the brand on their socials. "The recognition empowers the women and makes them feel that they can do anything. They understand the value of their work," Asha says.

Swara is one of the few brands in the country which is a member of the Cultural Intellectual Property Rights Initiative, an international movement which not only recognises cultural IP rights for craftspeople but also acknowledges women as cus-

How does your coastline thrive?

Coastwise Marine Festival that explores the many facets of a coastal ecosystem branches out of Mumbai through online initiatives, this year

MEGHNA MAJUMDAR

A coastline can be called many things but "homogenous" is not one of them. Beaches, tide pools, wetlands, mangroves, fisheries... there is much to explore at the point where land meets sea, creating myriad habitats for myriad species.

Once a year, Mumbai's Coastwise Marine Festival aids this exploration for people who would otherwise not know where to begin. From walks along tidal pools and fishery visits to mangrove boat rides, the festival is a window into

worlds right next to ours, opened up by the hands of experts.

This year, due to the pandemic, the festival's scope has both shrunk and widened. While there is a limit to the number of participants allowed in each walk, workshop or event, there is also a string of interesting online initiatives, allowing Coastwise to reach enthusiasts outside Mumbai.

Shaunak Modi of Marine Life of Mumbai, one of the organisations behind the event, states: "We have shorewalks in Mumbai, Goa, Visakhapatnam and West



Where the land meets the sea (From far left) Winning photographs by Dheeraj Nanda and Sarang Naik; a shorewalk

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT, DHEERAJ NANDA, SARANG NAIK

Bengal [Bakkhal] this year. We also have three online events, including a quiz, an art workshop and the awards ceremony for our annual photography contest."

The Coastwise Photo Awards invites entries under various categories, including coastal flora, fauna, anthropocene, habitat, underwater photography and creative and fine art. Last year, the overall winner was wildlife photographer and cinematographer Sarang Naik, who will be holding a workshop in Mumbai, for this year's edition. Says

Shaunak, "The theme of Sarang's workshop – and for much of the fest – will be urban biodiversity. It is something that isn't talked about much, but with the [pandemic-hit] times we have had last year and will continue to have for some time this year, many of us will still be staying in our urban spaces, and will like to explore it well."

To that end, besides the number of shorewalks and mangrove visits being planned, there are also fisheries visits on the cards.

Around Mumbai, for instance, "We

are planning two walks. One will be to Sassoon docks, one of the largest fish markets in the city, very commercial and large-scale.

Tonnes of fish pass through those docks. The other walk will be to an artisanal fishery, to help people understand the differences between these two kinds of operations: differences in scale, in species of fish, and more," says Shaunak, adding that they will also be touching upon the InSeasonFish calendar, which explains when to eat which fish,

keeping in mind their reproductive cy-

cles and other factors that will help prevent the species from dwindling.

Social distancing, however, is still a concern. "Group events have to be smaller, for safety reasons. We cannot take more than 20 people out on a walk at a time, so we have increased the number of shore walks to four this year, instead of the usual two." Yet another silver lining.

Coastwise Marine Festival will be held on February 13 and 14. Seats are limited. For details, schedule and registration, visit coastwise.in

POOCH CAFE



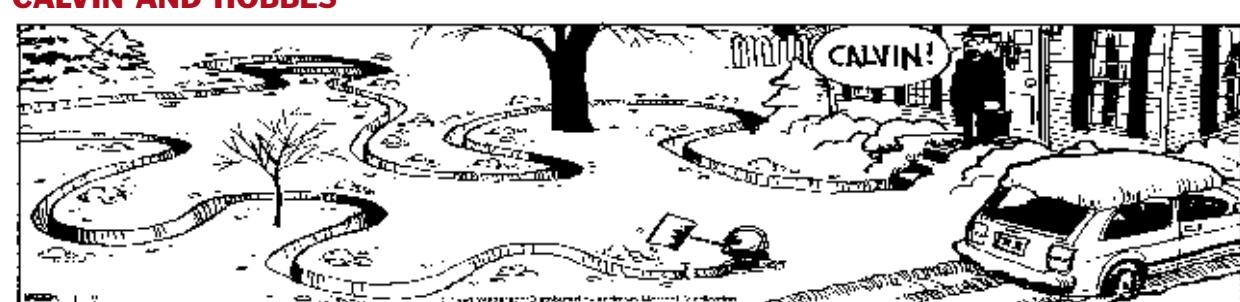
PEANUTS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



CALVIN AND HOBBES



TIGER



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



Navalny remanded in custody for 30 days

American and European leaders demand his release; Russian Foreign Minister defends the detention

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MOSCOW

A judge on Monday ordered Alexei Navalny to be remanded in custody for 30 days, the Russian opposition leader's spokeswoman Kira Yarmysh said on Twitter.

The ruling concluded an hours-long court hearing set up at a police precinct where the politician was held since his arrest at a Moscow airport on Sunday.

Mr. Navalny flew to Russia from Germany, where he had spent five months recovering from nerve agent poisoning that he blames on the Kremlin. He was detained at passport control at Sheremetyevo airport after flying in Sunday evening from Berlin, where he was treated following the poisoning in August.

Mr. Navalny's arrest prompted a wave of criticism from U.S. and European officials, adding to existing tension between Russia and West. German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas noted that Mr. Navalny had returned of his own volition and said "it is completely incomprehensible that he was detained by Russian authorities immediately after his arrival".

"Russia is bound by its own Constitution and by international commitments to the principle of the rule of law and the protection of civil rights," Mr. Maas added. "These principles must of



In troubled waters: Alexei Navalny being escorted out of a police station in Khimki outside Moscow on Monday. ■ AFP

course also be applied to Alexei Navalny. He should be released immediately."

The politician's allies said on Monday he was being held at a police precinct outside Moscow and has been refused access to his lawyer. The court hearing into whether Mr. Navalny should remain in custody was hastily set up at the precinct itself, and the politician's lawyers said they were notified minutes before.

"It is impossible what is happening over here," Mr. Navalny said in video from the improvised court room, posted on his page in the messaging app Telegram. "It is lawlessness of the highest degree."

Calls for Mr. Navalny's immediate release have come from European Commission

President Ursula von der Leyen, the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab and top officials of other EU nations.

'Outrageous attack'

U.S. President-elect Joe Biden's pick for national security adviser called on Russian authorities to free Mr. Navalny. "Mr. Navalny should be immediately released, and the perpetrators of the outrageous attack on his life must be held accountable," Jake Sullivan tweeted.

The outgoing U.S. secretary of state, Mike Pompeo, said the U.S. "strongly condemns" the decision to arrest Mr. Navalny.

Nevertheless, the judge ordered that Mr. Navalny be

UN rights office calls for Navalny's release

GENEVA

The United Nations human rights office said on Monday it was deeply troubled by the arrest of Alexei Navalny, and called for his immediate release. In a tweet, UN human rights chief Michelle Bachelet's office called for an impartial probe into his poisoning, with what Western experts say was nerve agent Novichok. "We call for his immediate release and for his due process rights to be respected in line with the rule of law," her office said. ■ AFP

remanded in custody until February 15, Ms. Yarmysh said on Twitter. Mr. Navalny's lawyer Vadim Kobzev told the Interfax news agency that the defence plans to appeal the ruling.

Mr. Navalny's detention was widely expected because Russia's prisons service said he had violated probation terms from a suspended sentence on a 2014 money-laundering conviction.

The service said it would seek to have Mr. Navalny serve his three-and-a-half-year sentence behind bars.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Monday that the stream of Western reactions to Mr. Navalny's arrest reflects an attempt "to divert attention from the crisis of the West-

ern model of development".

"Navalny's case has received a foreign policy dimension artificially and without any foundation," Mr. Lavrov said, arguing that his detention was a prerogative of Russian law enforcement agencies that explained their action. "It's a matter of observing the law," he added.

Mr. Navalny, 44, President Vladimir Putin's most prominent and determined foe, brushed off concerns about arrest as he boarded his flight in Berlin on Sunday. "It's impossible. I'm an innocent man," he said.

Mr. Navalny fell into a coma while aboard a domestic flight from Siberia to Moscow on August 20. He was transferred from a hospital in Siberia to a Berlin hospital two days later.

Labs in Germany, France and Sweden, and tests by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, established that he was exposed to a Soviet-era Novichok nerve agent.

Russian authorities insisted that the doctors who treated Mr. Navalny in Siberia before he was airlifted to Germany found no traces of poison. Russia refused to open a full-fledged criminal inquiry, citing a lack of evidence that Navalny was poisoned, and officials have challenged Germany to provide proof of the poisoning.

U.S., China spar over the origins of novel coronavirus

Beijing slams U.S. after it pointed a finger at Wuhan lab

ANANTH KRISHNAN

The U.S. and China on Monday sparred over the origins of the coronavirus pandemic, the latest in a growing list of tensions that have left relations strained as President Donald Trump leaves office.

In recent weeks, Washington and Beijing have clashed over trade issues, the sanctification of Chinese companies, Taiwan and Hong Kong. In a reflection of the state of relations, China's official Xinhua news agency issued a commentary, headlined "Good riddance, Trump administration and its final madness", hitting out over the sanctioning of six Chinese officials related to Hong Kong.

The CCP's [Chinese Communist Party's] deadly obsession with secrecy and control comes at the expense of public health in China and around the world," it said, adding that it was making public "previously undisclosed information", saying "the U.S. government has reason to believe that several researchers inside the WIV became sick in autumn 2019, before the first identified case of the outbreak, with symptoms consistent with both COVID-19 and common seasonal illnesses." The fact-sheet also noted WIV researchers had "conducted experiments involving RaTG13, the bat coronavirus identified by the WIV in January 2020 as its closest



Hua Chunying

ed animals or was the result of an accident at a laboratory in Wuhan, China."

"The CCP's [Chinese Communist Party's] deadly obsession with secrecy and control comes at the expense of public health in China and around the world," it said, adding that it was making public "previously undisclosed information", saying "the U.S. government has reason to believe that several researchers inside the WIV became sick in autumn 2019, before the first identified case of the outbreak, with symptoms consistent with both COVID-19 and common seasonal illnesses." The fact-sheet also noted WIV researchers had "conducted experiments involving RaTG13, the bat coronavirus identified by the WIV in January 2020 as its closest

sample to SARS-CoV-2 (96.2% similar)".

China's Foreign Ministry reacted sharply to the claim, with spokesperson Hua Chunying on Monday calling Mr. Pompeo "Mr. Liar" and accusing the U.S. of deflecting blame away from the Trump administration's response to the pandemic.

Final madness'

"The statement and the list are full of conspiracies and lies, which are consistent with certain U.S. officials who have dealt with the pandemic in a passive way and constantly shifted the blame to others," Ms. Hua said, adding it "showed that some U.S. politicians ignored public safety and lives, go against science and are obsessed with making propaganda about conspiracies and spreading 'the political virus', the Party-run Global Times quoted her as saying.

"This is also the final madness staged by Pompeo, this Mr. Liar," Ms. Hua said.

A team of scientists from the WHO arrived in Wuhan last week to research the origins of the outbreak. The agency said on Friday the world may never find "patient zero" as it continues its study into tracing the origins in China.

FBI vets troops ahead of inauguration

The agency is screening 25,000 soldiers amid fears of an insider attack

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

U.S. defence officials say they are worried about an insider attack or other threat from service members involved in securing President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration, prompting the FBI to vet all of the 25,000 National Guard troops coming into Washington for the event.

The massive undertaking reflects the extraordinary security concerns that have gripped Washington following the deadly January 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol by pro-Trump rioters. And it underscores fears that some of the very people assigned to protect the city over the next several days could present a threat to the incoming President and other VIPs in attendance.

Army Secretary Ryan



Standing guard: National Guard soldiers being issued rifles and other ammunition at the U.S. Capitol on Sunday. ■ AFP

McCarthy told The Associated Press on Sunday that officials are conscious of the potential threat, and he warned commanders to be on the lookout for any problems within their ranks as the inauguration approaches. So far, however, he and other leaders say they have seen no evidence of any

threats, and officials said the vetting hadn't flagged any issues that they were aware of.

Closer look

"We're continually going through the process, and taking second, third looks at every one of the individuals assigned to this operation," Mr. McCarthy said in an in-

terview after he and other military leaders went through an exhaustive, three-hour security drill in preparation for Wednesday's inauguration. He said Guard members are also getting training on how to identify potential insider threats.

About 25,000 members of the National Guard are streaming into Washington from across the country – at least two and a half times the number for previous inaugurations. And while the military routinely reviews service members for extremist connections, the FBI screening is in addition to any previous monitoring.

Officials said the process began as the first Guard troops began deploying to D.C. more than a week ago. And they said it is slated to be complete by Wednesday.

ELSEWHERE



Twitter suspends GOP lawmaker's account

WASHINGTON
Marjorie Taylor Greene, a newly elected Republican congresswoman known for promoting QAnon conspiracy theories, accused Twitter of censorship on Sunday after her account was temporarily suspended for "multiple violations". ■ AFP

150 killed in Yemen clashes, say sources

HODEIDA
Some 150 Yemeni pro-government soldiers and Houthi rebels have been killed in a week of fighting south of the strategic port city of Hodeida, sources said on Monday. The latest clashes are the most violent since a UN-brokered truce came into force in 2018. ■ AFP



Imran Khan

recently a member of the Council. In December 2020, Islamabad and Colombo held Foreign Secretary level 'Bilateral Political Consultations' virtually. A statement from the Pakistani High Commission – issued on December 17, 2020 – said Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood shared Pakistan's perspective on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir,

"progress of the CPEC, and Pakistan's positive contribution to the Afghan peace process". He also reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to SAARC and expressed the hope that the process of regional cooperation would be allowed to move forward," he said.

Sri Lanka, which has close ties with Pakistan and India, has seldom commented on Indo-Pak tensions. Following the Pulwama attack in February 2019, Sri Lanka's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said it was "deeply concerned" about the developments following "the brutal terrorist attack on a Central Reserve Police Force convoy in Pulwama," while "requesting" India and Pakistan to act "in a manner that ensures the security, peace and stability of the entire region."

Harris prepares for White House role

Biden wants her to be the last voice in the room on key decisions, say insiders

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

Kamala Harris will make history on Wednesday when she becomes the nation's first female Vice-President – and the first Black woman and the first woman of South Asian descent to hold that office. But that's only where her boundary-breaking role begins.

With the confluence of crises confronting Joe Biden's administration – and an evenly divided Senate in which she would deliver the tie-breaking vote – Ms. Harris is shaping up to be a central player in addressing everything from the coronavirus pandemic to criminal justice reform.

Symone Sanders, Ms. Harris' chief spokeswoman, said that while the Vice President-elect's portfolio hasn't been fully defined yet, she has a hand in all aspects of Mr. Biden's agenda.

"There are pieces that Biden may specifically ask her to champion, but outside of that she is at the table for everything, involved in everything, and giving input and feedback and being a supportive partner to him on all pieces," she said.

People working closely with Ms. Harris on the transition resist the idea of siloing her into any specific issue early on, because the sheer



Team spirit: Kamala Harris and Joe Biden introducing nominees for their science team in Wilmington. ■ AFP

number of challenges the Biden administration faces means it will be "all hands on deck" during their early months. They say she'll be involved in all four of the major priorities they've set out: turning around the economy, tackling COVID-19, and addressing climate change and racial justice.

Those involved in the transition say both have taken seriously Mr. Biden's insistence that he wants Ms. Harris to be the "last voice in the room" on key decisions. Mr. Biden is known to turn to Ms. Harris first during meetings to ask for her perspective on the matter at hand.

All hands on deck
"She has a voice in all of those. She has an opinion in all those areas. And it will probably get to a point where she is concentrating on some of the areas more specifically," Ms. Sanders said. "But right now, I think what we're faced with in this country is so big, it's all hands on deck."

Ms. Harris has been closely involved with all of Mr. Biden's biggest decisions since

winning the election in November, joining him for every one of his key meetings focused on Cabinet picks, the COVID-19 relief Bill, security issues and more. The two talk over the phone nearly every day, and she travels to Delaware sometimes multiple times a week for transition events and meetings.

Mr. Biden and Mr. Obama were from similarly different backgrounds and generations. But their relationship and mutual understanding grew throughout the presidency, and Mr. Obama trusted Mr. Biden with some of his administration's biggest endeavours, like the implementation of the 2009 Recovery Act and the troop withdrawal from Iraq.

Mr. Biden managed to live on handouts from other passengers, Assistant State Attorney Kathleen Hagerty told Cook County Judge Susana Ortiz. The judge ruled that the Mr. Singh could be released if he paid a bail amount of \$1,000, but said that he cannot set foot again in the airport.

Man lives in U.S. airport for 3 months

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LOS ANGELES

A 36-year-old Indian-origin man who was too scared to fly due to the coronavirus pandemic and lived undetected for nearly three months in a secure area of Chicago's international airport has been arrested, U.S. authorities said.

Aditya Singh, a resident of a suburb in Los Angeles, California, was arrested on Saturday for living in a secure area at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport since October 19, the Chicago Tribune reported on Sunday.

Mr. Singh was arrested after two United Airlines staff asked him to produce his identification. He showed them a badge, but it reportedly belonged to an operations manager who reported it missing in October. The airline employees called 911. Police later took him into custody.

Mr. Singh managed to live on handouts from other passengers, Assistant State Attorney Kathleen Hagerty told Cook County Judge Susana Ortiz.

The judge ruled that the Mr. Singh could be released if he paid a bail amount of \$1,000, but said that he cannot set foot again in the airport.

Uganda police surround Bobi Wine's party offices

Supporters stopped from meeting him

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KAMPALA

The Opposition party of Ugandan presidential challenger Bobi Wine said on Monday that police have prevented top officials from going to their headquarters in the capital, Kampala, as they prepare to launch a legal challenge to free Mr. Wine from house arrest.

Police swooped in at dawn at the offices of Wine's National Unity Platform, diverted traffic, and stopped people from entering, party spokesman Joel Ssenyonjo told The Associated Press.

Mr. Wine, whose real name is Kyagulanyi Ssentamu, was the main opposition challenger in presidential elections last week that electoral authorities say long-time leader Yoweri Museveni won with 58% of the vote. Mr. Wine, who took 34% of the vote, has rejected the official outcome as fraudulent and insists he will use all legal means to protest the allegedly "cooked-up" results.

Mr. Wine's party has said it has video evidence of the military stuffing ballot boxes, casting ballots for people and chasing voters away from polling stations.

Opposition lawmaker Medard Sseggoma, an attorney for Mr. Wine, said he feared



The police deployed on a street leading to the house of Bobi Wine in Magere. ■ AFP

police would seize any vital information related to the elections that was kept at the party's headquarters.

Mr. Museveni has dismissed the claims of vote-rigging.

But the election was marred by violence ahead of polling day as well as an Internet shutdown that remained in force until Monday morning, when access was restored for most Ugandans, although social media sites remained restricted. Mr. Wine has been effectively under house arrest since he cast his vote and now is allegedly unable to receive visitors.

Police thwarted opposition officials who were trying to meet with Mr. Wine at his home outside Kampala in order to discuss the way forward, Mr. Ssenyonjo said.

Tunisia arrests 600 over riots, deploys troops

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TUNIS

MARKET WATCH

	18-01-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	48,564	-0.96
US Dollar	73.28	-0.29
Gold	48,332	-0.73
Brent oil	55	-0.04

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	515.50	-12.45
Asian Paints	2588.20	-2.70
Axisc Bank	657.00	-17.85
Bajaj Auto	3563.75	-16.55
Bajaj Finserv	8354.60	-281.50
Bajaj Finance	4719.85	-163.75
Bharti Airtel	586.95	-15.70
BPCL	409.55	-5.05
Britannia Ind	3607.85	-1.20
Cipla	801.75	-21.95
Coal India	138.70	-4.55
Divis Lab	3565.30	-79.50
Dr Reddys Lab	5052.10	-160.70
Eicher Motors	2873.00	-15.70
GAIL (India)	137.90	-0.60
Grasim Ind	999.20	-33.85
HCL Tech	981.50	-8.30
HDFC	2566.50	-66.25
HDFC Bank	1483.10	16.45
HDFC Life	693.95	-10.90
Hero MotoCorp	3163.15	-39.85
Hindalco	243.15	-10.20
Hind Unilever	2322.60	-18.55
ICICI Bank	533.15	-9.85
IndusInd Bank	932.80	-33.10
Infosys	1312.05	-32.90
Indian Oil Corp	98.30	-3.00
ITC	219.75	1.90
JSW Steel	383.10	-11.10
Kotak Bank	1846.95	-16.95
L&T	1336.05	-18.10
M&M	809.00	-10.65
Maruti Suzuki	7830.65	-194.10
Nestle India Ltd.	17630.70	-203.30
NTPC	97.55	-2.90
ONGC	96.65	-4.75
PowerGrid Corp	195.75	-7.25
Reliance Ind	1983.90	46.50
SBI Life	892.90	-17.35
State Bank	294.45	-9.40
Shree Cement	23846.90	-566.90
Sun Pharma	581.45	-22.85
Tata Motors	245.95	-14.35
Tata Steel	666.70	-39.20
TCS	3221.75	-11.60
Tech Mahindra	998.25	-9.05
Titan	1503.55	26.30
UltraTech Cement	5386.00	-66.25
UPL	561.30	38.75
Wipro	431.55	-7.00

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	73.08	73.4
Euro	88.14	88.56
British Pound	98.97	99.41
Japanese Yen (100)	70.4	70.72
Chinese Yuan	11.25	11.3
Swiss Franc	81.94	82.31
Singapore Dollar	54.82	55.07
Canadian Dollar	57.17	57.43
Malaysian Ringgit	18.02	18.12

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF



Maruti to raise prices due to higher costs

BENGALURU
Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. will raise prices for some car models to mitigate the impact of rising costs, the country's largest automaker by market value said on Monday. The move comes after rival Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd. increased prices of its personal and commercial vehicles (CVs) by 1.9% this month due to higher commodity prices and input costs. REUTERS

Chola Investment's MD Alagappan resigns

CHENNAI
Arun Alagappan, the managing director (MD) of Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Co. Ltd. (CIFCL), resigned on Monday "to assume larger responsibilities within the group", the company said in a filing to the stock exchanges. The board had accepted the resignation and Mr. Alagappan would be relieved from the company's services on February 14, CIFCL added.

L&T Fin rights issue to open Feb. 1, at ₹65/shr.

NEW DELHI
L&T Finance Holdings on Monday said its board had fixed the price at ₹65 per share for the ₹3,000-crore rights issue which opens for subscription on February 1 and closes on February 15. The record date is January 22. In a regulatory filing, the company said, "Rights entitlement ratio is 17 equity shares for every 7 held by eligible shareholders of the company." PTI

Govt. to amend LLP Act to spur ease of business

NEW DELHI
Decriminalising various offences and permitting LLPs to issue non-convertible debentures are among the changes being proposed under the Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) Act. To further improve the ease of doing business, the Corporate Affairs Ministry has sought comments on the recommendations of a high-level committee regarding the LLP Act. PTI

Govt. may raise import duties by 5-10%

Budget likely to raise levy on more than 50 items including smartphones, electronic components

REUTERS

NEW DELHI
India is considering raising import duties by 5%-10% on more than 50 items including smartphones, electronic components and appliances in the upcoming budget, three government sources privy to the discussions told Reuters on Monday.

The move to increase import duties is part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's self-reliant India campaign that aims to promote and support domestic manufacturing, said the sources, who asked not to be named as the discussions are not public.

Additional revenue
One of the sources said the government was seeking to target additional revenue of about ₹200 billion to ₹210 billion, as it looks to shore up



Shoring up: Duties were increased last year on the likes of toys, electrical and electronics items by up to 20%. ■ REUTERS

revenue amid the COVID-19 pandemic slowdown that has stung the economy.

Ikea, Tesla
Two of the government sources also said the duty increases could impact furni-

ture and electric vehicles, potentially hurting the likes of Swedish furniture maker Ikea and Tesla, which is planning to launch its cars in India this year.

The officials, however, did not specify how much of an

increase was planned on furniture and electric vehicles.

Both Ikea and Tesla executives have previously expressed concerns about the steep duty structure their products already face in India.

Refrigerators, ACs

The list of items likely to attract steeper duties is set to include appliances such as refrigerators and air conditioners too, three of the sources said.

India's finance minister will on Feb. 1 unveil the central government's annual budget for the 2021-22 financial year, which begins on April 1.

The sources said the proposals may still be tweaked further before they are finalised.

Finance Minister Nirmala

Sitharaman will unveil the budget on Feb. 1 in the shadow of a projected economic contraction of 7.7% for the current fiscal year.

Self-reliance push

India has in recent years taken a series of measures that industry executives say discriminate against foreign companies. Government officials say such taxes are essential to promote India as a destination for local manufacturing and to support domestic businesses.

"This is part of revenue raising and Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) plan," said one of the government sources.

Last year, India raised duties on a range of products such as footwear, furniture, toys, electrical and electronics items by up to 20%.

China's economy grows 2.3%, slowest pace in 44 years

Stimulus helps add 11.9 mn urban jobs

ANANTH KRISHNAN

China said on Monday the nation's economy expanded in 2020 by 2.3%, the slowest pace of growth since the end of Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution in 1976.

China will, however, likely be the only major economy to have avoided a contraction in a pandemic-hit year, underlining its strong recovery after weeks of lockdown at the start of the year brought economic activity in the Asian giant to a near-standstill.



growth and rely more on domestic consumption rather than state-led investment, ended up taking a step backward, as did its efforts to trim the ballooning national debt.

A range of stimulus measures, largely led by spending on infrastructure projects, was the main driver of growth in 2020 along with a rebound in exports, which grew 10.9% in December and 4% last year.

Retail sales shrink
Value-added industrial output was up 2.8%, as the last quarter saw growth of 7.1%. Fixed asset investment grew 2.9%. Retail sales, however, contracted by 3.9% last year, after expanding 8% in 2019.

The other bright spot for the economy was on the jobs front.

The post-pandemic government support measures helped create 11.86 million new urban jobs, beating the 9 million target and marking a turnaround after the first time in 2020.

If the last quarter's strong growth brought some cheer to China, Monday's data showed that it had come at a cost.

The government's long-term plan to rebalance

India, China may take lead in Asia's Covid vaccination plans'

India's progress on vaccines will soften severity: Moody's

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

India and China are expected to take the lead in driving Asia's vaccination plans efforts, even as third waves of infections and stringent measures to curb fresh COVID-19 cases in Japan, South Korea and some South-East Asian Nations remain a dampener for Asia's uneven economic recovery, Moody's Analytics said in a note.

Terming India's beginning of the vaccination programme a 'crucial development' for Asia, the firm said that the country's advances on this front would soften the severity of the pandemic in Asia, especially as India is



the second most-impacted country after the U.S.

"As the largest producer of vaccines in the world, with 60% of the global share, India is well-positioned to use its existing manufacturing capabilities to contribute to mass vaccine production and distribution needs for

other countries in addition to meeting its domestic requirements," the note said.

"With exports of the COVID-19 vaccines expected to begin soon, India [along with China] look set to take the lead in driving the region's distribution efforts in the months ahead," the note added.

Indonesia's approval of China's COVID-19 vaccine Sinovac for emergency use, the first country outside China to do so, could open the door for other Asian economies to follow suit. However, mixed reports on the vaccine's effectiveness have set back vaccination plans in countries considering its use, the firm said.

Total to buy 20% stake in Adani Green

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Total on Monday said it had agreed to acquire 20% stake in Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL). This follows an earlier commitment by the French company to buy 50% interest in a 2.35 GW portfolio of operating solar assets owned by AGEL. The total investment is pegged at \$2.5 billion.

The investment in AGEL – to be executed via the acquisition of shares held by the Adani Promoter Group

– follows other commitments that Total has made in the Adani Group, covering LNG terminals, gas utilities and renewable assets across India, the Adani Group said in a statement.

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Rain adds a twist in the tale of an engrossing Gabba Test

Siraj's five and Shardul's four wickets keep the Aussies in check; India faces a decisive day in the battle for Border-Gavaskar Trophy

INDIA IN AUS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BRISBANE

India will need to score 328 runs for victory or bat all day for a draw after bowling Australia out for 294 midway through the final session on day four of the decisive fourth Test at the Gabba on Monday.

Mohammed Siraj had Josh Hazlewood caught on the boundary to end the Australian innings as rain clouds formed over the ground.

Early close

Indian openers Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill then faced just 11 balls, reaching four without loss, before light rain began to fall and play was called off for the day.

Siraj and fellow quick Shardul Thakur were exceptional throughout Monday as they kept the Australian scoring rate largely under control while taking wickets at regular intervals.

Although most of the Australian batsmen got starts, his glove on the way to wicket-

only Steve Smith converted and even he fell for 55 when surprised by a Siraj short ball.

Australia needs to win to regain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy but, with more rain forecast for Tuesday, India will fancy its chances of surviving for the draw it needs to keep the silverware.

The highest successful run chase at the Gabba is the 236 that Australia scored to beat the West Indies in 1951.

But, India has always been in the contest since its disastrous capitulation in the first Test in Adelaide when it was bowled out for 36. India came back and won the Boxing Day Test in Melbourne then batted for more than a day to draw the Sydney Test.

Pulling things back

India claimed four wickets in the morning session to peg back a flying start by David Warner and Marcus Harris. The two added 68 runs in 19 overs before Harris fell for 38 trying to duck a Shardul short ball only for it to graze his glove on the way to wicket-



Very special: Siraj's maiden five-wicket haul in Tests helped India fight back at Brisbane. ■ AFP

keeper Rishabh Pant.

It prompted a mini-collapse as two runs later Washington Sundar trapped Warner lbw for 48, the Australian opener's highest score since his return from a groin strain in the third Test in Sydney.

First innings century-maker Marnus Labuschagne

came to the crease and continued to attack, blasting five boundaries on his way to a quickfire 25 before he was straightened up by a Siraj delivery and edged a simple catch to Rohit at second slip.

Siraj, who was expensive in his early overs, then had Matthew Wade caught be-

hind down the leg-side for a duck three balls later to leave Australia 123 for four.

Smith and Cameron Green then began to take the game away from the visitors, though both had let-offs. Smith was dropped at long-off by Siraj on 38 while Green survived a caught and bow-

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA – 1ST INNINGS

369.

INDIA – 1ST INNINGS

336.

AUSTRALIA – 2ND INNINGS

Marcus Harris c Pant b Shardul

38 (82b, 8x4), David Warner

lbw b Washington 48 (75b,

6x4), Marnus Labuschagne c

Rohit b Siraj 25 (22b, 5x4),

Steve Smith c Rahane b Siraj 55

(74b, 7x4), Matthew Wade c

Pant Siraj 0 (3b), Cameron

Green c Rohit b Shardul 37

(90b, 3x4), Tim Paine c Pant b

Shardul 27 (37b, 3x4), Pat Cummins (not out) 28 (51b, 2x4,

1x6), Mitchell Starc c Saini b

Siraj 1 (4b), Nathan Lyon c Mayank

b Shardul 13 (10b, 1x6),

Josh Hazlewood c Shardul b

Siraj 9 (11b, 2x4); Extras (b-5,

lb-2, w-2, nb-4); 13; Total (in

75.5 overs): 294.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-89 (Harris, 24.6 overs), 2-91

(Warner, 25.6), 3-123

(Labuschagne, 30.3), 4-123

(Wade, 30.6), 5-196 (Smith,

54.2), 6-227 (Green, 60.5), 7-

242 (Paine, 64.6), 8-247 (Starc,

67.3), 9-274 (Lyon, 72.1).

INDIA BOWLING

Siraj 19.5-57-5, Natarajan 14-

4-41-0, Washington 18-1-80-1,

Shardul 19-2-61-4, Saini

5-1-32-0.

INDIA – 2ND INNINGS

(Target: 328)

Rohit Sharma (batting) 4 (6b,

1x4), Shubman Gill (batting) 0

(5b); Total (for no loss in 1.5

overs): 4.

AUSTRALIA BOWLING

Starc 1-0-4-0, Hazlewood 0.5-

0-0.

RICKY PONTING

Chandra recovering



B.S. Chandrasekhar.
■ FILE PHOTO

SPORTS REPORTER

BENGALURU

Former India cricketer B.S. Chandrasekhar is recovering well after having suffered a mild stroke.

The spin legend Chandrasekhar, who was hospitalised here on Sunday, is likely to be discharged in a couple of days, a family member said.

England seals seven-wkt. win

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
GALLE

England won the first Test against Sri Lanka by seven wickets on Monday with Jonny Bairstow and Dan Lawrence negotiating a tricky finish.

After losing three quick wickets before the overnight close, Bairstow and Lawrence scored the required 36 runs in less than 10 overs on the final day.

The crumbling pitch gave Sri Lanka's spinners hopes of claiming more wickets but Bairstow (35) and Lawrence (21) took England to 76 for three after resuming at 38 for three.

Sri Lanka called a review on one Dilruwan Perera ball to Lawrence, who missed his reverse sweep. But the TV replay found the faintest edge before it hit his pads.

England captain Root said the lack of preparation before the match had been a handicap. He said the performance of spinners Dom Bess and Jack Leach, who each took five wickets in an innings, was a "brilliant achievement".

SCOREBOARD

Sri Lanka – 1st innings: 135.

England – 1st innings: 421.

Sri Lanka – 2nd innings: 359.

England – 2nd innings: 2.

Crawley c Mendis b Embuldeniya 8, D. Sibley b Embuldeniya 2, J. Bairstow (not out) 35,

J. Root run out 1, D. Lawrence (not out) 21; Extras (b-4, lb-5); 9; Total (for three wkts. in 24.2 overs): 76.

Fall of wickets: 1-3, 2-12, 3-14.

Sri Lanka bowling: Embuldeniya 12-3-29-2, D. Perera 11.2-

2-34-0, da Silva 1-0-4-0.

Man-of-the-Match: Joe Root.

England won by seven wickets and leads two-match series 1-0.



Ready to fire: The fit-again Ishant is likely to be included.

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★

Solution to puzzle 13147

C	S	V	I	P	M	R	L	
O	U	T	F	I	T	E	A	E
A	O	G	S	E	D	N		
R	O	M	A	I	M	I		
M	A	I	N	E	S	I		
A	S	A	L	U	U	E		
L	E	T	E	E	O	C		
E	R	T	E	A	E	N		
T	E	R	E	A	E	N		

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

TV PICKS

NEW DELHI ROUND-UP

Australia vs India: Sony Ten 1, 3 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 5.30 a.m.
Mushtaq Ali Trophy: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), Noon & 7 p.m.
ISL: Star Sports 2 & 3 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.
Thailand Open badminton: Star Sports 2 HD & 3, 7.30 a.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 11.30 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Wednesday).

10-man EB proves equal to CFC

SPORTS BUREAU
A 10-man SC East Bengal (SCEB) frustrated Chennaiyin FC (CFC), holding it to a goalless draw in an ISL match in Bambolim on Monday.

Despite enjoying a numerical advantage for close to an hour, CFC failed to get the winner and blew up another opportunity to move into the top four.
The result: Chennaiyin FC 0 drew with SC East Bengal 0.
Tuesday's match: Hyderabad FC vs Odisha FC, 7.30 p.m.

Harikrishna holds Espenko

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI
P. Harikrishna drew with Russia's Andrey Esipenko in 47 moves in the second round of the Tata Steel Masters chess tournament at Wijk aan Zee on Sunday.
The results:
Second round: P. Harikrishna (1) drew with Andrei Esipenko (Rus, 1); Jan-Krzysztof Duda (Pol, 0.5) lost to Nils Grandelius (Swe, 2); David Anton (Esp, 1) drew with Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 1.5); Alexander Donchenko (Ger, 0) lost to Fabiano Caruana (USA, 1.5).
Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra, 1) drew with Alireza Firouzja (FIDE, 0.5); Aryan Tari (Nor, 0.5) drew with Radoslaw Wojtaszek (Pol, 1); Jorden van Foreest (Ned, 1) drew with Anish Giri (Ned, 1.5).

Unbeaten ton by Agnesh

A quickfire unbeaten 158 by Agnesh Surya saw Ramanujan College beat Delhi University Press XI by six wickets and win the Ramanujan Centenary T20 tournament.
The scores: DUP XI 217 in 19.1 overs (Satish Pathak 100, Dev Singh 50, Sumit Kumar 3/38) lost to Ramanujan College 219/4 in 17.1 overs (Agnesh Surya 158 n.o.).

Haryana Academy in final

Sumit Verma top-scored with 81 as Haryana Academy defeated Sahgal Club by 14 runs to enter the final of the B.R. Sharma memorial tournament.

The scores: Haryana Academy 271/6 in 40 overs (Sumit Verma 81 n.o., Devender Lohab 72, Vivek Yadav 62, Vision Panchal 3/56) bt Sahgal Club 257 in 39.3 overs (Ekansh Dobal 68, Vision Panchal 35, Raunak Dabas 4/58).

Raj scalps four

Raj Joshi picked up four wickets as TNM Academy beat Gyanti Academy by four wickets in the Turf Youth (u-15) Cup.
The scores: Gyanti Academy 174/8 in 40 overs (Trinav Kumar 55, Vansh Anand 46, Raj Joshi 4/32) lost to TNM Academy 175/6 in 37.5 overs (Piush Kumar 52 n.o., Inzimam Khan 39).

Harshit shines

Harshit Kaushik (43 and 3/31) helped Rann Star Club defeat Mount Club by four wickets in the Shanti Devi memorial tournament.
The scores: Mount Club 160/6 in 30 overs (Pranav Rajvanshi 57, Mayank Rawat 50, Harshit Kaushik 3/31) lost to RSC 164/6 in 25.5 overs (Harshit Kaushik 43, Anshul Kumar 4/26).

Good knock by Ramdev

Ramdev Acharya's unbeaten 88 saw West Delhi Academy beat Push Academy by seven wickets in the Swasthik Cup (u-17).
The scores: Push Academy 208 in 38.3 overs (Rake Kumar 61, Aditya Jain 59, Sarthak Narang 3/22, Piyush Pugalani 3/35) lost to WDA 209/3 in

29.3 overs (Ramdev Acharya 88 n.o., Divij Digari 54).

Ankit, Deepanshu hog limelight

Ankit Kumar top-scored with 101 and Deepanshu Gulia took four as Uttarakhand Boys scored a 72-run win over Wonders Club (Noida) in the S.N. Dubey u-16 tournament.

The scores: Uttarakhand Boys 287/7 in 40 overs (Ankit Kumar 101, Tarun Bisht 60, Aayush Kumar 55) bt Wonders Club 215 in 35.1 overs (Innesh Mahajan 70, Deepanshu Gulia 4/43).

Aryan hits hundred

Aryan Dabas' century set-up Turf Academy's 49-run win over Harry Academy in the Endurance u-15 League.
The scores: Turf Academy 214/8 in 35 overs (Aryan Dabas 110, Parth Rakesh Athwal 4/26) bt Harry Academy 165/9 in 35 overs (Jatin Bhateria 47, Parth Athwal 37, Rajiv Suri 3/22); VJCA 150/5 in 35 overs (Yuvraj Singh 42) lost to Endurance Academy 151/9 in 34.2 overs (Urvraj Kumar 65, Suryansh Chaudhary 3/33).

Gorish, Rahul hit centuries

Centuries by Gorish Dahiya and Rahul Yadav helped Shri Shyam Boss Academy defeat Arabin Academy by 133 runs in the Shri Manik Chand memorial under-14 tournament on Monday.

The scores: SSBA 299/3 in 40 overs (Gorish Dahiya 120 n.o., Rahul Yadav 104) bt Arabin Academy 166 in 30.5 overs (Sidharth 40, Rahul Yadav 4/28); Bal Bhawan 181/9 in 40 overs (Akshat Bisht 42, Mayank 37, Kuldeep 4/37) bt DCA 141 in 33.4 overs (Akshat Bisht 3/16, Bharti Rawal 3/35).

Kavya, Aryan among runs

Kavya Gupta (149 n.o.) and Aryan Dalal (83) helped Sonnet Club beat Players Academy by 131 runs in the Sunil Jain memorial under-19 tournament.
The scores: Sonnet Club 318/6 in 40 overs (Kavya Gupta 149 n.o., Aryan Dalal 83, Shubh Sharma 39) bt Players Academy 187 in 40 overs (Hardik Sharma 59, Vedansh Sioti 36).

Ashwa Bravo clinches Golconda 2000 Guineas in style

HYDERABAD: Trainer M. Srinivas Reddy's Ashwa Bravo (Suraj Narredu up) won the HRC Golconda 2000 Guineas (Gr.2), the stellar attraction of Monday's (Jan.18) races. The winner is Day (B.R. Kumar) 4. Not run: Belle Cruise. Nose. 2nd, 3rd, 4th. Im. 28.2s. 718 (w), 6, 7 and 6 (p). SHP: 20, THP: 18; FP: 56, Q: 17, Tanala: 191. Favourite: Polonos. Owners: Mr. Subodh Kumar Ananthula & Mr. G. Raghuandan Chary. Trainer: Mir Faiyaz Ali Khan.

2. STARRY SCENE PLATE (I,100m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): BEDFORD (Kiran Naidu) 1, Different (Srinath) 2, Aibak (Mukshe Kumar) 3 and Farmville (Ajeeet Kumar) 4. Hd. 3/4 and 4. Im. 7.06s. ₹36 (w), 8, 7 and 12 (p). SHP: 16, THP: 23; FP: 158, Q: 56, Tanala: 2,577. Favourite: Win Vision. Owners: Mr. & Mrs. Shaheed P. Mistry rep. Manji Horse Breeders Farm Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Mukund Kakani & Mr. Teegala Vijender. Reddy. Trainer: K.S.V. Narreddu.

3. GLOBAL STUD MILLION (I,200m), 3-y-o only: FALCON 3/4, 3-3/4 and 3/4. Im. 40.49s. ₹30 (w), 6, 7 and 11 (p). SHP: 25, THP: 17, FP: 40, Q: 24, Tanala: 171. Favourite: Ashwa Bravo. Owners: Mr. Ravinder Pal Singh Chauhan, Mr. Zavaray S. Poornawalla, Mrs. Behroze Z. Poornawalla rep. Poornawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt Ltd, Mr. Yohan Z. Poornawalla, Ms. Delna Z. Poornawalla & Ms. Simone Z. Poornawalla. Trainer: M. Srinivas Reddy.

4. CYNDY PLATE (DIV. I) (I,400m), rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II): CLASSIC REMARK (Surya Prakash) 1, Agni (Akshay Kumar) 2, Pontius Pilate (Trevor) 3 and Galloping Gangster (Kuldeep Singh) 4. 1/2, 2 and NK. 1m, 11.50s. ₹58 (w), 11, 8 and 11 (p). SHP: 30, THP: 27; FP: 355, Q: 160, Tanala: 1,188. Favourite: Strategist. Owner: Mr. S. Sanas. Trainer: M. Srinivas Reddy.

5. HRC GOLCONDA 2000 GUINEAS (GR. II) (I,600m), (TERMS) 4-Y-O ONLY: ASHWA BRAVO (LETIR MOR-SHADOW ROLL) (SURAJ NARREDDU) 1, TIGRO (Phoenix Tower-Tigress Noire) (Srinath) 2, BEL-LATOR (Western Aristocrat-Nickel) (Akshay Kumar) 3 and FOREVER SPLENDOUR (Leitir Mor-Forever Glory) (Trevor) 4. 3-1/4, Hd and 2-1/2. Im. 37.98s. ₹10 (w), 6, 7 and 11 (p). SHP: 25, THP: 17, FP: 40, Q: 24, Tanala: 2,085. Favourite: N R I Gift. Owners: Mr. Ahmed Alam Khan & Mr. Mohd. Alam Khan. Trainer: Laxman Singh. Jackpot: 70%; ₹19,865 (13 tkts.) and 30%: 532 (208 tkts.). Treble: (i) 1,41 (29 tkts.), (ii) 239 (104 tkts.), (iii) 3,682 (94 tkts.). Mini jackpot: (i) 6,242 (three tkts.), (ii) 37,415 (c/o).

Manas stuns Dhruv

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The 13-year-old Manas Dhamne knocked out the seventh seed Dhruv Tangri 6-4, 6-0 in the boys' first round of the ITF grade-4 under-18 tennis tournament at the DLT A Complex on Monday.

Qualifier Manas will next face Yuvan Nandal, who knocked out wild card Tushar Mittal for the loss of one game.

In the girls' section, Sweeta Samanta bounced back from the brink of defeat to beat fifth seed Hetvee Chaudhari 5-7, 7-6(4), 6-2.

Important results (first round):

Boys: Nishant Dabas bt Ronin Lotlikar 6-3, 6-4; Ayush Bhat bt Kartik Saxena 6-1, 6-1; Yuvan Nandal bt Tushar Mittal 6-0, 6-1; Nikhil Nirajan bt Anargha Ganguly 6-3, 6-4; Sarthak Gandhi bt Dhanush Patel 6-3, 6-3; Kirtan Patel (Can) bt Denim Yadav 7-6(9), 1-6, 6-2.

Girls: Sanjana Sirimalla bt Ananya Manchanda 6-3, 6-3; Adithi Are bt Hannah Nagpal 7-6(5), 6-2; Suhitha Maruri bt Sharvari Shrestha (Nep) 6-0, 6-0; Renne Singla bt Riya Uboveja 6-3, 6-1.

SYED MUSHTAQ ALI TROPHY - MONDAY'S SCORES

Elite A (Bangalore): Railways 133/9 in 20 overs (Mrunal Devdar 57) lost to Jammu & Kashmir 135/3 in 15.5 overs.

Punjab: 183/3 in 20 overs (Mandeep Singh 99 n.o., Gurkeerat Mann 69) bt Tripura 161/4 in 20 overs (Udayan Bose 50, Milind Kumar 64 n.o.). **Punjab qualified.**

Tamil Nadu qualified.

Final standings: Baroda 5-5-0-20 (+1.465); Himachal 5-4-1-16 (+0.940); Gujarat 5-3-2-12 (+0.891); Uttarakhand 5-1-4-4 (-0.981); Maharashtra 5-1-4-4 (-1.169); Chhattisgarh 5-1-4-4 (-1.390).

Tuesday's matches: Elite D (Indore): Services vs MP; Vidarbha vs Goa, both at noon; Rajasthan vs Saurashtra, 7 p.m.
Elite E (Mumbai): Haryana vs Kerala; Delhi vs Pondicherry, both at noon; Mumbai vs Andhra, 7 p.m.
Elite C (Wadodara): Baroda 176/4 in 20 overs (Vishnu Solanki 59 n.o.) bt Gujarat 164/9 in 20 overs. **Baroda qualified.**

Uttarakhand 167/8 in 20 overs (Jay Bista 92) tied with Chhattisgarh 167/9 in 20 overs; Super Over: Chhattisgarh 15/1 in one over bt Uttarakhand 3/0 in one over; Maharashtra 117/9 in 20 overs lost to Himachal 121/6 in 18.5 overs (Rishi Dhawan 61 n.o.).
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Thursday's matches: Elite D (Indore): Services vs MP; Vidarbha vs Goa, both at noon; Rajasthan vs Saurashtra, 7 p.m.
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