



B.V.R. Subrahmanyam appointed next Commerce Secretary  
page 8



Bengal suffered damage worth ₹15,000 crore in cyclone, says Mamata  
page 8



U.S. President Biden orders intelligence probe into virus origins  
page 11



Djokovic, Nadal, and Federer in the same half of French Open  
page 13

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

## NEARBY



Delhi reports 1,072 cases, lowest in two months

NEW DELHI

Delhi reported 1,072 new COVID-19 cases over 24 hours, the lowest in almost two months, taking the total number of cases to 14,22,549. The test positivity rate fell to 1.53% on Thursday.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

## IMA lodges complaint against Ramdev

NEW DELHI

The Indian Medical Association on Thursday lodged a police complaint against yoga guru Ramdev, seeking an FIR over his "dishonest and wrongful representations" on allopathic medicines.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

## Provide protection to interfaith couple: HC

LUCKNOW

The Allahabad High Court has directed the district police chief of Meerut to provide protection to an interfaith couple after they expressed apprehension of harm from the family of the girl.

NORTH & EAST ▶ PAGE 4

**COMPLETE GEOGRAPHY Module**  
By Amit Garg  
Ex-Faculty Vajiram & Ravi  
**FEE** During Covid 3999/-  
After Covid 999/-  
Starting on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021  
IASSETU.COM | 9218400100

# States responsible for vaccine shortfall, says govt. adviser

Centre decentralised vaccination process on incessant requests by States: V.K. Paul

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

India's top COVID-19 adviser Dr. V.K. Paul has said the States had coerced the Centre into expanding the availability of vaccines, despite being aware of being inadequately prepared.

Dr. Paul, Chairman, National Empowered Group on Vaccine Administration, in a press statement on Thursday, said vaccine supply, which was managed by the Centre from January-April, was "well administered" but was not up to the mark in May.

The Centre did all the "heavy-lifting", which included funding vaccine manufacturers, accelerating approvals, ramping up production and bringing foreign vaccines to India.

"The vaccine procured by the Centre is supplied wholly to the States for free administration to people. All this is very much in the knowledge of the States. The Government of India has merely enabled the States to try procuring vaccines on their own, on their explicit requests. The States very well knew the production capacity in the country and what the difficulties are in procuring vaccines directly from abroad," stated his note, which was released by the

## Supply crunch

**HIGH ON DEMAND** | Till May 27, 22.16 crore doses have been supplied by the Centre to the States, of which 20.17 crore (91.04%) have been consumed, including wastages

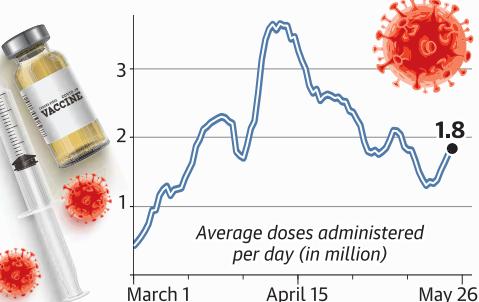
Doses supplied to States/UTs by Centre as on May 27  
22,16,11,940  
Doses consumed by States/UTs, including wastage  
20,17,59,768



SOURCE: PIB, HEALTH MINISTRY

Despite the States utilising over 91% of the 22 crore vaccine doses supplied by the Centre, the average daily doses administered have remained below the 2 million mark

**DIPPING DOSES** | The 7-day average number of doses consistently declined between mid-April and mid-May. It recovered slightly in the past week but remained below the 2 million mark



Press Information Bureau in the form of a 'Myths Vs Facts' questionnaire.

### 'Not easy at short notice'

"States, who had not even achieved good coverage of healthcare workers and frontline workers in three months, wanted to open up the process of vaccination and wanted more decentralisation. Health is a State subject & the liberalised vaccine policy was a result of the incessant requests to give States more power. The fact that global tenders have not given any results only reaffirm what we have been telling the States from day one: that vaccines are in short

supply in the world and it is not easy to procure them at short notice," the note said.

Since May, vaccinations were opened up to everyone aged over 18, and the States, as well as private hospitals, were allowed to procure half the vaccines cleared by the Central Research Laboratory, Kasauli. While total weekly doses averaged a high of 2.5 crore in the first weeks of April, they had steadily fallen to 1.2 crore a week from the first week of May and down to 87 lakh in the week May 22-28, according to data from Co-Win.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

PFIZER SUPPLY ▶ PAGE 10

## States dispute vaccine wastage claims

The Health Ministry on Wednesday said that vaccine wastage was high in some States. "Many States such as Jharkhand (37.3%), Chhattisgarh (30.2%), Tamil Nadu (15.5%), Jammu and Kashmir (10.8%) and Madhya Pradesh (10.7%) are reporting much higher wastage than the national average (6.3%)," a release said. Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh termed the data erroneous. ▶ PAGE 10

# Twitter defaming India, defying laws, says govt.

Platform flags 'intimidation tactics'

**YUTHIKA BHARGAVA**  
NEW DELHI

With microblogging platform Twitter on Thursday expressing concerns over "intimidation tactics" by the Delhi Police and "potential threat to freedom of expression" in India, the government hit back, calling the statement baseless, false and an attempt to defame India to hide their [Twitter's] own follies.

This follows a similar tiff between the government and messaging app WhatsApp on Wednesday after the latter filed a legal challenge to India's new IT guidelines.

The U.S.-headquartered firm expressed concerns over "recent events regarding its employees in India" and said it plans to advocate changes in core elements of the new IT Rules that inhibit free and open public conversation. It, however, added that it will strive to comply with the revised IT laws in India, but sought a minimum of three-month extension of the compliance window.

In response, the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) said, "The government strongly contests the claims made by Twitter... In

dia has a glorious tradition of free speech and democratic practices dating back centuries. Protecting free speech in India is the commitment of the world's largest democracy and its robust institutions."

The Ministry added that the allegation of use of "intimidation tactics" by the police are "completely baseless".

The Ministry said that through its actions and deliberate defiance, Twitter seeks to undermine India's legal system.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

India in touch with Dominica on Choksi's repatriation

**KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE**  
NEW DELHI

India is in contact with the government of Dominica regarding the possibility of repatriating diamantaire Mehul Choksi, informed sources here said on Thurs-day.

Mr. Choksi, wanted for defrauding banks in India, was arrested in Dominica after an Interpol Yellow Notice was issued against him.

"We are in touch with both the governments of Antigua and Dominica. Contact was established yesterday [on Wednesday] evening," said an informed source who is part of the process to repatriate Mr. Choksi.

However, Dominica announced that Mr. Choksi will be sent back to Antigua as the request for repatriation came from the Anti-guan authorities.

Mr. Choksi and his nephew Nirav Modi are the prime accused in the case of defrauding the Punjab National Bank and the State Bank of India of more than a billion dollars. Mr. Choksi fled to Antigua in 2018.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

## + Rajasthan may move SC for global tenders by Centre

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
JAIPUR

The Congress government in Rajasthan has said it may move the Supreme Court seeking directions to the Centre to float global tenders for procuring COVID-19 vaccines, which could be sup-

plied to the States on the latter bearing the costs.

The State halted its vaccination exercise on Thursday in the absence of sufficient number of doses. The global expression of interest issued by the Rajasthan government for procurement did not yield

the desired results, as bidders sought higher rates. Nine parties, including those claiming to be authorised agents of AstraZeneca and Sputnik, had sent their quotes.

Medical and Health Minister Raghu Sharma said the global tenders would not help

the States much as they could not check the manufacturers' credentials. "This task can be accomplished by the External Affairs Ministry through the Ambassadors posted in different countries. Ideally, it is the Centre which should float the tenders," he said.

## Oppn. States to seek COVID relief at GST meet

**MOHAMMED IQBAL  
S. ANIL RADHAKRISHNAN**  
JAIPUR/THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Opposition-ruled States will press the Centre to waive taxes levied on COVID-19 relief material, including vaccines, and seek a speedy payout of their compensation dues as

seek an extension of the compensation due to them under the GST regime beyond the original five-year window that expires in June 2022. They will also urge the Centre to enhance their borrowing limits to enable them to raise debt of up to 5%

their Gross State Domestic Product. The Opposition-ruled States have joined forces to demand that GST dues be paid at the earliest so they can fund pandemic-related spending.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

## Student narrates 'horrors' of stay at isolation centre

HC directs Delhi govt. to act on plea

**SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH**  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday directed the city government to treat as representation a plea by a JNU student who had a "horrifying experience at the Sultanpur Government Isolation Centre" for COVID patients.

Madhurima Kundu, a PhD scholar at JNU, said during her four-day stay at the quarantine facility she saw patients suffering severely not only on account of their illness but also due to the negligence of the government authorities in providing them with basic facilities such as sanitation, food, medicines, clean mattresses and blankets, regular doctor visits and proper monitoring of oxygen among others.

The Sultanpur centre is predominantly occupied by patients from the working class from nearby areas and students who were sent there by JNU.

### 'No sanitisation'

The petition, filed through advocate Kawalpreet Kaur, stated that the toilets and washrooms at the facility were overflowing with urine and not being cleaned. The bed sheets and blankets, used by earlier patients, were redistributed without washing and sanitisation. The rooms allotted to new patients were not sanitised or cleaned after the previous patient left. There was no light in her washroom and it was fixed only after her re-

quested.

Ms. Kundu highlighted that there was no system of calling doctors or nurses at the centre. Patients were required to go down to the reception for every basic thing despite suffering from high fever and severe weakness.

"The patients were left on their own to do everything," she said.

On May 3, Ms. Kundu had high fever at night but no doctor was available to attend to her. A fellow patient somehow found a doctor and requested him to examine her. When she requested the doctor to monitor her oxygen levels, the doctor flatly refused and asked her to "take paracetamol" in case of fever.

She said many patients who are too unwell to go downstairs are left unattended, without any supervision.

"Most of the time, the patients have to wait in a line, sometimes even for an hour in the scorching sun, to obtain basic medicines given by the centre," she said.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh asked the Delhi government to take her plea as representation and act on it as early as possible, in accordance with law.

The petition has sought orders for doctor visits to patients' rooms thrice a day. It has also asked for directions to ensure that the facility provides a clean and hygienic environment by sanitising the premises on a daily basis.

## Bengal govt. is now party to Narada case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

A five-judge Bench of Calcutta High Court on Thursday heard the Narada case and agreed to make the West Bengal government party to the

case. The Bench, which will hear the application again on Friday, agreed to first hear the arguments of the recall application on the May 17 order, where the HC had cancelled the bail granted to four

persons by a city court.

The five-judge Bench is hearing the matter after a two-judge Bench had differences over granting bail.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 9

**VISION IAS INSPIRING INNOVATION**

Heartiest Congratulations To All Successful Candidates

7 IN TOP 10 SELECTIONS IN CSE 2019 from various programs of VISION IAS

JATIN KISHORE PRATIBHA VERMA VISHAKHA YADAV GANESH K BASKAR ABHISHEK SARAF RAVI JAIN YOU CAN BE NEXT

हिन्दी माध्यम में भी उपलब्ध

**FOUNDATION COURSE GENERAL STUDIES PRELIMS CUM MAINS 2022**

LIVE / ONLINE cum Offline classes English Medium 15 June | 1 PM | 5 May 5 PM

हिन्दी माध्यम 15 जूलाई | 5 PM | 23 मार्च | 1:30 PM

20<sup>th</sup> May LUCKNOW JAIPUR: 17<sup>th</sup> March 7 AM | 5 PM

#PrelimsIsComing ABHYAAS 2021 ALL INDIA PRELIMS MOCK TEST SERIES (ONLINE) GS TESTS - 25 Apr | 9 May | 4 July | 8 Aug | 5 Sept CSAT TESTS - 13 June | 22 Aug Register at: www.visionias.in/abhyas

GS FOUNDATION COURSE FOR CSE 2022 PREPARATION UNINTERRUPTED Organize all your lectures and study material effectively & access them from anywhere, anytime

LIVE / ONLINE cum Offline classes English Medium 15 June | 1 PM | 5 May 5 PM

हिन्दी माध्यम 15 जूलाई | 5 PM | 23 मार्च | 1:30 PM

20<sup>th</sup> May LUCKNOW JAIPUR: 17<sup>th</sup> March 7 AM | 5 PM

General Studies | Philosophy | Sociology | Essay | PS & IR Start: 23 May for Prelims 2022: 30 May

Start: 23 May for Mains 2022: 30 May

ALL INDIA PRELIMS & MAINS TEST SERIES 2021 & 22

General Studies | Philosophy | Sociology | Essay | PS & IR Start: 23 May for Prelims 2022: 30 May

Start: 23 May for Mains 2022: 30 May

DELIJA • HEAD OFFICE: Apsara Arcade, Karol Bagh | CONTACT: 8468022022, 9019066066

JAIPUR 9001949244 PUNE 8007500096 HYDERABAD 9000104133 AHMEDABAD 9909474074 LUCKNOW 8468022022 CHANDIGARH 8468022022 GUWAHATI 8468022022

To know more, get FREE Counseling or Register

#PrelimsIsComing ABHYAAS 2021 ALL INDIA PRELIMS MOCK TEST SERIES (ONLINE) GS TESTS - 25 Apr | 9 May | 4 July | 8 Aug | 5 Sept CSAT TESTS - 13 June | 22 Aug Register at: www.visionias.in/abhyas

DELIJA • HEAD OFFICE: Apsara Arcade, Karol Bagh | CONTACT: 8468022022, 9019066066</p

Three held for selling used surgical gloves

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Three persons have been arrested for allegedly selling used surgical gloves after washing them at their godowns, the police said on Thursday.

DCP (Dwarka) S.K. Meena said the accused identified as Manish Kumar (30), Arun Shrinivasan (37) and Dinesh Kumar (28). They wanted to make money, taking advantage of the COVID-19 situation.

On Tuesday, the police received information that used gloves are being repacked after washing at two buildings in Dwarka and Bindapur following which a raid was conducted. The police claim to seize 848 kg used surgical gloves from the godowns. A case was then registered, and the accused were held.

During interrogation, the police said it was revealed that these gloves were procured from scrap markets and hospitals through dealer based in Tikri. A manhunt is on for the dealer. After procurement, the accused segregate these gloves, wash them and then sell them at cheaper rates after repacking them. These gloves were mostly sold to labourers in factories, salons and hotels, the police added.

The accused have been released on bail.

## HC to hear plea against media 'sensationalising' Sushil trial

It has damaged his career and reputation, claims petition

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court agreed to hear on Friday a plea against media 'sensationalising' the trial of wrestler and Olympic medallist Sushil Kumar, who has been arrested in connection with the murder of 23-year-old wrestler Sagar Dhankhar at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Stadium here.

The plea by a law student alleged that media reporting of the case had damaged Mr. Kumar's career and reputation.

**'Stop reporting'**  
It accused that media had now transformed itself in-



Olympic medallist Sushil Kumar.

to 'janta adalats' or 'public courts' and started intervening in the proceedings of the court.

The petition sought

making standard rules for reporting in criminal cases by considering the right of the accused.

It also sought a direction "to stop from reporting in this case of Sushil Kumar... which are kind of distorted and malignant facts with sensational keywords".

The first information report registered includes Sections 302 (murder), 308 (culpable homicide), 325 (causing grievous hurt), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 341 (wrongful restraint), 365 (kidnapping), and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code (Indian Penal Code).

## Ramdev remarks: IMA lodges police complaint

He took advantage of COVID situation

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Indian Medical Association (IMA) on Thursday lodged a police complaint against Yoga guru Ramdev, seeking an FIR over his "dishonest and wrongful representations" on allopathy.

In the complaint, the apex medical body said Ramdev has "wilfully and deliberately spread false, baseless and malicious information" about treatment of COVID patients by established and approved methods and drugs. "Enquiry is being conducted," said an officer. The IMA's complaint dated May 9 said, "Swami Ramdev, in order to take advantage of the

COVID situation, on a public platform in furtherance of his ulterior motives has put forth dishonest and wrongful representations with regard to allopathic medicines and other allied treatment techniques of modern medical science for the virus. In a video which has surfaced... Swami Ramdev is seen wilfully and deliberately spreading false, baseless and malicious information with regard to the treatment of various patients suffering from COVID-19 by established and approved treatment methods and drugs," it said.

The IMA had earlier written to PM demanding Ramdev be booked immediately.

## 12-year-old moves court for vaccinating children

Petition listed for hearing today

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A 12-year-old girl has moved the Delhi High Court seeking direction to vaccinate children between the age group of 12 and 17 years in the Capital.

Tia Gupta, in her plea, has argued that the vaccine policy of India has failed to consider that children and their parents are vulnerable to COVID-19. The plea argued that the government should ensure that children are not left orphaned as their parents were not given priority vaccination.

The plea also sought for-



mulation of a national plan with respect to children against COVID-19.

The plea is listed for hearing before a Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh on Friday.

## North-east riots: HC grants bail to two accused, says no substantial evidence

Case relates to the murder of 25-year-old Irfan who died on February 26 last year in Kartar Nagar after receiving severe head injuries

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has granted bail to two persons accused of murder and other charges related to the north-east Delhi riots, noting that there was no substantial evidence such as CCTV footage linking them to the crime.

Justice Suresh Kumar Kait granted bail to Sunny alias Lalla and Brij Mohan Sharma alias Gabbar while direct-

ing them not to "directly or indirectly influence any witness" in the case which is pending trial at a local court here.

"This court finds that there is no CCTV footage or any other electronic evidence available on record except the call detail record, which establishes the presence of petitioners in the area in question, but again the fact that these petitioners

ers are residing in the same area, so their location has to be in the same area, cannot be lost sight of," Justice Kait said.

### 'Call details'

"As far as their involvement in the alleged incident is concerned, how their call details connect them to the offence in question, is subject to trial," the High Court added.

The case relates to the murder of 25-year-old Irfan who died on February 26 last year after receiving head injuries.

During investigation, the statement of the mother of the deceased, who is allegedly the only eyewitness to the incident, was recorded. She stated that on February 26, 2020 about 7.30 p.m., she along with her son was going to fetch milk, when

they were attacked by eight or 10 persons of their locality in Kartar Nagar.

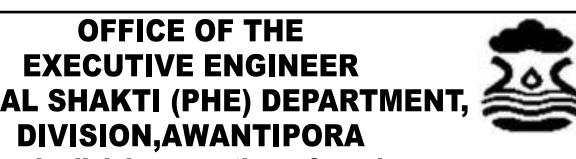
She claimed that her son was attacked with iron rod, bat and iron pipes. She named Gabbar, Lalla, Pankaj and subzi wala, as the attackers she could identify, they being residents of the same locality.

In view of her statement, the two petitioners were arrested on March 28, 2020

and in their disclosure statements they admitted having been involved in the alleged incident with other co-accused.

However, they refused to undergo Test Identification Parade (TIP) proceedings. Later the bail application of Lalla and Gabbar were dismissed by local courts here. The duo then moved the High Court for bail.

The duo's counsel argued that statements of eyewitness were contradictory not only with regard to the aspect whether she was walking with the deceased or the deceased was ahead of her but also use of weapon of offence. The counsel further argued that the wife of deceased stated before the media persons that she and her mother-in-law were at home at the time of alleged incident.



### TENDER DOCUMENT (Technical Bid-Volume-I)

#### TOP SHEET

E-NIT S. NO: 11/PHA of 2021-22

E - TENDER FOR

S.No Name of Work

1. Providing water supply facilities for the coverage of FHTC including Electrical/Mechanical Works of WSS Phatakhan, WSS Kandial, WSS Zantrag, WSS Bathen, WSS Bangla Wuyan , WSS Konibal , WSS Meej (under JJM) including maintenance for a period of three years which includes 12 months DLP.

The Bidding documents consisting of eligibility criteria, specification, bill of quantities (B.O.Q) set of terms & conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the e-procurement Portal "http://jktdenders.gov.in" as per schedule of dates given below:-

S.No	Description	Date	Time	
		DD	MM	YY
1	Publication date of NIT	27	05	2021
2	Download start date	27	05	2021
3	Bid submission start date	27	05	2021
4	Bid submission end date	07	06	2021
5	Bid opening date (Technical Cover)	07	06	2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of J&K e-tenders (Two cover System) on Item Rate Basis including the maintenance cost for a period of Three Years which includes 12 months of DLP are invited from Reputed and resourceful contractors/ Firms/Companies/Joint Venture of repute in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD Railways and other state Governments for the following works, which should be uploaded on the Procurement web portal <http://jktdenders.gov.in> for the subject work(s) referred to below to be received by the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department Division Awantipora and as per the details mentioned in this e-tender notification and to whom all the terms and conditions of detailed e-NIT /Tender Documents/ PWD Form No.-25 double are accepted. The detailed tender document and Specifications etc, can be downloaded on the e-procurement portal <http://jktdenders.gov.in>. The cost of tender documents (Non-refundable/Non-Transferable) should be in the shape of e-Challan or Treasury Challan/Receipt in favour Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department, Division Awantipora.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

Clubbing Mode:-

S. No Name of Work Estimated cost (₹ in Lacs) Cost of TD (in ₹) Time of completion. Class of Contractor

1 Providing water supply facilities for the coverage of FHTC including Providing/Fabrication of Steel Truss to existing Quarter, Construction of Toilet Block & Electrical/Mechanical works of Water Supply Scheme Phatakhan (under JJM), including maintenance for a period of three years which includes 12 months DLP.

2 Providing water supply facilities for the coverage of FHTC including Electrical/Mechanical Works of Water Supply Scheme Kandial (under JJM), including maintenance for a period of three years which includes 12 months DLP.

3 Providing water supply facilities for the coverage of FHTC including construction of Toilet block, Providing/fixing of steel truss to the existing pump shed operator quarter and electrical / mechanical works of WSS Zantrag (under JJM) including maintenance for a period of three years which includes 12 months DLP.

4 Providing water supply facilities for the coverage of FHTC including Construction of RCC Slab over existing Masonry S.R at Bathen of Water Supply Scheme Bathen (under JJM), including maintenance for a period of three years which includes 12 months DLP.

5 Providing water supply facilities for the coverage of FHTC of WSS Bangla Wuyan (under JJM) including maintenance for a period of three years which includes 12 months DLP.

6 Providing water supply facilities for the coverage of FHTC of WSS Konibal (under JJM) including maintenance for a period of three years which includes 12 months DLP.

7 Providing water supply facilities for the coverage of FHTC of village Meej and Matti Mohalla Lalpora WSS Meej (under JJM) including maintenance for a period of three years which includes 12 months DLP.

136.802 2600 03 Months AYY Class

Scheme wise Description:-

S. No Name of Work Estimated cost (₹ in Lacs)

01 Providing water supply facilities for the coverage of FHTC including Providing/Fabrication of Steel Truss to existing Quarter, Construction of Toilet Block & Electrical/Mechanical works of Water Supply Scheme Phatakhan (under JJM), including maintenance for a period of three years which includes 12 months DLP. 38.228

02 Providing water supply facilities for the coverage of FHTC including Electrical/Mechanical Works of Water Supply Scheme Kandial (under JJM), including maintenance for a period of three years which includes 12 months DLP. 37.944

03 Providing water supply facilities for the coverage of FHTC including construction of Toilet block, Providing/fixing of steel truss to the existing pump shed operator quarter and electrical / mechanical works of WSS Zantrag (under JJM) including maintenance for a period of three years which includes 12 months DLP. 21.486

04 Providing water supply facilities for the coverage of FHTC including Construction of RCC Slab over existing Masonry S.R at Bathen of Water Supply Scheme Bathen (under JJM), including maintenance for a period of three years which includes 12 months DLP. 18.055

05 Providing water supply facilities for the coverage of FHTC of WSS Bangla Wuyan (under JJM) including maintenance for a period of three years which includes 12 months DLP. 13.339

06 Providing water supply facilities for the coverage of FHTC of WSS Konibal (under JJM) including maintenance for a period of three years which includes 12 months DLP. 4.765

07 Providing water supply facilities for the coverage of FHTC of village Meej and Matti Mohalla Lalpora WSS Meej (under JJM) including maintenance for a period of three years which includes 12 months DLP. 2.985

TOTAL 136.802

Position of Funds:- Available: Jai Jawan Mission (JJM)  
Position of AAA:- Accorded  
In case of any disputes /differences, the jurisdiction shall be to the Courts situated in Srinagar only. Supplies, if involved any, will be deducted at prevalent stock rates at the time of tender for such material. We look forward to your active participation.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of Jammu & Kashmir

Sd/- Executive Engineer, (JSD) PHE Division Awantipora,

DIPK-2085/21

CM YK

A ND-NDE

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday asked the Centre and Delhi government to give their stand on a plea seeking that family members or attendants of COVID-19 patients should be kept updated about their condition and treatment being provided.

An HC Bench issued notice to the Ministry of Health and Delhi government on the plea by an NGO, which highlighted that presently families only receive news about the death of a patient or demand for deposit of the hospital charges.

The NGO, Manav Awaaj Trust, said providing the daily updates about patients' condition would "develop confidence and trust in the system of governance".

It asked for direction "to frame a policy and/or guideline for communication of status report" every 24 hours to family or attendants of patients about their condition, treatment provided and details of the attending doctors.

"The community at large is losing

confidence, trust and faith in the working of the government and private hospitals in the absence of a system or machinery where the attendant is briefed or updated about treatment administered to the patient and actual status or condition of the patient thereon regularly on daily basis by the hospital authorities," the plea said.

"Only news reaching them is either of death of the patient or demand for the deposit of more fee. That the family members/attendants are time and again neglected by the hospitals, but for the clearance of bills," the NGO said.

In a separate petition, the Bench sought response of the Centre and Delhi government on a plea seeking directions to them to ensure adequate supply of COVID-19 vaccine for the residents, especially in 18-44 age group, of the national capital.

The court observed that since the drug is currently in short supply, the Centre should "seriously consider" waiving off the duty fees for the time being.

Central government standing counsel assured the court that the issue of waiving the import duty on Amphotericin B will be communicated to the government.

The petition filed by 43-year-old advocate Vivek Gaur, who contended that the residents of the capital should not suffer as result of the "blame game" between the Centre and the Delhi government.

"The community at large is losing confidence, trust and faith in the working of the government and private hospitals in the absence of a system or machinery where the attendant is briefed or updated about treatment administered to the patient and actual status or condition of the patient thereon regularly on daily basis by the hospital authorities," the plea said.

"Only news reaching them is either of death of the patient or demand for the deposit of more fee. That the family members/attendants are time and again neglected by the hospitals, but for the clearance of bills," the NGO said.

In a separate petition, the Bench sought response of the Centre

	Timings
DELHI	
FRIDAY, MAY 28	
RISE 05:25 SET 19:13	
RISE 21:35 SET 06:56	
SATURDAY, MAY 29	
RISE 05:25 SET 19:13	
RISE 22:35 SET 07:58	
SUNDAY, MAY 30	
RISE 05:25 SET 19:14	
RISE 23:28 SET 09:04	

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	41	22
Safdarjung	41	22
Palam	41	24

**Delhi Palam Today**  
30°C Moist winds likely to cover the area. A hot day and comfortable night with gentle breeze likely.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
30°C Moist winds would prevail. Day would remain hot with partly cloudy sky.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2019  
All rights reserved.

**THE HINDU**  
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any advertisement or other matter published in this newspaper. THE PUBLISHING PVT LTD, the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the truth of any statement made by an advertiser or any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In event can the Owner, Publisher, Writer, Editor, Director, Employee or the staff of the said company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

## IN BRIEF

### BJP questions govt's promise on oxygen plants

NEW DELHI  
The BJP on Thursday questioned the Delhi government's promise of ensuring that 44 oxygen plants would be set up over the course of a month. Former Delhi BJP president Vijender Gupta said that in the last one month, only nine oxygen plants of the 44 had been set up in Delhi and none of them had been set up by the Delhi government.

### 'AAP govt. discriminating among COVID warriors'

NEW DELHI  
Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri on Thursday charged the Delhi government with indulging in "discrimination" in the selection and definition of 'corona warriors' in the Capital to avoid paying compensation to them. Nearly 500 people in the category in one way or another, the leader alleged, had lost their lives during the second wave of COVID-19, but the Delhi government had refused to recognise them.

### Committee to look into hospital death complaints

NEW DELHI  
The Delhi government on Thursday formed a six-member committee to look into complaints and representations alleging deaths at city hospitals due to lack of oxygen during treatment. Six senior doctors will, according to an order issued by the health department, look into such complaints which, if found correct, will entitle the next of kin of such victims to a maximum of ₹5 lakh.

# COVID-recovered woman develops complications

Perforations in food pipe and intestine due to white fungus

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A woman, who recovered from COVID-19, developed perforations in the lower end of the food pipe, upper part of the small intestine, and the large intestine due to white fungus infection in a "very rare" case, said Sir Ganga Ram Hospital.

The 49-year-old woman had undergone mastectomy (removal of breast) due to cancer and had also received chemotherapy till four weeks ago.

#### Rare case

"The probable explanation for the perforations is a combination of three states leading to immunosuppression: a malignancy [carcinoma breast], recent chemotherapy, and a superimposed COVID-19 infection," said Anil Arora, Chairman of Institute of Liver, Gastroenterology and Pancreaticobiliary Sciences of the hospital.

But he said the general



Rapid antigen test under way at Model Town in Delhi on Thursday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

public do not have to worry about it as it is a "very rare" case. "Out of the about 2.6 crore cases of COVID-19 in the country, there has been no other reported case where there was perforation in the lower end of the food pipe, upper part of the small intestine and the large intestine," Dr. Arora added.

All the perforations have been repaired and the woman is still in the ICU, but re-covering, according to the hospital spokesperson said.

covering, according to the hospital.

The woman was admitted to the SGRH on May 13 with complaints of severe abdominal pain, vomiting, and constipation.

"White fungus is there in everybody's body and usually it is a silent fungus, which doesn't harm people and mostly remains in the mouth and gut," the hospital spokesperson said.

## Panel formed to prepare for third wave

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Thursday formed a committee on Thursday for preparing a "Third Wave Action Plan" for augmenting healthcare infrastructure.

"The committee will assess the present status and projected requirement of the different verticals of health infrastructure like hospitals, oxygen plants, drug supplies etc. and prepare an action plan for the third wave," an order issued by the health department said.

The order said that all under construction Delhi government hospitals should be ready for operations with staff and equipment so that these facilities can be used as ICU facilities for critical patients.

The action plan has to include, supply chain management of crucial services.

There will be a cadre of 10,000 trained "paramedical volunteers", along the lines of civil defence volunteers.

# Vaccination eludes 18-44 group for fourth day in the Capital

'Delhi has not received any new supply of vaccines yet'

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

There was no free vaccination, either Covishield or Covaxin, for the 18-44 age group in Delhi government schools for the fourth consecutive day on Thursday, said AAP leader Atishi.

"This is the fourth day of no vaccination for 18-44 group in any of the government schools of Delhi. Both Covaxin and Covishield's stock has ended for the youth. This is a cause of concern as youth was the only group which does not have any vaccine hesitancy and has been coming in large numbers to register themselves on CoWIN and getting vaccinated," Ms. Atishi said.

She said that fewer people are now being vaccinated daily and most of that too is happening in private hospitals, which are inoculating at "expensive rates" of ₹1,000 per dose. A lot of vaccines are available in the international market which have not been approved by the Centre yet, but are approved by the WHO, she said.

"This includes vaccines like Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson. Even the World Health Organisation [WHO] has approved them, but the Centre hasn't done that yet," she added.

## Positivity lowest in two months

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Delhi reported 1,072 new COVID-19 cases in the last 24-hour period, the lowest in almost two months. This takes the total cases to 14,22,549, according to a health bulletin released by the government on Thursday.

The last time fewer cases were reported was on March 30, when the tally was 992. A total of 117 deaths were reported and the toll stood at 23,812. The bulletin said that 70,068 tests were done in a day.

The test positivity rate, which has been on a downward trajectory, fell to 1.53% on Thursday, which is even lower than 1.93% on Wednesday. This means now only one to two people out of 100 taking tests are positive.

## Respond to petition for SIT probe into attack on farmers' HC seeks govt's reply; case listed for hearing on July 26

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday asked the Centre and Delhi government to respond to a plea for a Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe into an alleged attack on farmers camped on the outskirts of the Capital in protest against contentious farms laws on January 29.

Justice Mukta Gupta issued notice to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Delhi government's Home department Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Aman Lekhi, appearing for the MHA, the Home Department and the Station House Officer of Alipur PS, argued that the plea for an independent SIT probe was "unwarranted".

The ASG said that the petition was seeking constitution

and the SHO of Alipur police station, under whose jurisdiction the area falls, even as the Centre opposed the plea on the ground that it was "misconceived".

The court, however, directed that a status report under the signature of a Joint Commissioner of Police be filed before the next date of hearing on July 26. The plea claimed that on January 29 the farmers' camp at Singhu border was attacked by some miscreants "with assistance and guidance of the police personnel" deployed there.

## Mouths to feed



People queue up for food being distributed by the Delhi government outside Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital on Thursday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

## GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI



### Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board FC-18, INSTITUTIONAL AREA, KARKARDOOMA, DELHI-110092

Website: <https://dsssb.delhi.gov.in>

No. F.1 (604) / P&P/DSSSB/2021/Advt./5162

Dated: 27/05/2021

## VACANCY NOTICE

### ADVERTISEMENT NO.03/21

**IMPORTANT NOTE:- Only online applications will be accepted. Applications received through any other mode shall stand rejected automatically.**

The opening date and closing date for receipt of online applications are as under:-

Opening Date of Application:- 04/06/2021 (04th June, 2021)

Closing Date of Application:- 03/07/2021 (03rd July, 2021)

Online Applications are invited for recruitment to the following posts under different departments under Govt. of NCT of Delhi:-

SI No	Post Code	Name of the Post	Name of Department	Group	Grade Pay	Vacancy							
						EWS	UR	OBC	SC	ST	Total	PwD	Ex-SM
1	49/21	Trained Graduate Teacher (Bengali) Female	Directorate of Education	B	4600	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
2	50/21	Trained Graduate Teacher (English) Male	Directorate of Education	B	4600	48	483	277	69	152	1029	41	0
3	51/21	Trained Graduate Teacher (English) Female	Directorate of Education	B	4600	25	381	179	188	188	961	44	0
4	52/21	Trained Graduate Teacher (Urdu) Male	Directorate of Education	B	4600	14	149	96	60	27	346	17	0
5	53/21	Trained Graduate Teacher (Urdu) Female	Directorate of Education	B	4600	20	262	151	93	45	571	26	0
6	54/21	Trained Graduate Teacher (Sanskrit) Male	Directorate of Education	B	4600	25	390	275	115	61	866	35	0
7	55/21	Trained Graduate Teacher (Sanskrit) Female	Directorate of Education	B	4600	33	527	281	206	112	1159	51	0
8	56/21	Trained Graduate Teacher (Punjabi) Male	Directorate of Education	B	4600	17	173	104	57	31	382	17	0
9	57/21	Trained Graduate Teacher (Punjabi) Female	Directorate of Education	B	4600	15	223	140	69	45	492	21	0

The details of the qualification, age limit, fee etc. are available on the website <https://dsssb.delhi.gov.in/current-vacancies/Delhi-subordinate-services-selection-board>. Candidates must apply online through the website <https://dsssb.onlinenic.in>. The closing date for submission of online application is up to 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2021 (till 11:59 PM) after which the link will be disabled. Applications received through any other mode would not be accepted and summarily rejected. Further, the Date of Examinations for the above said posts will be intimated separately in due course.

DIP/Shabdharth/0076/21-22

Deputy Secretary (P&P)  
DSSSB

## AAP wants financial aid for taxi drivers, labourers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Assembly Harpal Singh Cheema of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Thursday wrote a letter to Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, demanding to provide financial assistance to taxi drivers, labourers, shopkeepers, small artists and other poor sections during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

In a letter to the Chief Minister, Mr. Cheema stated that the entire country, including Punjab, had been going through a tough time for

the last two years due to the pandemic.

"Delhi's Kejriwal government had announced financial assistance of ₹5,000 for over 2.10 lakh labourers and 1.56 lakh drivers and other poor sections. In Punjab, various sections of people, including taxi drivers, labourers, small shopkeepers and artists have been going through a recession."

Hence he appealed to the Chief Minister to provide financial assistance of ₹5,000 to drivers along with labourers so that they could support their families.

## CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE:  
[www.thehinduads.com](http://www.thehinduads.com)  
011-43579738 • 43579797

### EDUCATIONAL

## ECONOMICS OPTIONAL by Ravindra N. Jha REGULAR BATCH & TEST SERIES

New Batch 28 May | Test Series 30 May

ADMISSION OPEN

## BLISS POINT STUDIES®

OLD RAJENDER NAGAR, 57/17, 1st Floor, Near HDFC Bank

NORTH DELHI, 2518, 3rd Floor, Hudson Line

9811343411, 9811343938, 9811343464

## A-CUBE IAS

www.acubelias.com  
Admissions Open for IAS 2022

## FOUNDATION COURSE

GENERAL STUDIES, ESSAY & CSAT

A-Cube IAS has the august company of stalwarts, who hold the record of training thousands of aspirants and producing hundreds of results

Online Classes Batch Begins 10 JUNE 2021

Online: Live/Recorded classes in 4KHD recordings.

800 Hours of Classes for General Studies (Prelims-cum-Mains) Including 80 hours (approx.) of Current Affairs Classes

For counselling, call or chat with us +91-9319057400, 9319057500

### FOR SALE

## Always Wear N-95 Masks from

6S™  
N95 FACE MASK

Non-Woven Polypropylene & Spun Bond Fabric with Melt Blown Double Layers

Fully Automated Manufacturing Unit

For Bulk Order:

KPM PROCESSING MILL PRIVATE LIMITED (PPE-UNITS-1)

TIRUPUR, TAMILNADU

Con: +91 7373 55257, 73977 57257

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public at large that my clients Sh. Sunil Singhpal & Sh. C.M. Singhpal, Mr. Manish Singhpal & Mr. Sunil Singhpal are both Directors of Frisco Fab-Dyeing & Printing Pvt. Ltd. Situated at 162, Mathura Road, Sareen Farm Complex, Near Badkal Railway Crossing, Faridabad, Haryana - 121002 & having registered office at 762/763, Jodhpur Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi - 110005. That one Smt. Sonia Arora W/o Sh. Sanjay Arora is also a Director of the said company & her son Sh. Sanjay Arora is the sole shareholder. He was a director of the said company till 30th September, 1998 & on the same day Sh. Sanjay Arora resigned from the directorship of the said company. He is still an active shareholder in the said company. That it is to bring to the notice of the general public that recently my client Sh. Sunil Singhpal & his wife Smt. Madhu Singhpal has filed a petition in the NCLT, Faridabad against Sh. Sanjay Arora & his wife Smt. Sanjay Arora for recovery of dues & Sanjay Arora & his wife Smt. Sanjay Arora have no authority to sell the said property. Therefore, it is informed that whoever sells the property to Sh. Sanjay Arora & his wife Smt. Sanjay Arora shall be liable for his/her expenses incurred or damages caused himself & the other two directors of the said company Sh. Sunil Singhpal & Smt. Madhu Singhpal shall be liable for his/her expenses incurred for any such damages caused or expenses incurred. That my client Sh. Sunil Singhpal has also filed a petition in the NCLT, Delhi bearing petition no. 87/21 & the same is pending disposal against said Sh. Sanjay Arora.

Sanjay Agarwal (Advocate)  
Ch No. 575, Western Wing,  
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054

### SITUATION VACANT

#### MEDICAL

## CHENNAI PORT TRUST

No.1, Rajaji Salai, Chennai-600 001

### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION DEPT. VACANCY NOTICE

File No.RC1/5353 (2020GA  
Date : 28.05.2021

Chennai Port Trust, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India, invites applications for filling up of the post of Chief Medical Officer (HOD) in Medical Department in the scale of pay of Rs. 100000-260000 under Direct Recruitment basis. Eligible candidates have to apply through "Online Application Portal" (OAP) of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (<http://onlinevacancy.shipmin.nic.in>). For full details visit our Website viz. [www.chennainport.gov.in](http://www.chennainport.gov.in)

Last date for receipt of Application 06.07.2021.

Chennai - 1. Secretary(St.)

### GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, SOURA SRINAGAR -190011

Email Id: ammpurchase@skims.ac.in FAX: 01942403929

### IMPORTS SECTION

#### NOTICE

Subject: Procurement of Transcranial Doppler Model Dolphin / Max on proprietary basis from M/S Viasionix Ltd. ISRAEL.

SKIMS intends to procure Transcranial Doppler Model Dolphin/Max on proprietary basis from (M/S Viasionix Ltd. ISRAEL) for the department of Neurosurgery SKIMS, being their proprietary item as claimed by the company.

In this connection, objections (if any) from companies manufacturing / marketing, such equipment capable of delivering the same result as intended from the above equipment, regarding the proprietary nature of the above item should be communicated within 15 days on the above mentioned email id/fax after which claim of the company who has claimed for the proprietorship of the said item shall be accepted.

No: SIMS-324-Transcranial Doppler-2021-1975-80-4647-48

Dated: 27/05/2021

SD/-  
NO: SIMS - 4648 Materials Management Officer

Dated: 27.05.2021

Imports

# 6.5 lakh evacuated people to be screened for COVID in Odisha

Rapid response teams will check their health status through door-to-door survey

SATYASUNDAR BARIK  
BHUBANESWAR

Odisha will screen around 6.5 lakh people, who were evacuated to different cyclone and other shelters ahead of very severe cyclonic storm, Yaas, hitting the coast.

"During evacuation of people, due precautions were taken keeping the outbreak of COVID-19 in mind and masks were distributed. As there was emergency situation like cyclone, we cannot rule out lapses. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has suggested that health of all evacuated persons should be monitored," said State Special Relief Commissioner P.K. Jena.

"Rapid response teams, Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) and anganwadi workers would check their



**Yaas affect:** A villager carries his cycle through a waterlogged street in Balasore district on Thursday. ■ BISWARANJAN ROUT

health status through door-to-door survey to find out if they have any COVID-19 symptoms. If situation demands we will carry out mass testing of these people to ensure that the COVID-19 situation does not go out of control," he said.

The State had evacuated about 6.5 lakh people, including 1.52 lakh in Balasore, 1.20 lakh in Bhadrak, 1.05 lakh in Kendrapara and 1 lakh in Mayurbhanj district.

According to officials, the Chief District Medical Officers had supplied a list of COVID-19 patients who were in home isolation. They were shifted to either temporary medical centres or dedicated

buildings which are to be sanitised later.

The State had also suspended COVID-19 testing, vaccination and door-to-door survey in Balasore, Bhadrak and Mayurbhanj in view of the cyclone from May 25 to 27. Partial suspension was ordered in a few other districts.

### Testing resumes

However, in view of an improvement in the situation, testing was resumed at many places on Thursday.

Recognising the risk involved in evacuation of people during the pandemic, the Odisha Chief Minister had requested the people to wear double masks in shelters and wash their hands with soap and sanitiser before the cyclone hit the State.

## Punjab extends lockdown restrictions till June 10

Limit on passengers in vehicles to go

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

merited by local conditions, he said.

The Chief Minister, during a review meeting, directed the Health and Medical Education Departments to continue strengthening the COVID-19 care infrastructure.

### Vaccination list

Captain Singh announced that from June 1, the vaccination priority list for the 18-45 years age group in Punjab would be expanded to include shopkeepers and their staff, the hospitality sector, industrial workers, rehrivas-street vendors, delivery boys, bus-cab drivers-conductors, and members of local bodies.

He said that, as of date, 4.3 lakh individuals in the existing vaccination priority list of construction labour, co-morbid individuals and families of healthcare workers in this age group had been vaccinated.

## HC flays Punjab police in rape case

Police had formed SIT comprising only male members

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

The Punjab and Haryana High Court came down heavily on the Punjab police in a case of alleged rape of a 38-year-old widow by policemen, stating that it was highly deplorable to see the insensitivity with which police acted in constituting a special investigation team (SIT) with "all-male members".

Justice Arun Monga, hearing a petition by the victim apprehending bodily harm and tampering with the evidence, on May 25 directed the Punjab government through its Director-General of Police to constitute a new SIT.

The petitioner has alleged that her son, who was suffering from COVID-19, was

picked up by the CIA men on May 6 from their residence after the woman declined to succumb to the sexual favour sought from her.

### False case filed

The plea said that an FIR, allegedly a false one, was registered against her son by planting contraband on him so as to arm-twist the petitioner. Eventually, under pressure to get her son released, she yielded to the sexual demands of the CIA staff.

Justice Monga said, "It is rather intriguing, given the nature of sensitive investigation, that no lady police official has been involved, which is even otherwise the requirement of law in cases of this kind."

Justice Monga said, "The allegations and factual aver-

## Labour union to protest NRC reverification bid

'Poor cannot undergo hardships again'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

A farm labourers' union in Assam has called for a State-wide demonstration on Friday against the bid to reverify the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

"The rural poor participated in the exercise in the hope that the issue of illegal migrants would be settled once and for all. They cannot be made to undergo similar hardships all over again," union chief Subhrajyoti Bardhan and general secretary Arup Kumar Mahanta said in a statement on Thursday.

**'Psychological strain'** Villagers and daily wagers underwent financial and psychological strain to participate in the NRC exercise that led to the exclusion of 19.06 lakh of the 3.3 crore pe-

ople in Assam when the draft list of citizens was published in August 2019, the Sadou Asom Grameen Sramik Sansad said.

"The rural poor participated in the exercise in the hope that the issue of illegal migrants would be settled once and for all. They cannot be made to undergo similar hardships all over again," union chief Subhrajyoti Bardhan and general secretary Arup Kumar Mahanta said in a statement on Thursday.

The goof-up took place after the State-run RK Hospital declared the body of a man named Goverdhan Prajapati, who was under treatment at the hospital, as 'unidentified' and later Omkar Lal Gaduria's relatives wrongly took possession of that body at

the hospital on May 15.

However, Mr. Gaduria returned home on May 23 and was shocked to learn that he was believed dead.

## 'Dead' man returns home after his funeral

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
JAIPUR

A 40-year-old man presumed dead showed up much to the surprise of his family, a week after they had performed a funeral mistakenly identifying a decomposed corpse as his body.

The family members wrongly identified the body to be that of Mr. Gaduria going by a similar scar on his right hand. The body was taken away and the final rites were performed on May 15.

The court's directives came during a videoconference hearing by a Bench of Justices Rajan Gupta and Karamjit Singh on the COVID-19 situation in Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh.

The Bench gave its directions noting that though the respective governments have been taking "appropriate measures" to manage the pandemic, certain issues need its intervention.

Rajsamand district in Rajasthan. Mr. Gaduria, a liquor addict, had gone to Udaipur without informing his family on May 11. He was admitted to a hospital owing to some liver-related problem.

The family members wrongly identified the body to be that of Mr. Gaduria going by a similar scar on his right hand. The body was taken away and the final rites were performed on May 15.

However, Mr. Gaduria returned home on May 23 and was shocked to learn that he was believed dead.

The court's directives came during a videoconference hearing by a Bench of Justices Rajan Gupta and Karamjit Singh on the COVID-19 situation in Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh.

The Bench gave its directions noting that though the respective governments have been taking "appropriate measures" to manage the pandemic, certain issues need its intervention.

• Tender documents for the above items can be obtained from websites.

• The Competent authority reserves all rights to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason.

• Tender Document of GMCH, after duly signed & stamped, along with original brochure of the manufacturer and EMD, in the shape of FDR / DD / Bankers Cheque/bank Guarantee, (separate for each item), must be submitted in physical form, in the office of Procurement Branch, Room No. 228, Block - D, first Floor, GMCH, Sector 32, Chandigarh on or before the dates as noted against each item by 1400 hours on any working day. Tenders without submission of EMD and Tender Document in physical form shall be rejected straightaway.

• The tenders

## IN BRIEF



ED files chargesheet against Revanth Reddy

**HYDERABAD**  
The Enforcement Directorate has filed a chargesheet against Telangana Congress MP A. Revanth Reddy and five others in a court here on Thursday in connection with a case booked against him by the Anti-Corruption Bureau for trying to bribe a TRS MLC ahead of the Legislative Council election in 2015.

## Andhra Pradesh puts off Class 10 exams

**GUNTUR**  
Andhra Pradesh government has decided to postpone the Class 10 examinations. The SSC examinations were scheduled to be held from June 5. A release from the CMO said that a review would be held in July in view of the prevailing restrictions and a decision would be taken after the review.

## Karnataka puts on hold plan to sell land to JSW Steel

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

**BENGALURU**  
The Karnataka Cabinet on Thursday put on hold its controversial decision to sell 3,667 acres of land at Toranagal in Sandur taluk of Ballari district to JSW Steel Ltd. citing pending cases in the High Court and the Supreme Court.

This decision had been criticised not just by the Opposition but also by a section of leaders within the BJP.

Briefing presspersons after the Cabinet meeting, Law and Parliamentary Affairs and Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai said the Cabinet had decided not to implement its earlier decision fol-

## Reforms will benefit islanders: Collector

Vested interests behind campaign to portray Lakshadweep administration in poor light, he says

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

**KOCHI**

The reforms rolled out in Lakshadweep are aimed at the betterment of islanders. Vested interests are behind campaign to portray the administration in poor light, Lakshadweep Collector S. Asker Ali said on Thursday.

The reforms were aimed at optimising the potential of the isles, mainly in the tourism, fisheries and agriculture sectors, he said, replying to concerns over protests against the reforms spearheaded by new administrator Praful Khoda Patel.

"The protests do not reflect the sentiment of the residents of the islands," Mr. Ali told mediapersons here.

On the decision to remove beef from the noon meal scheme and to ban slaughtering, he said a policy decision had been taken in this regard. Fish and eggs were healthier for children. More-



Towards progress: Lakshadweep Collector S. Asker Ali addressing a press conference in Ernakulam on Thursday.

over, fish was readily available in the islands and it would help local fishermen sell their catch, said Mr. Ali in the first official response after protests arose over the new rules being imposed in the islands.

While admitting that prohibition was in vogue in the

isles, Mr. Ali said the Administration could exempt resorts and other properties, which were given licence to serve liquor within their premises during a specified time span, from the ambit. Liquor was served only to tourists and not sold to islanders, he said.

About concerns of potential rights violations if the Prevention of Anti-Social Activities (PASA) Act (having provisions similar to the Goondas Act – like the one permitting preventive detention without trial for a specified time) was invoked in the hitherto peaceful isles, Mr. Ali said this was aimed at reigning in cases of narcotics, illegal trade and POSCO, which were of late "increasing" in the isles. Such preventive steps were important from the security and strategic point of view.

While acknowledging that protests were on in Kochi and many other parts of Kerala, Mr. Ali rebutted reports that there were large-scale protests in the isles against the reforms introduced by the administration.

Lakshadweep isles had similar geographical peculiarities as the Maldives. But tourism infra was very limited.

The administration was working in tandem with the NITI Aayog to augment infra in the three isles.

On many cargo ships which used to call at Beypore being diverted to Mangaluru, he said they saved 75 nautical miles distance and nine hours time, apart from ₹200 per tonne of cargo.

## To pass resolution

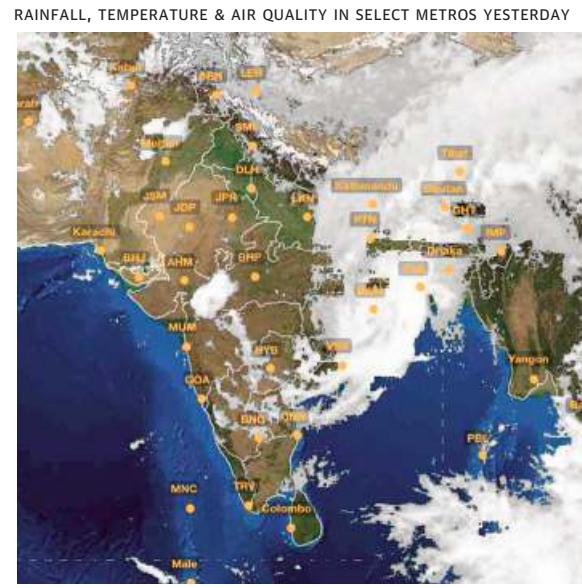
Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the Assembly would pass a resolution expressing solidarity with the people of Lakshadweep.

Their protest against the island administration had evoked a "strong sentiment" in Kerala, he said.

Earlier, Speaker M.B. Rajesh said he had received several requests to move a resolution in the Assembly to pledge solidarity with the residents of Lakshadweep.

(With inputs from Thiruvananthapuram bureau)

## WEATHER WATCH



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

**Forecast for Friday:** Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over east Uttar Pradesh, Sikkim, sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Bihar and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Jharkhand, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, central Maharashtra, Vidarbha, coastal Karnataka, Kerala, Mahe and Lakshadweep.

CITY RAIN MAX MIN CITY RAIN MAX MIN  
Agartala ..... 33.4...27.7 Kozhikode ..... 136...32.4...21.8  
Ahmedabad ..... 39.0...28.7 Kurnool ..... 36.9...26.0  
Aizawl ..... 28.3...22.4 Lucknow ..... 34.3...26.9  
Altahabad ..... 34.0...27.0 Madurai ..... 40.0...25.1  
Bengaluru ..... 30.6...21.2 Mangaluru ..... 31.4...23.4  
Bhopal ..... 40.9...26.6 Mumbai ..... 0.8...33.8...28.5  
Bhubaneswar ..... 9...33.2...24.2 Mysuru ..... 33.0...20.4  
Chandigarh ..... 33.7...23.4 New Delhi ..... 41.2...22.2  
Chennai ..... 40.1...30.4 Patna ..... 21...25.8...24.0  
Coimbatore ..... 33.7...22.5 Port Blair ..... 43...28.7...24.6  
Dehradun ..... 35.5...21.5 Puducherry ..... 37.6...25.4  
Gangtok ..... 57...16.8...15.9 Pune ..... 34.0...23.5  
Goa ..... 0.4...33.4...27.6 Raipur ..... 39.4...27.0  
Guwahati ..... 10...32.5...25.7 Ranchi ..... 151...28.2...20.9  
Hubballi ..... 30.0...22.0 Shillong ..... 8...23.0...17.9  
Hyderabad ..... 38.0...26.0 Shimla ..... 31.8...20.5  
Imphal ..... 30.3...21.6 Srinagar ..... 29.4...11.6  
Jaipur ..... 41.1...26.1 Thiruvananthapuram ..... 33...30.6...23.0  
Kochi ..... 31.2...24.2 Tiruchi ..... 39.1...27.4  
Kohima ..... 27.0...16.8 Vijayawada ..... 39.6...30.6  
Kolkata ..... 60...32.2...25.3 Visakhapatnam ..... 43.0...27.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

**Pollutants in the air you are breathing** Yesterday

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>x</sub>	CO	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	CODE
Ahmedabad	21	41	13	.57	.77	■■■■■
Bengaluru	11	13	36	130	102	■■■■■
Chennai	80	7	34	.50	.60	■■■■■
Delhi	12	34	16	178	200	■■■■■
Hyderabad	.3	64	16	.38	.84	■■■■■
Kolkata	10	18	18	.41	.55	■■■■■
Lucknow	.7	34	63	.69	.106	■■■■■
Mumbai	234	57	.56	.75	.75	■■■■■
Pune	.6	9	57	.64	.54	■■■■■
Visakhapatnam	13	71	34	.107	.151	■■■■■

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 271, indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Gadag, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 23.

**NO<sub>x</sub>:** Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

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

**PM<sub>2.5</sub> & PM<sub>10</sub>:** Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death with people with heart or lung disease.

## Mekedatu: Karnataka to challenge NGT decision

State will seek recall of tribunal's order

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government on Thursday decided to challenge before the National Green Tribunal (NGT), Southern Zone, the latter's decision to appoint a joint committee to look into the allegations of unauthorised construction activity taking place in Mekedatu, where the State has proposed to construct a dam across the Cauvery.

The coalition government led by H.D. Kumaraswamy in May 2019 had decided to execute an absolute sale deed in favour of JSW Steel Ltd, which operates a 12-million-tonne steel plant in Toranagol.

However, the resident doctors had been demanding the hike from January 2020.

The decision was criticised by many, including Mi-

the Water Resources Department and took the decision.

Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai told mediapersons that a petition would be filed before the NGT seeking the recall of its order.

The NGT, acting *suo motu* based on a media report, had ordered the appointment of the joint committee and the submission of a report on or before July 5.

Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa chaired a meeting with Chief Secretary P. Ravi Kumar, Advocate-General Prabhulal Na- vadgi and senior officials of

## WEST

## With 34,370 recoveries, State's active cases drop to nearly 3 lakh

21,273 new COVID-19 cases, 884 deaths reported; Mumbai sees spike in infections

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

**MUMBAI**  
Maharashtra reported a relatively low surge of 21,273 new COVID-19 cases on Thursday while 34,370 patients were discharged. The State's active case tally declined further to 3,01,041.

A total of 884 deaths were added to the State's progressive death toll, of which 425 occurred in the last week. Of the 425, as many as 267 were recorded in the last 48 hours while 459 had been added in the ongoing 'reconciliation' process, as per the State Health Department.

The total death toll has now climbed to 92,225 with the State's case fatality rate rising to 1.63%. The State's total cases have reached 56,72,180 while its cumula-

## 2,290 children in Maharashtra have lost one or both parents

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**MUMBAI**

As many as 2,290 children in Maharashtra had lost either one or both their parents due to the novel coronavirus infection so far, sources said on Thursday.

While 2,183 children lost one parent, 107 others lost both the parents during the pandemic, the

recoveries have gone up to 52,76,203 with the recovery rate rising to 93.03%.

"Of a total 3,40,86,110 lab-

returned positive with over 2,62 lakh samples being tested in the last 24 hours," State Surveillance Officer Dr. Pradeep Awate said.

Pune reported more than 2,000 new cases as its total case tally touched 10,09,130.

After days of steady decline, Mumbai recorded a spike of 1,258 new cases to take its total tally to 7,01,598 while the active count has declined to 28,683. As many as 38 fatalities took the city's toll to 14,720.

Nagpur district in Vidarbha registered less than 500 cases to take the total cases to 4,88,441 of whom 14,900 are active. Eight deaths pushed the toll to 6,517.

Cases piled up in Satara, which added 2,561 new ones and 24 deaths.

## Cong. alleges BJP hand in fight against Maratha quota

## STAFF REPORTER

**MUMBAI**

The Maratha reservation row in Maharashtra is set to escalate as the State unit of the Congress on Thursday alleged that a BJP office-bearer was leading the organisation that had been fighting against the quota for the community.

"It is the BJP's policy to pretend that it supports Maratha reservation on one side and run a campaign on the other to prevent it. An organisation called Save Merit, Save Nation, which is fighting against Maratha reservation in the Supreme Court, has a direct connection with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. Founder of this organisation, Dr.

Anup Marar, is the East Vidarbha coordinator of the BJP's medical front," Sachin Sawant, Maharashtra Congress general secretary, said.

The apex court quashed the reservation for Marathas earlier this month.

Mr. Sawant said the institution did not exist at the time of the court battle in the Mumbai High Court. "However, after the High Court ruled in favour of reservation, the organisation started functioning. A BJP office-bearer is bound by the rules and regulations of the party. Why didn't the BJP stop him," Mr. Sawant asked.

The BJP did not comment on Mr. Marar's connection with the party.

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**MUMBAI**

The Bombay High Court on Thursday asked Breach Candy Hospital not to discharge Delhi University associate professor Hany Babu, an accused in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case, till June 1 and sought a medical report on his condition and treatment given to him.

A vacation Bench of Justices S.S. Shinde and N.R. Borkar said if the private hospital was to discharge Mr. Babu before June 1, then it should first inform the court and take permission.

Mr. Babu tested positive for COVID-19 earlier this month and was initially brought from the Talaja pri-

## HC directs hospital not to discharge Babu till June 1

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**MUMBAI**

The Bombay High Court on Thursday asked Breach Candy Hospital not to discharge Delhi University associate professor Hany Babu, an accused in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case, till June 1 and sought a medical report on his condition and treatment given to him.

A vacation Bench of Justices S.S. Shinde and N.R. Borkar said if the private hospital was to discharge Mr. Babu before June 1, then it should first inform the court and take permission.

Mr. Babu tested positive for COVID-19 earlier this month and was initially brought from the Talaja pri-

Health and Family Welfare Department, Government of NCT of Delhi intends to procure SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19 vaccine) on urgent basis to control and manage spread of Covid-19 pandemic. Global Expression of Interest (EOI) is hereby invited from the International Manufacturers of COVID-19 Vaccines or their Authorized Agents or from direct Importers with appropriate license, to import the COVID-19 vaccine in India. The offered Covid-19 vaccine must be duly approved by competent authority of Govt. of India.

Interested manufacturers/their authorised agents/importers may submit their offer/ expression of interest duly filled in prescribed format alongwith documents as per EOI to the Director General, Directorate of Health Services, Govt.



## Incorporating limits

Proposed hate speech provisions should be clear and free of vagueness

**S**peech is free, but it is a freedom that comes with responsibility. And responsible speech is not just something that does not contain abuse, defamation or incitement to violence. It is increasingly seen as expression that tends not to discriminate against or incite hatred towards groups based on race, gender, caste, religious belief, sexual orientation, nationality or immigration status. The world has moved away from a free speech doctrine based on a formal equality among different viewpoints to one that discourages the targeting of any vulnerable section. The term 'hate speech' and calls for laws that specifically seek to punish it arise from this inclusive understanding of the basis on which speech is restricted in modern democracies. In this backdrop, the proposal to incorporate provisions against hate speech in the penal law is quite welcome. A committee appointed by the Union Home Ministry, tasked with recommending changes in criminal law, is now seeking to formulate new provisions that will make hate speech a separate offence. The term 'hate speech' may not be used, but the panel is examining recommendations made by the Law Commission and the Expert Committee headed by T.K. Viswanathan, on adding Sections 153C and 505A to the IPC. The proposed Section 153C would target speech that gravely threatens any person or group with intention to cause fear or alarm, or incite violence towards them, and prescribe a sentence of two years in prison and a fine. Section 505A, on the other hand, proposes to punish speech or writing that causes fear or alarm among a group, or provokes violence against it, on grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, place of birth or disability.

The Committee for Reforms in Criminal Laws attracted criticism when it was formed last year, as many feared a hurried process without adequate and wide consultation. Some lawyers and activists said it was not inclusive and questioned its ability to gather a wide range of opinion in the midst of a pandemic. While such points of criticism remain, it appears that the panel would go ahead and make its recommendations soon. In the context of the hate speech provisions, it must direct its efforts to define narrowly the sections it proposes to formulate and avoid the pitfall of using vague and overbroad terms that would fall foul of the Constitution. Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, it may be recalled, was struck down by the Supreme Court because it failed to define some terms that sought to criminalise offensive and annoying messages. Ever since this 2015 decision, some governments see a lacuna in the law concerning offensive messaging over the Internet. If at all new sections are to be introduced, it should be clear that what is sought to be punished is incitement to violence or advocacy of hatred, posing an imminent threat to public order or a targeted group. Only then will it be a valid curb on free speech.

## Weathering storms

Cyclones are inevitable, but communities need fiscal rehabilitation for recovery

**I**ndia's capacity to withstand multiple, near-simultaneous shocks is being tested, with a Very Severe Cyclonic Storm, Yaas, striking Odisha, just a week after an even stronger Cyclone Tauktae wreaked havoc along the west coast. Yaas, which put up an unnerving display of tornadoes and rain, smothered the north Odisha coast as it made landfall, but the preparatory mass evacuation from habitations appears to have limited the loss of life. Yet, thousands have lost houses and property. West Bengal and Jharkhand also bore the brunt of the weather system's force, as it punched its way inland from May 26, weakening into a deep depression. All coastal States facing the Bay of Bengal have always been in the path of severe cyclones, the majority following the withdrawal of the monsoon, but their vulnerability may be growing as pre-monsoon and post-monsoon storms increase in frequency and strength. Moreover, for the second year running, States have been hobbled by the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2021 season comes as another reminder that India will have to improve its resilience to cyclones. Governments are, no doubt, more sensitive to loss of life today and are raising the capacity of the disaster response forces, but much work needs to be done when it comes to protecting assets and creating fiscal instruments to help people rebuild their lives.

While the full extent of displacement and losses from Cyclone Yaas is yet unknown, past experience points to a growing threat to overall well-being from such catastrophes. The World Meteorological Organization in its State of the Global Climate 2020 report described Cyclone Amphan that hit Bengal in May last year as the costliest cyclone on record for the North Indian Ocean, with economic losses to India of the order of \$14 billion. In human terms the extreme event displaced 2.4 million people. What stood out in its aftermath was corruption in the distribution of relief, putting West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in a spot. The Amphan experience should convince Chief Ministers that they must insure people against losses from catastrophes using a system of documentation that makes relief and rehabilitation funds non-discretionary. Half a century of economic wisdom postulates that governments are best placed to compensate people, since they can spread the cost of the risk of disasters across the population. But the challenge is to address the risk of cyclones and other extreme weather events using specific funds, making citizens members in a social insurance model. Moreover, considering the negative climate change impact on tropical cyclones, rebuilding should use a green, build back better approach. Cyclones will otherwise take the shine off economic progress.

# Culture, increasingly fractured and unplanned

Under the Central Vista project, the urban planning for a single, linked cultural district seems to have been tossed out



NAMITA P. AHUJA

lectural repository of India – the National Archives. Together, they formed a cultural district, set within public gardens, an avenue where you looked up Raisina Hill in awe at Rashtrapati Bhavan on the one side, as you looked toward the historic Purana Qila beyond India Gate on the other.



SHIV KUMAR PUSHPIKAR  
projecting through its display, and be aware of whom it is leaving out, or relegating to different parts of the city. Aggregation of the differences then, would have been a more advisable approach.

The public's expectations of what they hope to learn from a visit to a museum is quite different nowadays to the intentions with which museums in India were created. Our history museums on the other hand serve to provide information as deemed appropriate by archaeologists of the early 20th century: with galleries divided into old-fashioned colonial themes such as Buddhist or Hindu art, Islamic art, or, separated by material: painting, bronze and stone for instance, rather than seeing them as historically contemporaneous. Gone are the days when objects could be lined up with the pithiest labels identifying the object's iconography, its date and the dynasty whose reign it may have been made in. Even history textbooks have moved away from examining the succession of political dynasties to social processes instead. Museums must serve the requirement of telling multiple histories from varied perspectives for diverse audiences.

**Handle with care**  
What does shifting a museum practically mean? The National Museum contains fragile Harappan terracottas, the ashes of the Buddha and sculptures as fine as filigree. At the same time it has sculptures that weigh many tonnes requiring a feat of engineering to shift. There are bronzes: from the iconic "Dancing Girl" to Chola bronzes, coins and more coins of gold, silver, copper and bronze from every epoch of Indian

history and precious jewellery that was from the collections of the Nizam of Hyderabad. There are entire walls of painted ancient caves from Chinese Central Asia brought to India by Sir Aurel Stein, and there are grand Egyptian stone statues, and in fact entire wooden chariots from South Indian temples. There are extraordinary Mesoamerican ceramics from the Heeramanek collection and delicate textiles from every part of South Asia and, not to forget, the endless rare manuscripts and paintings on birch-bark, palm-leaf and paper. The sheer scale of arranging for the packing and moving each of these items will present a logistical nightmare.

Over the years that I was employed at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, I had the opportunity to observe how aspects of that museum's award-winning refurbishment were undertaken. The museum immediately employed more qualified conservation personnel and trained its existing staff. Every single object had to have its own special packing case and fragile objects had data loggers within climate-controlled cases. Each object was given a barcode number which was connected to an online location index that allowed curators, the conservators and researchers such as me access to the collections even while they were in storage. More importantly, they allowed the inventory to be safeguarded. Insurance indemnification also demands that every object has its own file documenting its condition at the time of packing to compare it against when it was reopened.

Who will author and assess shifts in the condition of our objects before and after the move? Vacancies for 92 posts at the National Museum had to be closed a couple of years ago because finding qualified specialists in India could not be completed for years on end. As per its own documents, the museum has more than 2,06,000 objects but the official Museums of India website still only has a fraction of the collection on it. If a museum is a repository

of our inheritance, then should we not know what we own before it is stored away?

### The choices ahead

Last year, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art shut down to undertake a similar move. Rebuilding that museum with a comparable square footage is costing over \$750 million. Refurbishing old buildings such as the North and South Blocks to provide the facilities necessary costs money and takes time. It requires exceptional skill, and few architects have the necessary experience in adapting historic buildings for narrating current and future curatorial concerns, the movement of objects and people, fitting them with state-of-the-art storage, security, offices, lighting, climate control and improving their floor loading capacities. The largest Pallava and Chola sculptures in the National Museum weigh many tonnes obviously putting stress on heritage buildings. Worryingly, in a recent appeal made to the Supreme Court of India to encourage the shift of India's top offices out of North and South Blocks, the government's lawyers argued that the buildings were structurally unsafe and "are ill-equipped to meet even the basic fire and earthquake safety norms". Will they, then, be safe enough to house our country's greatest wealth and treasures? When will the personnel for this be hired? How long will it take and how much will it cost to make them safe?

None of these details is publicly available yet. Perhaps the courts and Parliament will decide it is not wise to split an entire cultural district at this moment in time. Or, perhaps, this move offers us an unprecedented opportunity to build our nation's capacities in the field of museum management like never before. Either way, the epitome of our collective wealth as a nation is in the balance.

Namita P. Ahuja is a curator and Professor of Art History at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He is also the co-editor of "The Arts and Interiors of Rashtrapati Bhavan: Lutyens and Beyond".

## Nine-pin bowling aimed at free speech, privacy

By and large, the Information Technology Rules, 2021 go against landmark judicial precedents upholding key rights



K.T.S. TULSI & TANESSA PURI

**T**he life of Indian Law rather than being shaped along mathematical exactitudes finds itself at the receiving end of an experiential tussle. This tussle has aimed at every stage to bargain for a Fundamental Right in return for some negotiation, sometimes with the desire of the coloniser and at others with the dominant ideology at the Centre.

### There are ambiguities

The subject of concern now is the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 (<https://bit.ly/3oR8ISk>) which threaten to deprive social media platforms of their safe harbour immunity in the event of non-compliance with the said rules. While there are positive aspects about the said guidelines, there are, equally, glaring ambiguities and stifling susceptibilities that should render these contrary to past Supreme Court of India precedents such as *K.S. Puttaswamy*.

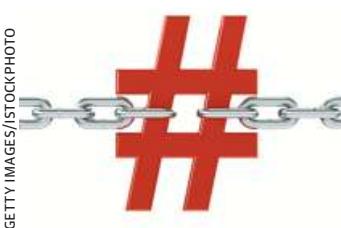
The problem started when these Rules came to life. They were framed by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeITy). The Second Schedule of the Business Rules, 1961 does not empower MeITy to frame regulations for 'digital media'. This

Rules must be credited for they mandate duties such as removal of non-consensual intimate pictures within 24 hours, publication of compliance reports to increase transparency, setting up of a dispute resolution mechanism for content removal and adding a label to information for users to know whether content is advertised, owned, sponsored or exclusively controlled.

### Gagging a right

However, the Supreme Court, in the case of *Life Insurance Corp. of India vs Prof. Manubhai D. Shah* (1992) had elevated 'the freedom to circulate one's views as the lifeline of any democratic institution'. It went on to say that 'any attempt to stifle, suffocate or gag this right would sound a death knell to democracy' and would 'help usher in autocracy or dictatorship'. And so, it becomes increasingly important to critically scrutinise the recent barriers being imposed via these Rules against our right to free speech and expression.

The problem started when these Rules came to life. They were framed by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeITy). The Second Schedule of the Business Rules, 1961 does not empower MeITy to frame regulations for 'digital media'. This



power belongs to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. In the given case although MeITy has said that these rules shall be administered by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, however this action violates the legal principle of 'colourable legislation' where the legislature cannot do something indirectly if it is not possible to do so directly. To propound the problem at hand, the Information Technology Act, 2000, does not regulate digital media. Therefore, the new IT Rules which claim to be a piece of subordinate legislation of the IT Act, travel beyond the rule-making power conferred upon them by the IT Act. This makes the Rules *ultra vires* to the Act.

### Fair recourse, privacy issues

An intermediary is now supposed to take down content within 36 hours upon receiving orders from the Government. This deprives the intermediary of a fair recourse in the event that it disagrees with

the Government's order due to a strict timeline. Additionally, it places fetters upon free speech by fixing the Government as the ultimate adjudicator of objectionable speech online.

The other infamous flaw is how these Rules undermine the right to privacy by imposing a traceability requirement. The immunity that users received from end-to-end encryption was that intermediaries did not have access to the contents of their messages. Imposing this mandatory requirement of traceability will break this immunity, thereby weakening the security of the privacy of these conversations. This will also render all the data from these conversations vulnerable to attack from ill-intentioned third parties. The threat here is not only one of privacy but to the extent of invasion and deprivation from a safe space. These regulations in the absence of a data protection law, coloured in the backdrop of recent data breach affecting a popular pizza delivery chain and also several airlines highlight a lesson left unlearnt.

### On fake news

The problem here is that to eliminate fake news – rather than defining its ambit as a first step, the Rules proceed to hurriedly take down whatever an arbitrary, ill-de-

cisioned, biased authority may deem as "fake news".

Lastly, the Rules create futile additional operational costs for intermediaries by requiring them to have Indian resident nodal officers, compliance officers and grievance officers. Intermediaries are also required to have offices located in India. This makes profit making a far-fetched goal for multinational corporations and start-up intermediary enterprises. Therefore, not only do these Rules place a barrier on the "marketplace of ideas" but also on the economic market of intermediaries in general by adding redundant financial burdens.

Our concluding words on the rapidly diluting right to free speech are only those of caution – of a warning that democracy stands undermined in direct proportion to every attack made on the citizen's right to have a private conversation, to engage in a transaction, to dissent, to have an opinion and to articulate the same without any fear of being imprisoned.

K.T.S. Tulsi is a Senior Advocate at the Supreme Court of India and a Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha. Tanessa Puri is an Associate at his Chambers and an incoming LL.M. candidate at New York University.

## 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.

### Tenure so far

In his first term, Prime Minister Narendra Modi raised hopes with his promise of good governance (Inside pages, "Amid second wave, Modi completes 7 years as PM", May 27). But the first blow came in the form of the ill-planned demonetisation which caused untold suffering to many in addition to causing unemployment. Hindutva policies pursued by the government were not so glaring as in his second term. It is only after 2019 that the BJP government has begun functioning in an autocratic and undemocratic manner, often bypassing democratic

norms. Of course the pandemic has brought with it its own set of problems. The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, the way the migrants issue was handled during the lockdown period and the enactment of the agricultural laws continue to cause hurt. In the second wave of COVID-19, the government's mismanagement has been exposed. If the BJP lost in the recent Assembly elections in States of significance, it has only its anti-people policies to blame. If the BJP wishes to keep its image intact, it should concentrate on health-care issues and welfare schemes instead of

focusing on its own agenda. The cartoon (OpEd page, May 27) depicts the real picture of the BJP government now.

D. SETHURAMAN,  
Chennai

### Buying vaccines

With many overseas manufacturers of vaccines expressing intent to deal only with the central government and not individual States, the situation of reverting to a policy of centralised vaccination once again assumes urgency. States attempting this alone would face the prospect of a heavy financial loss especially if the rates are not affordable. There would be no

uniformity in indemnification clauses and there is a possibility of some States overlooking this aspect in procurement. It should be noted that all manufacturers are not ready with the stock and it could take many months after placing the order to get the desired quantity. Health workers would also be put to further stress if we do not formulate a vaccine policy that covers the entire population in the shortest possible time.

V. SUBRAMANIAN,  
Chennai

ANTHONY HENRIQUES,  
Mumbai

**The farmer's voice**  
Farmers have been protesting against the new

farm laws for months now and the standalone picture (Page 1, "No going back", May 27) is a reminder that the fire is not extinguished. A responsive government committed to democracy and good governance must give priority to the interests of the agricultural community especially in a country such as India where the majority of the population is involved in agriculture. The last thing India needs now is a time of crisis and a draining battle against the pandemic which is an agricultural crisis in a couple of years.

Dr. GEORGE VAREEKAL,  
Naigaon, Palghar, Maharashtra

To read more letters online, scan the QR code



# Is the two-state solution still alive?

PARLEY

Given the unity of the Palestinians as well as practical impediments, the solution is not viable

*The 11-day fighting between Hamas and Israel, coupled with protests across the Palestinian territories and Israeli cities, has turned the spotlight once again on the Palestine question. The internationally accepted solution to this crisis is the so-called two-state solution. This would mean that an independent, sovereign Palestine state and an independent, sovereign Israeli state would coexist in peace. But on the ground, since the Oslo Accords were signed, there has been little progress on the two-state solution and Israel has only tightened its occupation of Palestine over the years. In a conversation moderated by Stanly Johny, Nathan Thrall and A.K. Ramakrishnan discuss the past, present and future of the Palestine question. Edited excerpts:*

**The most recent phase of the Israel-Palestine crisis was more than the bombing of and rockets from Gaza. There were also protests from the Gaza Strip through the Israeli cities to East Jerusalem and West Bank. How do you look at this development?**

**Nathan Thrall:** This [escalation] was rather different from the escalations that we saw in Gaza in 2014, 2012, 2009 and 2008. The Palestinian citizens of Israel protested in large numbers and they're being arrested in large numbers today. That is something that occurred during the First Intifada. At the beginning of the Second Intifada, when what Israel calls "the October events" took place, 13 Palestinian citizens of Israel were killed in protests. So, there is a precedent for this. But it did feel different from the escalations of the last decade or so. It sent a clear message to the world and much of the Israeli public that after over 70 years of Israeli policy to fragment the Palestinian people, treat them differently, and subject them to different rules and restrictions, the Palestinian citizens of Israel and the Palestinian people at large are one.

This is an enormous challenge to the existing paradigm of the international community, the two-state solution. Most of the world has treated the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as though it's more or less a dispute over

er the occupation of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza. The paradigm has been more or less that of a border dispute. But when the Palestinian people come together and show that the Palestinians of the West Bank, Jerusalem and Gaza are just one part of the Palestinian people and this is a national struggle of all the Palestinian people who are still united as one, that paradigm starts to make a lot less sense.

**If you look at it from the point of view of the Palestinian people, or from a historical point of view, we can argue that the two-state solution doesn't make sense. But practically, what do you think can be done?**

**A.K. Ramakrishnan:** What is significant is to recognise that from 1967 onwards, Palestinian territories have been under Israeli control. And that is where the narrative has to change from two entities fighting against each other for a particular piece of land to the very conception of a colonial order. If the reality of the coloniser-colonised equation is recognised, one can think about what solution is possible.

And in addressing that aspect of resolving the conflict, this recognition of the complete control of Israel is the first step. But that's precisely what is being resisted by the Israeli government. Most of the peace processes that we have seen are mechanisms for postponing any kind of permanent settlement of the issue. So, that's why there is a dead end to the peace process, because it's not driving us anywhere towards any acceptable solution.

The two-state solution has been the internationally accepted solution to the problem. But there have been practical impediments such as increasing illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied territories of the West Bank and East Jerusalem. And the very question of contiguous territory for the Palestinians to establish an independent state of their own is not available in a practical sense, because under Israeli occupation, there has been change in the geography of the Palestinian territories over decades. So, practical problems regarding the two-state solution exist, particularly the status of Jerusalem and the future of Palesti-



nian refugees outside the occupied territories and outside historical Palestine.

The whole idea of the Israeli Jewish people and the Palestinian people living together in a democratic state is still treated as a utopia. But what is important is to recognise that the events in the current phase of the conflict are leading to newer thinking and therefore, when one thinks about a solution, one has to take into account the new narratives that are emerging out of newer types of struggles.

**The two dominant political factions of the Palestinian side have directly or indirectly accepted the idea of two states. In that context, and given the other challenges, is a one-state solution a utopia?**

**NT:** It's correct that the main political parties among the Palestinians have supported a two-state solution – de facto in Hamas's case, but this is the consensus position among Palestinians. Now, it's important to note that the Palestinian support for a two-state solution does not derive from a vision of what would be most just or most desirable. At the start of the Zionist movement, at the end of the 19th century, the Jews in Palestine made up about 3% of the population in 1882 and Palestinians were the remaining 97%. Over time, we have seen the slow takeover of Palestine and the transformation of it into the land of Israel. Palestinians wouldn't come up with a solution that would give them a disconnected state without true sovereignty and a mere 22% of their homeland. The two-state solution is based on Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza in the 1967 War, but the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) was founded before the 1967 War, the conflict factor was founded before the 1967 War, the project of

**C** It would take power that the Palestinians currently do not have in order to really bring about any solution.

NATHAN THRALL

Palestinian liberation and return of the refugees all precede the 1967 War. So, the roots of the Palestinian national movement are much deeper.

Now, it's clear that a two-state solution isn't happening. Even the two-state solution, the more realistic version of it, where the Palestinian state is demilitarised, where Palestinians have tunnels that they can use to go under sub-sovereign Israeli territory in order to reach Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, where most of the settlements [in the West Bank and East Jerusalem] will be annexed to Israel, where Gaza and the West Bank are disconnected from one another – even that proposal of the Geneva initiative, made during the Second Intifada, isn't happening. There's no two-state solution happening. Everyone recognises that this is the case.

It would take power that the Palestinians currently do not have in order to really bring about any solution. So, the situation we're looking at now is a continuation of what the human rights organisations have all deemed meets the definition of crime against humanity of apartheid. And really, any alternative to that is a utopia.

**So, what does Israel want? Does it want to continue this system of occupation forever? How long will it be able to do it?**

**AKR:** The Israeli government wants not only the status quo of its occupation and its colonial policies to continue, but also expand its control and annex more territories that

it occupies. What is preventing it from totally decimating Palestinian life and their resistance is the voices coming not only from the Palestinians within the occupied territories, but also the Palestinians from within the state of Israel; and from across the world. Therefore, the pressure that the Israeli population, both Jews and Arabs, can have on their government to change its policies; the popular pressure on the American government to change its continued strong support for the state of Israel; and international pressure [to restrain Israel] from doing what it is doing against the Palestinians all matter. There are questions on whether states in the international community are ready to accept this reality of day-to-day oppression of a set of people. But within Israel and within the U.S., pressure is much more significant.

**Nathan, in your book you have written that Israel has made concessions in the past, but only when it was forced to do so, whether due to international pressure or violent Palestinian resistance. Now, you have a Democratic administration in Washington. Do you see any kind of meaningful pressure coming from the White House, or the liberal flank of the Democratic Party, on Israel, that would force Israel to make some concessions to the Palestinians?**

**NT:** From the White House, I do not see any possibility of real pressure that would result in a true change to the status quo. From the liberal or progressive wing of the Democratic Party, I see a long-term possibility of change. If we're talking about the present Congress, look at the very simple Bill that doesn't change U.S. aid to Israel, but simply calls for the U.S. to examine its role in a policy like the detention of Palestinian children. Even something as simple as that, which still isn't touching aid, which is the really big thing for Democrats, is not realistic in the present Congress and probably not in the next one either. So, it's a very long road. But the trends in the U.S. do seem to suggest that that constituency is going to grow. And some of the people who are behind it are among the most popular politicians in America, like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. So, it is possible that we will reach a point in the distant future at

which the U.S. can put significant pressure on Israel in the way that it had before. It's also very important to remember the critical role of the Palestinians in bringing about the pressure – the pressure can't just come from growing sympathy for Palestinians in Congress or among progressives or internationally.

**The Israeli narrative is that it is fighting terror. The Israelis, the Americans and the European Union have all designated Hamas as a terrorist organisation. So, is Hamas actually weakening the greater Palestinian movement or making it stronger?**

**AKR:** If the Palestinian voices have to be heard, we have to recognise the diversity of voices amongst the Palestinians. In the initial days [of the Palestinian resistance], several Palestinian organisations, including Fatah and PFLP [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine], took the armed struggle as their way of placing the Palestine issue before the international community and to resist Israeli occupation. But then under [PLO Chairman Yasser] Arafat's leadership, the PLO came to the negotiating table, took the diplomatic path. The First Intifada was more or less non-violent. It is in that context that Hamas emerged, in 1987. And Hamas became part of the armed resistance.

The whole point of talking about Hamas as something which is really distinct from other Palestinian entities would not be a good thing to do. Because there is already an attempt to separate the West Bank Palestinians and the Palestinians of the Gaza Strip. Some people even talked about three states. This time, the Palestinian identity is being asserted in a big manner. Therefore, I would view the kind of ideological division between Fatah and Hamas, between various Palestinian organisations, as something that comes up as part of what to do in a very dire condition of occupation. What kind of strategy they have to adopt, or what kind of ideology the Palestinians have to follow is up to them. But this whole narrative of seeing the Palestinians as being divided... they may have differences, but I think on the basic question of liberating Palestine, the question of an independent Palestinian state, the Palestinians are united, and that is the core of the Palestine question.



**Nathan Thrall**  
is the author of 'The Only Language They Understand' and a contributor to 'The New York Times Magazine' and the 'London Review of Books'



**A.K.  
Ramakrishnan**  
is a professor of international relations at the Centre for West Asian Studies, JNU, New Delhi



Scan the QR code to listen to the full interview online

## Addressing vaccine hesitancy

Those unwilling to take vaccines don't just need more science but guidance

T.S. RAVIKUMAR & RAJEEV ARAVINDAKSHAN

COVID-19 vaccines have been developed at a record pace thanks to the collaborative efforts of governments, industry, academia and other organisations. The primary purpose of vaccination is to protect individuals against severe infection. Vaccination also protects populations by providing 'herd immunity', if done on a large scale. Globally, vaccinations against polio, small pox, meningitis and so on have seen huge success.

But there seems to be a problem in vaccinating people against COVID-19. The possibility of a significant number of people not getting vaccinated thwarts our collective ability to reach the herd immunity threshold of 70-85% against SARS-CoV-2. As we mitigate the problems surrounding vaccine shortage and logistics, the issue of vaccine hesitancy needs to be urgently addressed.

### Vaccine hesitancy

The results of a 2020 Gallup poll, conducted before the vaccine rollout, were published on May 3, 2021. In the poll, one in three adults worldwide (32%) said they would not take the COVID-19 vaccine. India performed better in this poll with only 18% stating that they won't take the vaccine. But vaccine hesitancy has gone up in India since then, due in part to largely overblown reports of complications or even deaths.

Vaccine hesitancy is complex and context-specific, varying across time, place and vaccines. The influencing factors include a lack of awareness of the extent of benefits, fears based on inaccurate information, lack of access to vaccine, civil liberty concepts, cost, cultural issues, and various layers of confidence deficit (mistrust of intent, lack of confidence in the system) sown by conspiracy theories and disinformation. Disinformation is rife, especially on social media. Among those who are extremely hesitant are the 'anti-vaxxers'. The rest comprise those who delay getting vaccinated, accept vaccines in principle but are sceptical of their use, accept certain vaccines but not others,

etc. 'Free riders' are those who do not want vaccines, but wish to derive the benefits of herd immunity.

The consequences of vaccine hesitancy are disastrous. If herd immunity does not develop, disease outbreaks and pandemics will prevail. The slower the vaccination rate, the wider the spread of infection and the greater the chances of mutations and the emergence of new variants.

### The right message

To allay vaccine fears, our messaging needs to focus on simple facts. Vaccines have been widely tested. The side-effects that may last a couple of days are a very small price to pay to vastly reduce getting seriously ill from disease. The less than one-in-a-million chance of getting serious side effects far outweighs the effect the disease is likely to have.

Addressing the strategies to blunt disinformation, especially on social media, Lisa Rosenblum says in an article in the *New England Journal of Medicine* that quashing rumours and conspiracies with truth and reliable information alone may not suffice.

Before attempting to persuade people, we need to understand the basis of their fear, hesitancy and the anti-vax attitude.

By challenging untruths, we inadvertently feed the perception that we are actively suppressing the "real" truth. She concludes that often, the most educated sceptics will be against explanations of scientific facts.

While not different from prior vaccine drives, the objective now is to reach more people faster with a message that doesn't just provide more science but includes guidance. Providing practical information through social media, alternatives to apps for those lacking easy access to vaccines, and taking the help of well-informed frontline workers will all help.

T.S. Ravikumar is President, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Mangalagiri, Andhra Pradesh, and Member, Patient Safety Curriculum Working Group, World Health Organization, Geneva; Rajeev Aravindakshan is Additional Professor, Community and Family Medicine, AIIMS, Mangalagiri.

### NOTEBOOK

## In Lutyens's Delhi, where some buildings will soon be memories

Familiar places, visited by the most and least powerful, are on the demolition list

SOBHANA K. NAIR

On crisp winter afternoons in Delhi, in the pre-pandemic era, a reporter could do the rounds of the busy bureaucratic corridors on foot. The capital is not much of a walker's paradise, except the small pocket called Lutyens' Delhi.

A routine day would begin in the dark and slippery corridors of Shastri Bhawan that houses nearly half a dozen ministries including Education, Culture, Social Justice, Information and Broadcasting, and Women and Child Development. The building with its narrow windows, stacked one over the other like a child's jenga set, ratios sunlight. But though the corridors are dark, the offices' rooms are well lit.

A hop across Shastri Bhawan is Krishi Bhawan that houses the earthy ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development, among others. But Nirman

Bhawan down the road is where I used to go if I was in dire need of stories.

Going down Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Marg is a rewarding experience. It provides a majestic view of Raisina Hill. The North and South Block flank the highest office of the land, the Rashtrapati Bhawan, which faces India Gate daily.

Nirman Bhawan houses the important Health Ministry. But my usual haunt was the Urban Development Ministry and the corridors of the Central Public Works Department where elaborate flower arrangements marked the Urban Development Minister's office lending it a cheery air.

Often, after negotiating the bureaucratese, asking multiple questions on a re-

latively unknown concept, jotting the key phrases down in my notebook and memorising the rest just in case the official refused to part with documents, I would be in no hurry to head back to office (this was in the pre-online days) and instead take a detour towards Janpath.

Janpath runs parallel to Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Marg, but could very well be in an alternate world. The pace on this road is relatively unhurried. The bus stops are not populated like they are on Rafi Ahmed Marg. There are fewer hawkers and little traffic. If Rafi Marg is printed in colour film, Janpath, at least from the National Museum to the National Archives, should be printed in sepia tones.

Till two years ago, the barracks next to the National Museum had the headquarters of the Archaeological Survey of India. Their offices are as moth-eaten as the objects

they excavate or examine. This is where I would have long chats with officials on why overnight renovations were being carried out on age-old structures or gently nudge them for information on who gave approval for an excavation in Unnao, Uttar Pradesh, based on some seer's dream.

Now, Rafi Marg is dug up. Shastri Bhawan, Krishi Bhawan and Nirman Bhawan are all going to be demolished. There are signboards prohibiting people from taking photographs. There are no hawkers thanks to the pandemic. In a few years, all these familiar places, the landmarks of Delhi, visited by the most powerful and the least, will fade in memory when the Central Vista becomes a reality. Newer ways of control will be found in the shiny buildings to keep us pesky journalists at bay. My hope is that we will still find our way around it.

Vasini

they excavate or examine. This is where I would have long chats with officials on why overnight renovations were being carried out on age-old structures or gently nudge them for information on who gave approval for an excavation in Unnao, Uttar Pradesh, based on some seer's dream.

Now, Rafi Marg is dug up. Shastri Bhawan, Krishi Bhawan and Nirman Bhawan are all going to be demolished. There are signboards prohibiting people from taking photographs. There are no hawkers thanks to the pandemic. In a few years, all these familiar places, the landmarks of Delhi, visited by the most powerful and the least, will fade in memory when the Central Vista becomes a reality. Newer ways of control will be found in the shiny buildings to keep us pesky journalists at bay. My hope is that we will still find our way around it.

Till two years ago, the barracks next to the National Museum had the headquarters of the Archaeological Survey of India. Their offices are as moth-eaten as the objects

they excavate or examine. This is where I would have long chats with officials on why overnight renovations were being carried out on age-old structures or gently nudge them for information on who gave approval for an excavation in Unnao, Uttar Pradesh, based on some seer's dream.

The Hindu

### FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 28, 1971

#### Refugee relief

The Union Government is greatly disappointed at the world Powers' poor response for help to the refugees from East Bengal. Authoritative sources indicated here to-day [New Delhi, May 27] that whatever had been received so far as aid to the refugees "is a drop in the ocean." However, the Government of India is confident that in the next few months, there will be a better understanding by leading nations of the seriousness of the refugee problem faced by this country. In fact, the entire rehabilitation policy of the Government is based on the assumption that it should be possible for the refugees to return to their country in the next six months. This is the period, the Government believes, within which world Powers would be able to exert influence on Pakistan to create conditions of normalcy in East Bengal as a result of which the refugees could get back. Meanwhile, it is learnt the average daily inflow of refugees in the last two days has registered a slight fall. It is now 50,000 as against 60,000. The Union Government has also tightened up security measures on the border with a view to preventing infiltrators getting into our country in the guise of refugees. The Union Government has also tightened up security measures on the border with a view to preventing infiltrators getting into our country in the guise of refugees.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 28, 1921

#### Tagore and Non Co-operation

Attempts have been made in certain quarters to make political capital out of a few letters written by Dr. Rabindranath Tagore from far-off countries based on a few newspaper cuttings regarding the evils of Non-Co-operation. It has been sought to be made out that the poet is entirely against the movement, disapproves of the very principle of Non-Co-operation and that he, on his return back to the country, will whole-heartedly throw in his weight and influence against the present struggle. We have no doubt as to how soon, and how far, the fond hopes cherished by these enemies of freedom and partners in autocracy, of having found a new and not unworthy ally, will be shattered once the Poet sees everything for himself and learns by direct experience the new born spirit of freedom and sacrifice in his countrymen.

## FROM PAGE ONE

## 'States responsible for vaccine shortfall'

This month, the Centre had recommended delaying the second shot of Covishield to three months to ensure wider coverage.

Dr. Paul said the country would produce 10 crore doses of Covaxin by October. The earlier estimate was that these production numbers would be reached by September, according to a note from the Department of Biotechnology in mid-April.

Covaxin production by Bharat Biotech was being increased from under 1 crore a month to 10 crore by October. Additionally, the three PSUs (Public Sector Under-

taking) would together aim to produce up to 4.0 crore doses by December. With the constant encouragement of the government, the Serum Institute of India was ramping up Covishield production of 6.5 crore doses a month to 11.0 crore doses, Dr. Paul said.

Trials in children would begin soon. "However, vaccinating children should not be decided on the basis of panic in WhatsApp groups and because some politicians want to play politics. It has to be a decision taken by our scientists after adequate data is available based on trials," he added.

## Twitter defaming India, defying laws, says govt.

The Ministry said that through its actions and deliberate defiance, Twitter seeks to undermine India's legal system.

"Twitter needs to stop beating around the bush and comply with the laws of the land. Law making and policy formulations is the sole prerogative of the sovereign and Twitter is just a social media platform and it has no locus in dictating what India's legal policy framework should be," MeitY said.

According to Twitter, with regards to the new IT rules, it is particularly concerned about the requirement to make an individual (the compliance officer) criminally liable for content on the platform, the requirements for proactive monitoring, and the blanket authority to seek information about its customers. It be-

lieves this represents dangerous overreach that is inconsistent with open, democratic principles.

The company also pointed out that it was compelled to withhold some content, constituting legitimate free speech, in response to a non-compliance notice due to the law's limited scope under Section 69A. Not doing so poses penal consequences with many risks for Twitter employees.

Meanwhile, the government said the new rules empower ordinary users who become victims of defamation, morphed images, sexual abuse and the whole range of other abusive content in blatant violation of law, to seek redress. It also reiterated that these rules were finalised after widest possible consultations, including with representatives of social media platforms.

## + In touch with Dominica on Choksi's repatriation

Mr. Choksi acquired citizenship of Antigua through a special government scheme. Mr. Modi surfaced in London where he has set up business and is fighting a case against repatriation to India. The official said India remained committed to bringing back financial fraudsters from safe sanctuaries abroad.

He faces charge of entering Dominica illegally though there are doubts about the exact circumstances in which he entered the country. Antigua, ho-

wever, maintains that Mr. Choksi will not be allowed to return to the country.

"We asked them not to re-

patiate him to Antigua. He

needs to return to India

where he can face the crimi-

nal charges levelled against

him," Antigua News Room

quoted Prime Minister Gaston Browne as telling journalis-

ts in Antigua and Bar-

buda. India has friendly ties

with both Antigua and Do-

minka that are members of

CARICOM, the regional

group of Caribbean island

nations.

## Oppn. States to push for COVID relief at GST meet

GST compensation cess collections are expected to fall short by ₹1.65 lakh crore this year and an estimated ₹63,000 crore is still pending to States from last year.

The newly appointed Finance Ministers of Tamil Nadu and Kerala, and their counterparts from Punjab, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and West Bengal met virtually at a meeting hosted by the Rajasthan government on Thursday and vowed to 'remain united' at the Council's meeting.

These States will also press for a GST exemption on COVID-19 vaccines, whose procurement has now been largely delegated to them, along with waiving of all taxes on goods purchased for fighting the pandemic.

Ms. Sitharaman had earlier snubbed a similar plea from West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, arguing it would be 'counter-productive' and States will get a share of such GST revenues.

Kerala's new Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal told *The Hindu* that States will seek immediate disbursement of GST compensation arrears and extension of the

GST compensation for four to five years in view of the economic crisis arising due to pandemic-induced lockdown. Kerala will also demand that GST compensation be paid as a grant instead of the special borrowing window used to meet part of last year's shortfall.

On Monday, Punjab Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal had written to Ms. Sitharaman stating that the high GST levies on COVID essentials, including medicines, test kits and oxygen concentrators, were 'baffling' amid the crisis faced by the country.

"We need a GST with a heart," he said, citing a Delhi High Court judgment that termed the GST levy on concentrators imported for personal use as 'unconstitutional'.

Mr. Badal said all States, ruled either by the BJP or its rivals, had been affected by the pandemic and there was a need to reset the GST equation with the Centre. "Opposition States will be asking for an outright grant and no borrowing tomorrow and also an extension of the period of compensation," he told reporters.

Kerala's new Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal told *The Hindu* that States will seek immediate disbursement of GST compensation arrears and extension of the

## Mamata, PM to discuss damage caused by Cyclone Yaas today

Cyclone caused damage amounting to ₹15,000 crore in West Bengal, she says

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday to discuss the impact of Cyclone Yaas that swept past the coastal regions of the State and Odisha on Wednesday.

Ms. Banerjee told press persons on Thursday that she would meet Mr. Modi at the Kalaikunda Air Base in Paschim Medinipur district.

"Mr. Modi is coming from Odisha after visiting the cyclone-affected regions and after visiting Digha, he will be coming to Kalaikunda, where we will have a short meeting," she said at the State Secretariat. This would be the first meeting between the two after Ms. Banerjee was elected the Chief Minister for the third time earlier this month.

Ms. Banerjee is set to visit the cyclone-affected areas of Sandeshkhali and Sagar on



**After the storm:** National Disaster Response Force personnel removing an uprooted tree in East Midnapore. ■ PTI

Friday before meeting Mr. Modi. The Chief Minister also said the State suffered damages amounting to ₹15,000 crore due to Yaas.

## Relief at the doorstep

The State government also announced 'Duare Traan', a doorstep relief scheme, from June 3 for 15 days at the village level, where people could give applications seeking relief. Verification of the

applications would be done from June 18 to 30, and in the first week of July, money would be credited to beneficiaries through direct benefit transfer. Ms. Banerjee said the State government had allocated ₹1,000 crore for rehabilitation.

"We should immediately start rehabilitation work. Distribution of tarpaulin, dry rations, drinking water should start immediately."

At a meeting called to assess the damage caused by the cyclone, Chief Secretary Alapan Bandopadhyay said 1.16 lakh hectares of agriculture land had been damaged, amounting to ₹2,000 crore. Three lakh dwelling units had also been destroyed.

## Coastal areas

Large parts of the coastal areas of the State still remained under water, particularly in Purba Medinipur and South 24 Parganas. The combined effects of the cyclone and the full moon tide resulted in overflowing and a breach of the embankments.

During the day, localised tornadoes were reported in Ashoknagar in North 24 Parganas and Santipur in Nadia.

Kolkata and its adjoining areas witnessed heavy rainfall and water in the Hooghly river rose. Waterlogging was reported in certain parts of the city.

Under its influence, heavy rain lashed 200 blocks in the coastal districts on Wednesday.

Seven blocks received rainfall in the range of 300 to 400 mm. By 8 a.m. on Thursday, Keonjhar received 127 mm followed by Sundargarh (101 mm), Mayurbhanj (96 mm) and Deogarh (62 mm).

Kusumi in Mayurbhanj district recorded 515 mm rainfall over two days, while Chandipur in Balasore and Rajnagar in Kendrapara received 427 mm and 420 mm in 48 hours spanning over Tuesday and Wednesday.

The Baitarani is flowing above the danger level at Akhuapada and Anandpur in Keonjhar. "The water level is rising in the river, there could be flooding in 31 villages under 14 gram panchayats of Dhammagar block," said Gyana Dash, Boudh Collector. The Water Resource Department has deployed engineers to divert flood water from entering human habitations in the lower catchment.

## Withdraw new norms in Lakshadweep: Rahul

Rules threaten archipelago's heritage

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to withdraw the new regulations introduced by Lakshadweep Administrator Praful Khoda Patel.

In a letter written on Wednesday that was released by the Congress on Thursday, Mr. Gandhi alleged that the new regulations and orders threatened the heritage of the archipelago. "The custodians of its [Lakshadweep] heritage seek to safeguard the archipelago for posterity. However, their future is threatened by the anti-people policies announced by the Administrator of Lakshadweep, Shri. Praful Khoda Patel," he wrote.

"I request you to intervene in this matter and ensure that the above mentioned orders are withdrawn," he added.



land is evident in the draft Lakshadweep Development Authority Regulation... The provisions undermine safeguards pertaining to land ownership, dilute environmental regulations for certain activities and severely limit legal recourse available to affected persons."

"I request you to intervene in this matter and ensure that the above mentioned orders are withdrawn," he added.

## Yet to receive draft regulation: govt.

Draft on Lakshadweep norms will be sent to Cabinet only after Ministry clears it

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The draft Lakshadweep Development Authority Regulation, 2021, which gives sweeping powers to the Administrator to take over land and relocate people among others, will require ratification from the Union Home Ministry and the Cabinet before it is implemented.

A senior Ministry official told *The Hindu* that it was yet to receive the draft regulation from the Lakshadweep administration. The official said the regulation was drafted by the Lakshadweep administration and the Union Home Ministry had no role to play.

Any proposed change to



**In protest:** Activists from various political parties protesting in Kochi, Kerala, on Thursday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

the laws in Lakshadweep is to be brought through regulations, instead of a Bill as is the case in other UTs with a legislature such as Delhi and Puducherry.

These regulations are then put up for public consultation and once the res-

ponse is received, it is sent to the Union Home Ministry.

"The Ministry will examine the regulations, and only after it clears them will the draft be sent to the Union Cabinet for approval. Till now, the Ministry has not received the regulations," said

## Redact details that reveal identity: HC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

Referring to the Goa court judgment acquitting journalist Tarun Tejpal, the Bombay High Court on Thursday directed the sessions court judge to redact the email ID of the survivor and the name of her husband and mother from the judgment before uploading it on the court website.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta appeared before a single Bench of Justice S.C. Gupte and said the judgment in the case of sexual assault and rape was to be pronounced on May 19, which was postponed to May 21 when it was revealed that Mr. Tejpal had been acquitted.

He urged the High Court to pass a direction to delete details that may reveal the identity of the survivor before uploading the judgment on the court website.

In the Ministry of Commerce, he has been appointed as an Officer on Special Duty for a month, before he takes over as the Secretary when the incumbent Mr.

## Subrahmanyam to be Commerce Secretary

Tenures of R&AW and IB chiefs extended; CBDT gets three members

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
AHMEDABAD

The Modi government on Thursday brought in B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, the Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir, as the next Commerce Secretary, Government of India, upon superannuation of Anup Wadhawan on June 30.

Mr. Subrahmanyam is a 1987-batch IAS officer of the Chhattisgarh cadre, and was sent on deputation to Jammu and Kashmir in June 2018. He served as the Chief Secretary when the State was bifurcated into two Union Territories in 2019. He is a widely experienced bureaucrat, having worked in the Prime Minister's Office as Joint Secretary during Manmohan Singh's tenure.

In the Ministry of Commerce, he has been appointed as an Officer on Special Duty for a month, before he takes over as the Secretary when the incumbent Mr.



Wadhawan superannuates on June 30.

In another crucial development, the government has granted extensions of one year each to the Secretary, Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW), and the Chief of the Intelligence Bureau (IB). Samant Kumar Goel is the Secretary, R&AW. He has been given one year's extension beyond June 30, 2021. He is a 1984-batch IPS officer of the Punjab cadre.

His batchmate and Assam Meghalaya cadre IPS officer, Arvinda Kumar, is the Chief of IB, which is the country's premier spy agency, while the R&AW is an external intelligence agency of the Indian government.

The IB functions under the Union Home Ministry, while the R&AW functions under the Cabinet Secretariat in the Central administration.

Besides appointing the new Commerce Secretary and granting extension to the chiefs of spy agencies, the government also appointed three Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officials to be members of the apex income tax policymaking body, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).

Accordingly, the three officers appointed are: Anu J. Singh, J.B. Mohapatra and Anuja Sarangi, all three IRS officers of the Income Tax cadre belonging to the 1985 batch. The names of these officials were cleared by the Ministry of Finance in February

March this year.

The CBDT has been working with just a Chairman, who is on extension till May 31, and two other members, one of whom is also on extension. CBDT Chairman P.C. Mody was given a three-month extension in February this year till May 31. He is a 1982-batch IRS officer and was appointed as the chief in September 2019.

Another member on extension is S.K. Gupta, whose extended tenure is ending in July this year.

All appointment and extension orders were issued by the Department of Personnel and Training after approval from the Prime Minister-led Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.

Additionally, the Centre

repatriated the Tamil Nadu

cadre IAS officer, Shiv Das Meena, serving as Chairman

of the Central Pollution Control Board at the request of

the State government.

## IBF to cover streaming platforms

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF), the apex body of broadcasters, is expanding its purview to cover digital streaming platforms and will be renamed the Indian Broadcasting and Digital Foundation (IBDF).

The move would bring broadcasters and OTT (over-the-top) platforms, which have seen a substantial jump in their viewership base after the pandemic, under one roof.

For this, the IBDF was in the process of forming a new wholly-owned subsidiary to handle all matters of digital media, an official statement said.

The IBDF would also form a self-regulatory body, the Digital Media Content Regulatory Council (DMCRC), for digital OTT platforms.

## Webinar on hotel management on May 30

Series has been organised by SRMIST in association with The Hindu Group

STAFF REPORTER  
CHENNAI

# Twitter is refusing to cooperate: Delhi Police

'It's purporting to be an investigative and judicial authority'

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Responding to Twitter's statement, Delhi Police on Thursday said the micro-blogging website is neither police nor judiciary and that it was refusing to cooperate with the law enforcement agency.

"Twitter Inc. is purporting to be both an investigating authority as well as an adjudicating judicial authority. It has no legal sanction to be either. The only legal entity, so empowered by the duly laid-down law, to investigate is the police and to adjudicate is the Courts," said Delhi Police spokesperson.

Terming the statement issued by Twitter "mendacious", the police said Twitter was trying to "adjudicate the truth".

The police said the website claims to have material information basis "which it

**C** Twitter Inc., while placing the cart before the horse, went ahead and declared that the toolkit was 'Manipulated Media'. This clearly demonstrates that Twitter Inc. was acquainted with the facts of the case and it had material information which was germane to the inquiry by a duly recognised law enforcement agency

DEHLI POLICE

not only 'investigated' but arrived at a 'conclusion' and it must share that information with the law enforcement agency.

The police said they had registered a preliminary inquiry based on a complaint by the representative of the Indian National Congress. "Hence, the efforts by Twitter Inc. that portray that this is an FIR filed at the behest of the Government of India is wholly and completely incorrect," the statement read.

"Twitter Inc., while placing the cart before the horse, went ahead and declared that the toolkit was 'Manipu-

lated Media'. This clearly demonstrates that Twitter Inc. was acquainted with the facts of the case and it had material information which was germane to the inquiry by a duly recognised law enforcement agency," they said. When served a notice to bring relevant material on record, the police said, "Twitter India's subsidiary TCIPL's Managing Director chose to adopt a path of evasiveness" and said he was "merely a sales head, had no role whatsoever in any operations relating to content and thereby refused to join the inquiry".

It was in this context the court had called for a "pro-

erly framed regime" to allow the government to get information about first originators of messages from "significant" social media intermediaries with end-to-end encryption technology. The court had even felt that some messages on social media may even threaten national sovereignty.

The court had clarified

saying they have initiated the process of formation of self-regulatory bodies under the rules. Some of the publishers have also written regarding registration with the Ministry under the rules.

The Ministry clarified that there is no requirement for prior registration of digital media publishers with it and only certain information as per the prescribed format has to be furnished. This in-

cludes basic information such as URL, contact of the grievance redressal officer and so on.

The News Broadcasters Association (NBA) urged the government to "exempt and exclude" the traditional television news media and its extended presence on the digital news platforms from the ambit of the IT Rules 2021,

arguing that it is already "sufficiently regulated" by va-

rious statutes, laws, guidelines, codes and regulations.

It has also criticised the new rules saying the IT Act, 2000 and the IT Rules 2021, and "more specifically" provisions such as the blocking of content in cases of emergency, will "severely" impact the freedom of speech and expression of the media.

"Since the news channels/broadcasters and their ex-

tended digital arms strictly

adhere to the statutes and regulations applicable and are governed at multiple levels of redressal mechanism, if the IT Rules, 2021 are made applicable, it will not only lead to harassment of the news channels/broadcasters but will also suppress and violate their fundamental right of freedom of speech and expression and will also restrict news reporting in a fair manner," it said.

## Congress MP seeks revival of MPLADS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury wrote to Speaker Om Birla to restart the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS). He said it is critical to have access to the fund because of the second COVID-19 wave and the devastation caused by cyclone Yaas.

## Submit compliance reports within 15 days, digital platforms told

They also have to set up a three-tier grievance redressal mechanism to deal with complaints about content

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry on Thursday asked the digital media platforms to submit compliance reports as per the new intermediary rules under the IT Act within 15 days.

The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Codes) Rules, 2021, were notified by the government

on February 25. These rules, for the first time, bring digital media platforms under government monitoring. It also gives emergency power to the Ministry to block content. The platforms also have to provide a three-tier grievance redress mechanism to deal with complaints about their content.

As per the latest notice from the Ministry, so far, 60 publishers have written to it

saying they have initiated the process of formation of self-regulatory bodies under the rules. Some of the publishers have also written regarding registration with the Ministry under the rules.

The Ministry clarified that there is no requirement for prior registration of digital media publishers with it and only certain information as per the prescribed format has to be furnished. This in-

cludes basic information such as URL, contact of the grievance redressal officer and so on.

The News Broadcasters Association (NBA) urged the government to "exempt and exclude" the traditional television news media and its extended presence on the digital news platforms from the ambit of the IT Rules 2021,

arguing that it is already "sufficiently regulated" by va-

rious statutes, laws, guidelines, codes and regulations.

It has also criticised the new rules saying the IT Act, 2000 and the IT Rules 2021, and "more specifically" provisions such as the blocking of content in cases of emergency, will "severely" impact the freedom of speech and expression of the media.

"Since the news channels/broadcasters and their ex-

tended digital arms strictly

adhere to the statutes and regulations applicable and are governed at multiple levels of redressal mechanism, if the IT Rules, 2021 are made applicable, it will not only lead to harassment of the news channels/broadcasters but will also suppress and violate their fundamental right of freedom of speech and expression and will also restrict news reporting in a fair manner," it said.

## Bengal govt. is now party to Narada case

Five-judge HC Bench is considering all issues, including bail to those arrested

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA

A five-judge Bench of Calcutta High Court on Thursday heard the Narada case and agreed to make the West Bengal government party to the case. The Bench, which will hear the application again on Friday, agreed to hear first the arguments of the recall application on the May 17 order, where the High Court had cancelled the bail granted to four persons arrested by a city court.

The five-judge Bench, which includes Acting Chief Justice Rajesh Bindal and Justices I. P. Mukerji, Harish Tandon, Soumen Sen and Arijit Banerjee, is hearing the matter after a two-judge Bench of Acting Chief Justice

Rajesh Bindal and Justice Arijit Banerjee had differences of opinion over granting bail to the accused.

The CBI on May 17 had arrested four leaders, including two State government Ministers Firhad Hakim and Subrata Mukherjee, MLA Arguing for the CBI, Solici-

tor General Tushar Mehta raised the issue of leaders from the ruling party going to the CBI's office after the arrests. Mr. Mehta said that if this "mobocracy" was allowed then, in the future, supporters of a gangster may lay siege on a CBI office after an arrest.

The Court responded by asking how Article 226 could be invoked unless Mr. Mehta could prove that the "mobocracy" had an effect on the CBI court. Article 226 grants High Courts the power to issue certain writs. Appearances for the accused, senior advocate Kalyan Banerjee raised the issue of the High Court cancelling bail to the accused without hearing them.

Madan Mitra and former Minister Subrata Mukherjee, in connection with the Narada case. During the hearing on Thursday, Justice Mukherjee said that the Bench was considering all issues, including bail to those arrested.

Arguing for the CBI, Solici-

tor General Tushar Mehta raised the issue of leaders from the ruling party going to the CBI's office after the arrests. Mr. Mehta said that if this "mobocracy" was allowed then, in the future, supporters of a gangster may lay siege on a CBI office after an arrest.

The Court responded by asking how Article 226 could be invoked unless Mr. Mehta could prove that the "mobocracy" had an effect on the CBI court. Article 226 grants High Courts the power to issue certain writs. Appearances for the accused, senior advocate Kalyan Banerjee raised the issue of the High Court cancelling bail to the accused without hearing them.

Arguing for the CBI, Solici-

tor General Tushar Mehta raised the issue of leaders from the ruling party going to the CBI's office after the arrests. Mr. Mehta said that if this "mobocracy" was allowed then, in the future, supporters of a gangster may lay siege on a CBI office after an arrest.

The Court responded by asking how Article 226 could be invoked unless Mr. Mehta could prove that the "mobocracy" had an effect on the CBI court. Article 226 grants High Courts the power to issue certain writs. Appearances for the accused, senior advocate Kalyan Banerjee raised the issue of the High Court cancelling bail to the accused without hearing them.

Arguing for the CBI, Solici-

tor General Tushar Mehta raised the issue of leaders from the ruling party going to the CBI's office after the arrests. Mr. Mehta said that if this "mobocracy" was allowed then, in the future, supporters of a gangster may lay siege on a CBI office after an arrest.

The Court responded by asking how Article 226 could be invoked unless Mr. Mehta could prove that the "mobocracy" had an effect on the CBI court. Article 226 grants High Courts the power to issue certain writs. Appearances for the accused, senior advocate Kalyan Banerjee raised the issue of the High Court cancelling bail to the accused without hearing them.

Arguing for the CBI, Solici-

tor General Tushar Mehta raised the issue of leaders from the ruling party going to the CBI's office after the arrests. Mr. Mehta said that if this "mobocracy" was allowed then, in the future, supporters of a gangster may lay siege on a CBI office after an arrest.

The Court responded by asking how Article 226 could be invoked unless Mr. Mehta could prove that the "mobocracy" had an effect on the CBI court. Article 226 grants High Courts the power to issue certain writs. Appearances for the accused, senior advocate Kalyan Banerjee raised the issue of the High Court cancelling bail to the accused without hearing them.

Arguing for the CBI, Solici-

tor General Tushar Mehta raised the issue of leaders from the ruling party going to the CBI's office after the arrests. Mr. Mehta said that if this "mobocracy" was allowed then, in the future, supporters of a gangster may lay siege on a CBI office after an arrest.

The Court responded by asking how Article 226 could be invoked unless Mr. Mehta could prove that the "mobocracy" had an effect on the CBI court. Article 226 grants High Courts the power to issue certain writs. Appearances for the accused, senior advocate Kalyan Banerjee raised the issue of the High Court cancelling bail to the accused without hearing them.

Arguing for the CBI, Solici-

tor General Tushar Mehta raised the issue of leaders from the ruling party going to the CBI's office after the arrests. Mr. Mehta said that if this "mobocracy" was allowed then, in the future, supporters of a gangster may lay siege on a CBI office after an arrest.

The Court responded by asking how Article 226 could be invoked unless Mr. Mehta could prove that the "mobocracy" had an effect on the CBI court. Article 226 grants High Courts the power to issue certain writs. Appearances for the accused, senior advocate Kalyan Banerjee raised the issue of the High Court cancelling bail to the accused without hearing them.

Arguing for the CBI, Solici-

tor General Tushar Mehta raised the issue of leaders from the ruling party going to the CBI's office after the arrests. Mr. Mehta said that if this "mobocracy" was allowed then, in the future, supporters of a gangster may lay siege on a CBI office after an arrest.

The Court responded by asking how Article 226 could be invoked unless Mr. Mehta could prove that the "mobocracy" had an effect on the CBI court. Article 226 grants High Courts the power to issue certain writs. Appearances for the accused, senior advocate Kalyan Banerjee raised the issue of the High Court cancelling bail to the accused without hearing them.

Arguing for the CBI, Solici-

tor General Tushar Mehta raised the issue of leaders from the ruling party going to the CBI's office after the arrests. Mr. Mehta said that if this "mobocracy" was allowed then, in the future, supporters of a gangster may lay siege on a CBI office after an arrest.

The Court responded by asking how Article 226 could be invoked unless Mr. Mehta could prove that the "mobocracy" had an effect on the CBI court. Article 226 grants High Courts the power to issue certain writs. Appearances for the accused, senior advocate Kalyan Banerjee raised the issue of the High Court cancelling bail to the accused without hearing them.

Arguing for the CBI, Solici-

tor General Tushar Mehta raised the issue of leaders from the ruling party going to the CBI's office after the arrests. Mr. Mehta said that if this "mobocracy" was allowed then, in the future, supporters of a gangster may lay siege on a CBI office after an arrest.

The Court responded by asking how Article 226 could be invoked unless Mr. Mehta could prove that the "mobocracy" had an effect on the CBI court. Article 226 grants High Courts the power to issue certain writs. Appearances for the accused, senior advocate Kalyan Banerjee raised the issue of the High Court cancelling bail to the accused without hearing them.

Arguing for the CBI, Solici-

tor General Tushar Mehta raised the issue of leaders from the ruling party going to the CBI's office after the arrests. Mr. Mehta said that if this "mobocracy" was allowed then, in the future, supporters of a gangster may lay siege on a CBI office after an arrest.

The Court responded by asking how Article 226 could be invoked unless Mr. Mehta could prove that the "mobocracy" had an effect on the CBI court. Article 226 grants High Courts the power to issue certain writs. Appearances for the accused, senior advocate Kalyan Banerjee raised the issue of the High Court cancelling bail to the accused without hearing them.

Arguing for the CBI, Solici-

tor General Tushar Mehta raised the issue of leaders from the ruling party going to the CBI's office after the arrests. Mr. Mehta said that if this "mobocracy" was allowed then, in the future, supporters of a gangster may lay siege on a CBI office after an arrest.

The Court responded by asking how Article 226 could be invoked unless Mr. Mehta could prove that the "mobocracy" had an effect on the CBI court. Article 226 grants High Courts the power to issue certain writs. Appearances for the accused, senior advocate Kalyan Banerjee raised the issue of the High Court cancelling bail to the accused without hearing them.

Arguing for the CBI, Solici-

tor General Tushar Mehta raised the issue of leaders from the ruling party going to the CBI's office after the arrests. Mr. Mehta said that if this "mobocracy" was allowed then, in the future, supporters of a gangster may lay siege on a CBI office after an arrest.

The Court responded by asking how Article 226 could be invoked unless Mr. Mehta could prove that the "mobocracy" had an effect on the CBI court. Article 226 grants High Courts the power to issue certain writs. Appearances for the accused, senior advocate Kalyan Banerjee raised the issue of the High Court cancelling bail to the accused without hearing them.

Arguing for the CBI, Solici-

tor General Tushar Mehta raised the issue of leaders from the ruling party going to the CBI's office after the arrests. Mr. Mehta said that if this "mobocracy" was allowed then, in the future, supporters of a gangster may lay siege on a CBI office after an arrest.

The Court responded by asking how Article 226 could be invoked unless Mr. Mehta could prove that the "mobocracy" had an effect on the CBI court. Article 226 grants High Courts the power to issue certain writs. Appearances for the accused, senior advocate Kalyan Banerjee raised the issue of the High Court cancelling bail to the accused without hearing them.

Arguing for the CBI, Solici-

tor General Tushar Mehta raised the issue of leaders from the ruling party going to the CBI's office after the arrests. Mr. Mehta said that if this "mobocracy" was allowed then, in the future, supporters of a gangster may lay siege on a CBI office after an arrest.

The Court responded by asking how Article 226 could be invoked unless Mr. Mehta could prove that the "mobocracy" had an effect on the CBI court. Article 226 grants High Courts the power to issue certain writs. Appearances for the accused, senior advocate Kalyan Banerjee raised the issue of the High Court cancelling bail to the accused without hearing them.

Arguing for the CBI, Solici-

tor General Tushar Mehta raised the issue of leaders from the ruling party going to the CBI's office after the arrests. Mr. Mehta said that if this "mobocracy" was allowed then, in the future, supporters of a gangster may lay siege on a CBI office after an arrest.

The Court responded by asking how Article 226 could be invoked unless Mr. Mehta could prove that the "mobocracy" had an effect on the CBI court. Article 226 grants High Courts the power to issue certain writs. Appearances for the accused, senior advocate Kalyan Banerjee raised the issue of the High Court cancelling bail to the accused without hearing them.

# Pfizer vaccine supply may start in July

Decision on indemnity clause will be taken keeping in mind greater good of people, says V.K. Paul

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI  
NITI Aayog Member (Health) V.K. Paul said on Thursday that the Centre was in talks with various vaccine manufacturers and that Pfizer may start supply by July.

He confirmed that the Pfizer had asked for vaccine indemnity. "A decision on this will be taken keeping in mind the larger good of the people," Dr. Paul said at a Union Health ministry press conference on Thursday.

When asked about the alleged mix-up of vaccination (first and second doses of vaccine were of different companies) to at least 20 persons in Uttar Pradesh, he said, "There is nothing to be



**Vital dose:** A health worker administering a COVID-19 vaccine in Bhopal. ■ A.M. FARUQUI

alarmed about. While this isn't advisable and we urge medical staff to be careful while administering the vac-

cines, there is no cause for worry. The matter, however, needs to be investigated."

Dr. Paul said that there

was no need for people to do antibody testing after the completion of COVID-19 vaccination. "The advisable procedure to follow is to get vaccinated and adhere to COVID-19 appropriate behaviour," he said.

Lav Aggarwal, Joint Secretary, Health Ministry, said the country was registering a decline in new cases for the past 20 days. Twenty-four States have registered a decline in active cases and overall recoveries were exceeding daily cases. "A total of 20.26 crore vaccination doses have been given so far," he said.

The Health Ministry on Thursday said all citizens who are 60 years and over

with no vaccination or first dose, along with all citizens below 60 years with disabilities, are eligible for vaccination at Near to Home COVID Vaccination Centres (NHVCV).

"NHVCV for the elderly and differently-abled citizens would follow a community-based, flexible and people-centric approach, bringing the COVID vaccination centres nearer to homes," the Ministry stated.

Sessions could be conducted in non-health facility based settings nearer to home, such as a community centre, resident welfare association centre/office, panchayat ghar, school buildings and homes for the aged.

# World can't be part vaccinated and part neglected: Jaishankar

Minister says countries must unite to fight global challenges

SIRRAM LAKSHMAN

On his first visit to the U.S. since the start of the Biden administration, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar called the India-U.S. relationship one of the most important relationships in the world.

"I think our relationship has come a long way. It is, today, one of the major relationships in the world," he told former [Trump administration] national security advisor H.R. McMaster, a Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution, during a webcast discussion on Wednesday.

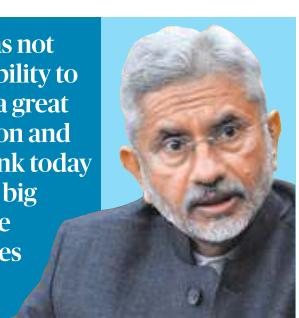
Mr. Jaishankar also said he had a "big agenda" for the relationship.

"My own sense is that in Washington today there is a real appreciation of the potential of this relationship ... and it's true of New Delhi as well," he said, adding that the challenge today is for countries to learn to work with each other more effectively in a multipolar world.

Some States even show negative wastage, for instance Kerala at -4.16%, suggesting that more vaccine doses were extracted out of vials than what was actually supplied.

NITI Aayog Member (Health) V.K. Paul said on Thursday that the management of vaccines by some States is inadequate.

He said, "In the non-government of India channel, States are getting 25% of the doses and private hospitals are getting 25% doses. However, the hiccups and issues faced by the people in the administration of these 25% doses by the States leave a lot to be desired."

  
**The United States has not only an enormous ability to reinvent itself, it also has a great ability to assess its situation and re-strategise. And I do think today that when it comes to the big issues of our day... we have fundamental convergences**

**S. JAISHANKAR**  
External Affairs Minister

The world is not going to be the same post-COVID, Mr. Jaishankar said.

"We can't have a world which is part vaccinated and part neglected, because that world is not going to be safe. How do we get through the global challenges in a global way?"

"I think there needs to be that realisation that this could easily happen to us. In many cases, it has happened to us and the right response, therefore is to help each other out and I am glad to say we've [India] seen a tremendous outpouring of international support and solidarity at this time."

The

United States has not only an enormous ability to reinvent itself, it also has a great ability to assess its situation and re-strategise. And I do think today that when it comes to the big issues of our day... we have fundamental convergences.

Convergences which are societal convergences, which are geopolitical. And I think the challenge before us is how to translate those convergences into actionable policies," he said.

Last July, Mr. Jaishankar had said America needs to "go beyond" alliances and learn how to work in a multipolar world with plurilateral arrangements.

Mr. Jaishankar spoke

about a world changed by the pandemic. The big take away from the pandemic is when you have a big problem the only way out is global cooperation, he said, describing the need for people to relate to the experiences of other countries.

"I think there needs to be that realisation that this could easily happen to us. In many cases, it has happened to us and the right response, therefore is to help each other out and I am glad to say we've [India] seen a tremendous outpouring of international support and solidarity at this time."

The

United States has not only an enormous ability to reinvent itself, it also has a great ability to assess its situation and re-strategise. And I do think today that when it comes to the big issues of our day... we have fundamental convergences.

Convergences which are societal convergences, which are geopolitical. And I think the challenge before us is how to translate those convergences into actionable policies," he said.

Last July, Mr. Jaishankar had said America needs to "go beyond" alliances and learn how to work in a multipolar world with plurilateral arrangements.

Mr. Jaishankar spoke

## Home Ministry reiterates guidelines

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI  
The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Thursday repeated the guidelines (under the Disaster Management Act, 2005) issued on April 29 to implement containment measures in districts where either the test positivity is more than 10% in the past one week or where the bed occupancy is more than 60%.

### Declining trend

Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla wrote to States that through strict implementation of containment and other measures has led to a declining trend in the number of new and active COVID-19 cases "baring some areas in the southern and Northeastern regions."

# States, Centre spar over wastage

Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh contest Health Ministry's figures, cite errors on portal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

More than 1.84 crore COVID vaccine doses (1,84,90,522) are still available with the States and Union Territories to be administered and 11 lakh doses were in the pipeline and to be received by them within the next three days, said an update from the Health Ministry on Thursday.

On Wednesday, the Health Ministry said in a press statement that Jharkhand had "wasted" nearly 37% vaccines while in Chhattisgarh it was 30%.

"Whereas States have been urged repeatedly to keep vaccine wastage below 1%, many States such as Jharkhand (37.3%), Chhattisgarh (30.2%), Tamil Nadu (15.5%), Jammu and Kashmir (10.8%), Madhya Pradesh



Vaccine vials contain multiple doses that have a short life once opened.

(10.7%) are reporting much higher wastage than the national average (6.3%)," the release noted.

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, however, tweeted late on Wednesday that these numbers from the Health Ministry were "laughable." The State's wastage was 4.65%, below the national average of 6.3%, he said.

Health Minister of Chhattisgarh T.S. Singh Deo also tweeted that the figures attributed to Chhattisgarh were "erroneous and completely baseless."

Of the vaccines supplied by the Central government for healthcare and frontline workers and for 45+ year olds, only 0.95% was wasted and for those in the 18-45 age group only 0.29% was wasted. "This is far better than national average of 6%," Mr. Singh Deo tweeted.

**Technical errors**  
In a video conference of the States and the Centre on May 21, the Health Minister "agreed," according to Mr. Singh Deo, that there was a technical error in the Centre's portal which was inflating the wastage numbers and that the Centre would be coordinating with

States to resolve the issue.

On May 26, figures from the Centre put Jharkhand's wastage as 6.44% and Chhattisgarh's at 7.47%.

Some States even show negative wastage, for instance Kerala at -4.16%, suggesting that more vaccine doses were extracted out of vials than what was actually supplied.

NITI Aayog Member (Health) V.K. Paul said on Thursday that the management of vaccines by some States is inadequate.

He said, "In the non-government of India channel, States are getting 25% of the doses and private hospitals are getting 25% doses. However, the hiccups and issues faced by the people in the administration of these 25% doses by the States leave a lot to be desired."

# Quick action by local officials helps Himachal villagers get jab

Earlier, many outsiders had booked the slots on CoWIN

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHANDIGARH

In the absence of smooth Internet connectivity in the remote Dodra-Kwar area of Shimla district in Himachal Pradesh, many residents in the 18-44 age group are finding it difficult to get slots for vaccination. Most of the slots for May 27 were booked by outsiders, forcing local authorities to appeal to all outsiders to cancel their slots to let residents of this remote region get inoculated.

The appeal made by B.R. Sharma, the Sub-Divisional Magistrate at Rohru, on May 25 yielded a positive result as many people who do not reside in Dodra-Kwar can-



The CoWIN portal is used to book vaccination slots.

celled their slots for May 27, so that the residents could get the vaccine.

"Since the appeal, I received several messages on my phone from people who are not residents of Dodra-

Kwar for cancellation of their slots. This is very encouraging as we will be able to vaccinate locals at a faster pace. Our priority is to get people vaccinated in this region as early as possible. The road connectivity to this remote area remains cut-off for months once there is snowfall in the higher reaches," Mr. Sharma told *The Hindu* over phone.

There is poor Internet connectivity in the area, which has a population of around 7,000.

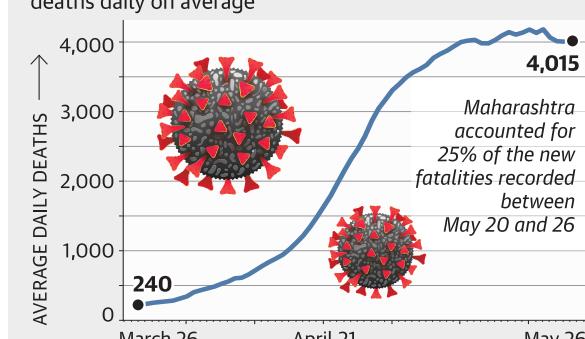
A team of government officials has been stationed at Rohru for registering locals on the CoWIN portal for vaccination.

# 1.81 lakh cases, 3,500 deaths reported

18.86 lakh vaccine doses were given across the country

## No signs of easing

India continues to record more than 4,000 COVID-19 deaths daily on average



cases and deaths from Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Ladakh. The data are sourced from the respective States' health bulletins.

Around 21.58 lakh samples were tested in the country on Wednesday (the re-

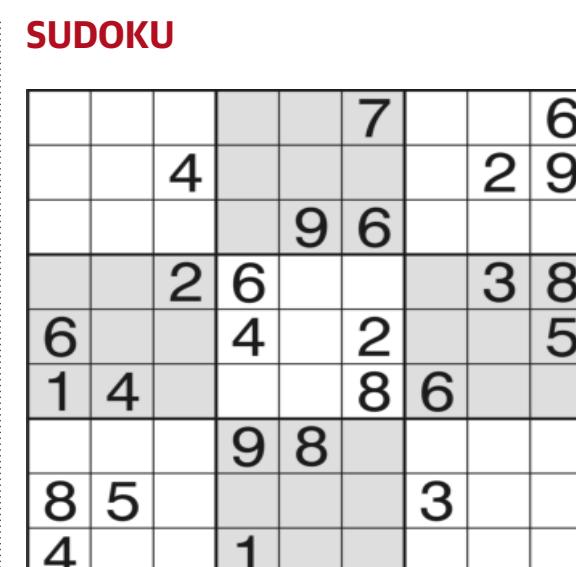
sults for which were made available on Thursday), which is around 60,000 fewer tests than those conducted on Tuesday. However, it is 1.03 lakh more tests than those conducted on the previous Wednesday (May 19). India's average daily test positivity rate (positive cases

identified for every 100 tests) continues to decline. It was 10.9% on May 26 compared to 16% recorded a week before.

About 18.86 lakh vaccine doses were administered in the country in the 24 hours ending 7 a.m. on Thursday, which is 1.53 lakh doses fewer than what was recorded in the previous 24 hours. However, it is 7.2 lakh more doses than what was recorded during the same period a week ago.

On May 26, India had administered an average of 17 lakh doses daily, which is higher than the 13.63 average daily doses administered until a week before (May 19). Until May 27, about 17% of India's adult population, 37.1% of the 45+ population and 42.3% of those aged above 60 had been vaccinated with at least one dose.

## SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 13258

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

# Biden orders probe into virus origins

President tells U.S. intel community to 'redouble' their efforts to determine if there was a lab accident

SRI RAM LAKSHMAN

WASHINGTON DC

U.S. President Joe Biden announced on Wednesday that he has asked American intelligence agencies to "redouble" their efforts to analyse the origins of COVID-19, to determine whether it emerged from human-animal contact or via a laboratory accident. With this, Mr. Biden adds significantly to the growing pressure on China to be more open about the origins of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, an outbreak of which was seen first in early 2020 in the Chinese city of Wuhan, which houses the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV).

Mr. Biden said he had reviewed a report on the origins of the virus, authored by his National Security Adviser (Jake Sullivan) and intelligence officials and that the intelligence community had "coalesced around two likely scenarios", yet not reached a "definitive conclusion" as to the origins of the virus. Currently, there is "low to moderate confidence" attached to each of the two theories on the virus's origins, Mr. Biden said.

#### Definitive conclusion

"I have now asked the intelligence community to redouble their efforts to collect and analyse information that could bring us closer to a definitive conclusion, and to report back to me in 90 days," Mr. Biden said in a statement, adding he had asked that specific questions for China be drawn up with input from U.S. national labs.



**Increased scrutiny:** Joe Biden speaking with reporters before boarding Marine One in Washington on Tuesday. ■ AP

The United States will also keep working with like-minded partners around the world to press China to participate in a full, transparent, evidence-based international investigation and to provide access to all relevant data and evidence," Mr. Biden said.

A World Health Organisation (WHO) investigation concluded, earlier this year, that the lab leak theory was "extremely unlikely". U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra told a WHO ministerial meeting earlier this week that experts should be given the independence to fully assess the origins of the virus. On May 14, a group of scientists, including from Harvard, Yale and Stanford, published a letter in the journal *Science* saying an accidental lab leak and "zootonic spillover" (i.e., from animals) remained "viable" theories.

The Trump administration had floated the idea that the virus might have got out of control after a laboratory accident. However, Donald Trump had muddied the waters around the issue includ-

ing by referring to the SARS-CoV-2 virus as the 'Wuhan virus' or 'Chinese virus' – contributing, some argued, to violence against Asians in the U.S.

#### Wuhan amendments

"The U.S. government has reasons to believe that several researchers inside the WIV became sick in autumn 2019," a State Department fact sheet released in the last days of the Trump administration said. The *Wall Street Journal* reported this week that three WIV scientists were sick enough in November 2019 to need hospital care.

"Now everybody is agreeing that I was right when I very early on called Wuhan as the source of COVID-19," Mr. Trump said in a statement released on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, on Capitol Hill, the Senate unanimously approved two Wuhan-related amendments, the *Washington Post* reported. One amendment would block U.S. funding for virus 'gain of function' research and the other would prevent U.S. funding for WIV.

# China slams Biden statement on COVID-19

ANANTH KRISHNAN

China on Thursday hit out at the statement of U.S. President Joe Biden calling for a transparent investigation into the origins of COVID-19, including examining the possibility of laboratory origins, accusing Washington of "turning a blind eye to the facts".

"On the China lab leak hypothesis, the joint WHO-China study team report clearly states that 'a laboratory origin of the pandemic was considered to be extremely unlikely'. This is an authoritative and official conclusion based on science," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said on Thursday.

On the WHO mission's visit to Wuhan, he said China arranged "field visits to different biosafety laboratories, including the Wuhan Institute of Virology" and "experts went to every place they asked to see". Some experts on the mission, however, said they had limited access to both labs and raw data of early cases that they had sought. The team "spent three hours at the institute" and "had little to go on beyond assurances from the institute's own staff," team members told the *Wall Street Journal* this week. WHO Director

General Tedros said in March after the report's release that the lab leak theory "requires further investigation" and "all hypotheses remain on the table". Mr. Zhao said the U.S. "clamouring for additional investigation" had shown they don't care about facts or truth and have zero interest in a serious science-based study of origins".

"Their one aim is to use the pandemic to pursue stigmatization and political manipulation to shift the blame," he said. "With 33 million confirmed cases and 6,00,000 deaths from COVID-19, both the highest in the world, the US, instead of examining its own behavior, attempted to scapegoat China."

He said "the motive and purpose" of U.S. calls for investigation "relying on its intelligence apparatus is crystal clear" and alleged its intelligence agencies had "a notorious track record". Former U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo even boasted, "I was the CIA director, we lied, we cheated, we stole. We had entire training courses. It reminds you of the glory of the American experiment." How can anyone trust the findings from an "investigation" conducted by such an intelligence organ with no credibility to speak of?"

# U.S.-China engagement era has come to an end: top U.S. official

Competition would be the dominant paradigm, says Campbell

ANANTH KRISHNAN

The more than three-decade long era of engagement between the United States and China that saw the world's two largest economies develop closely interdependent relations "has come to an end", a top official of the Biden administration has said.

"The period that was broadly described as engagement has come to an end," Kurt Campbell, who is the Coordinator for Indo-Pacific Affairs and the top U.S. official for Asia, said at a Stanford University event. He said "competition" would henceforth be "the dominant paradigm" and U.S. policy would work under "a new set of strategic parameters", Bloomberg News quoted him as saying.

#### Policy shift

Mr. Campbell's comments underline the shift in U.S. views on China from the time of the Obama administration as well as the broadly bipartisan consensus on the current direction of relations, following four turbulent years for the relationship under the previous Trump administration.

Mr. Campbell said "Chinese policies under [President] Xi are in large part responsible for the shift in U.S. policy," Bloomberg News reported, adding that he cited "clashes on China's border



Kurt Campbell

with India, an economic campaign against Australia and the rise of China's 'wolf warrior' diplomacy" as examples that suggested "China is determined to play a more assertive role." He described the Chinese President as "deeply ideological but also quite unsentimental" and said the two top Chinese diplomats who had held talks with top Biden administration officials in Alaska in March - Poliburo member Yang Jiechi and Foreign Minister Wang Yi - were "nowhere near, within a hundred miles" of Mr. Xi's inner circle. He said the U.S. believed "the best way to engage a more assertive China is to work with allies, partners and friends."

Reacting to his comments, China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said on Thursday that "using 'competition' [to] define or dominate China-U.S. ties is a total mistake that will only lead to confrontation and conflict." "Even if there is competition, it

should be sound competition that helps to reinforce each other and pursue common progress, rather than a vicious competition to beat each other. China firmly rejects U.S. moves to exclude and contain China in the name of competition," he added.

Also on Thursday, People's Liberation Army Senior Colonel and China's Defence Ministry spokesperson, Tan Kefei, asked about the U.S. Indo-Pacific military strategy, hit out at countries looking "to establish selective and exclusive military alliances, to gang up or to create the 'New Cold War' featuring bloc confrontation," coming amid increasing Chinese criticism of the India-Australia-Japan-U.S. Quad grouping.

"The strategy of intensifying military presence and highlighting military competition will only aggravate regional tensions and endanger world peace and stability," he said, adding that "the U.S. side should not, on the one hand, claim to put up new defence hotlines [with China] while on the other hand keep ramping up military deployments in the Asian Pacific region, frequently conduct close-in reconnaissance on China, and even deliberately initiate dangerous circumstances where aircraft and vessels nearly collide."

# Macron seeks forgiveness over Rwanda genocide

France recognises its role in atrocities

REUTERS

KIGALI

French President Emmanuel Macron said he recognised his country's role in the deadly attack on the Civil Hospital in Quetta in 2016, has been killed, along with three members of the banned militant outfit in Balochistan province, police said on Thursday.

Based on a tip-off, the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) launched an operation in Agbara area of the restive Balochistan province on Tuesday and killed Riaz Thekedar.

"Only those who went through that night can perhaps forgive, and in doing so give the gift of forgiveness," Mr. Macron said at the Gisozi genocide memorial, where more than 2,50,000 victims are buried. Rows of skulls lie there in a mass tomb and the names of the victims are inscribed on a black wall.

"I hereby humbly and with respect stand by your side today, I come to recognise the extent of our responsibilities," he said.

Rwandan President Paul Kagame welcomed Mr. Macron's speech, saying at a joint press conference later that "his words were more powerful than an apology".

Mr. Macron agreed in April to open the Rwanda archives of former President Francois Mitterrand, in office during the genocide.

Later, Rwanda released its own report that found France was aware a genocide was being prepared and bore responsibility for enabling it, continuing in its unwavering support for Rwanda's then President, Juvenal Habyarimana.

# Gaza attack may constitute 'war crimes'

UN rights chief Bachelet raises concerns over 'high level of civilian fatalities'

ELSEWHERE



France, Germany for global corporate tax rate

PARIS

France and Germany pushed for a "historic" deal among major economies on a minimum tax rate for multinational corporations on Wednesday. "We are very close to concluding an international deal", which will lead to "a revolution in international corporate taxation," said German Finance Minister Olaf Scholz. The proposal for a 15% minimum tax rate was first spearheaded by U.S. President Joe Biden. AFP

#### Ignore calls to boycott polls, urges Khamenei

TEHRAN Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Thursday urged Iranians to ignore calls to boycott next month's presidential election, after several hopefuls, including Ali Larjani, were barred from running against ultraconservative candidates. Iranians are set to elect a successor to President Hassan Rouhani on June 18. AFP

Israel's recent deadly air strikes on Gaza may constitute war crimes, the UN rights chief said on Thursday, as countries discussed launching a broad, international investigation.

Addressing a special session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, Michelle Bachelet voiced deep concern about the "high level of civilian fatalities and injuries" from the attacks on Gaza.

"If found to be indiscriminate and disproportionate in their impact on civilians and civilian objects, such attacks may constitute war crimes," she warned.

She also said her office had "not seen evidence" that the buildings targeted in Gaza, including residential homes, medical facilities and media offices, were "hosting armed groups or being used for military purposes", as claimed by Israel.

Ms. Bachelet also stressed that rockets fired by Hamas were "indiscriminate and



fail to distinguish between military and civilian objects," and were thereby "a clear violation of international humanitarian law."

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights made her statement at the start of a special one-day council session focused on the recent flare-up of violence.

Before a truce took hold last Friday, Israeli air strikes and artillery fire on Gaza killed 254 Palestinians, including 66 children, and wounded more than 1,900

people in 11 days of conflict, the health ministry in Gaza says.

Rocket and other fire from Gaza claimed 12 lives in Israel, including one child and an Arab-Israeli teenager, medics say. Some 357 people in Israel were wounded.

At the rights council, countries were debating a proposal to set up a broad, international investigation into violations surrounding the latest violence, but also into "systematic" abuses in the

proposal calls for inquiry At the rights council, countries were debating a proposal to set up a broad, international investigation into violations surrounding the latest violence, but also into "systematic" abuses in the

# China spy trial: Australian envoy barred

He vows to fight anti-socialist elements

ASSOCIATED PRESS

dramatic, but unsuccessful, direct diplomacy between Mr. Kim and former President Donald Trump, has described its North Korea policy review as "calibrated and practical."

But some experts say Washington won't relax sanctions – a step North Korea badly wants – until the North first takes denuclearisation steps. That may be unlikely because Mr. Kim is seen by many outside analysts as viewing his weapons as his government's only guarantee of survival.

In a letter to workers, Mr. Kim said "the struggle against the anti-socialist and non-socialist practices is a do-or-die battle to defend the working-class purity and lifeline of our style of socialism," the official Korean Central News Agency reported.

The Biden administration, which took over after

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE GENEVA

Israel's recent deadly air strikes on Gaza may constitute war crimes, the UN rights chief said on Thursday, as countries discussed launching a broad, international investigation.

Addressing a special session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, Michelle Bachelet voiced deep concern about the "high level of civilian fatalities and injuries" from the attacks on Gaza.

"If found to be indiscriminate and disproportionate in their impact on civilians and civilian objects, such attacks may constitute war crimes," she warned.

She also said her office had "not seen evidence" that the buildings targeted in Gaza, including residential homes, medical facilities and media offices, were "hosting armed groups or being used for military purposes", as claimed by Israel.

Before a truce took hold last Friday, Israeli air strikes and artillery fire on Gaza killed 254 Palestinians, including 66 children, and wounded more than 1,900

people in 11 days of conflict, the health ministry in Gaza says.

Rocket and other fire from Gaza claimed 12 lives in Israel, including one child and an Arab-Israeli teenager, medics say. Some 357 people in Israel were wounded.

At the rights council, countries were debating a proposal to set up a broad, international investigation into violations surrounding the latest violence, but also into "systematic" abuses in the

proposal calls for inquiry At the rights council, countries were debating a proposal to set up a broad, international investigation into violations surrounding the latest violence, but also into "systematic" abuses in the

proposal calls for inquiry At the rights council, countries were debating a proposal to set up a broad, international investigation into violations surrounding the latest violence, but also into "systematic" abuses in the

proposal calls for inquiry At the rights council, countries were debating a proposal to set up a broad, international investigation into violations surrounding the latest violence, but also into "systematic" abuses in the

proposal calls for inquiry At the rights council, countries were debating a proposal to set up a broad, international investigation into violations surrounding the latest violence, but also into "systematic" abuses in the

# ODISHA STATE MEDICAL CORPORATION LTD. (A Govt. of Odisha Undertaking) Assuring Quality, Saving Lives

Letter No. 5126 /OSMC/ I-51/2021/D&S(Division) DT:27.05.2021

## CORRIGENDUM

Bid Ref. No.: OSMC/I-22/GLOBAL/COVID-19/16, dated : 14/05/2021 for supply of Covid-19 Vaccine

### The amended Date & Time are as follows:-

Sl. No.	Particulars	Amended Date And Time
1	End Date & time of Online bid submission	04/06/2021, 10:00 Hrs (IST)
2	Date & time of online Technical bid opening	04/06/2021, 11:30 Hrs (IST)
3	Date & time of opening of Price Bid	04/06/2021, 17:00 Hrs (IST)

SD- Managing Director,

OSMC Ltd., Odisha

OIPR-1012/1/2021/6/2122

CAD-346

Madhya Pradesh Power Generating Co. Limited

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (R&M); Shed No 10;

MPPGCL; Jabalpur (M.P.); INDIA/CIN NoU40109MP2001SGC014882)

Email: cepnr@rediffmail.com; Ph.: +91-761-293844

## MARKET WATCH

	27-05-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	51115	-0.19
US Dollar	72.60	0.23
Gold	48223	-0.75
Brent oil	68.9	0.04

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	751.40	-6.90
Asian Paints	2949.35	7.75
Axis Bank	750.35	15.25
Bajaj Auto	4246.10	79.80
Bajaj Finserv	11888.80	-17.60
Bajaj Finance	5682.20	-88.95
Bharti Airtel	519.80	-5.95
BPCL	467.85	-4.35
Britannia Ind	3414.65	-1.35
Cipla	942.35	-2.80
Coal India	144.55	-1.15
Divis Lab	4079.20	-19.40
Dr Reddys Lab	5268.85	-16.35
Eicher Motors	2604.05	-29.45
Grafix Ind	1417.15	7.75
HCL Tech	942.40	-3.40
HDFC	2508.85	-58.70
HDFC Bank	1482.65	5.60
HDFC Life	664.05	5.55
Hero MotoCorp	2991.30	26.60
Hindalco	385.85	4.85
Hind Unilever	2326.40	-27.60
ICICI Bank	652.25	-0.25
IndusBank	1006.85	8.40
Infosys	1402.25	5.00
Indian Oil Corp	110.25	-1.75
ITC	211.15	0.55
JSW Steel	681.85	-0.35
Kotak Bank	1777.25	36.60
L&T	1482.85	9.95
M&M	828.60	7.40
Maruti Suzuki	6968.90	-65.40
Nestle India Ltd.	17746.70	205.40
NTPC	110.30	-0.80
ONGC	111.85	-1.50
PowerGrid Corp	228.30	2.70
Reliance Ind	1976.10	6.05
SBI Life	982.10	10.35
State Bank	425.20	11.65
Shree Cement	28066.05	988.65
Sun Pharma	699.50	-4.30
Tata Consumer Products Ltd.	648.55	6.65
Tata Motors	318.60	3.10
Tata Steel	1096.65	14.50
TCS	3180.00	21.50
Tech Mahindra	1019.80	12.00
Titan	1594.25	11.30
UltraTech Cement	6673.25	92.35
UPCL	819.75	7.15
Wipro	540.90	13.65

EXCHANGE RATES		
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on May 27		
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	72.39	72.71
Euro	88.36	88.75
British Pound	102.30	102.76
Japanese Yen (100)	66.33	66.63
Chinese Yuan	11.36	11.41
Swiss Franc	80.59	80.99
Singapore Dollar	54.71	54.96
Canadian Dollar	59.84	60.13
Malaysian Ringgit	17.48	17.58

Source: Indian Bank

## IN BRIEF



'Google, Jio working on affordable smartphone'

NEW DELHI Google CEO Sundar Pichai on Thursday said the company continues to engage closely with partner Jio on the initiative of building an affordable smartphone and that work is underway. Last year, Google had picked up a 7.7% stake in Jio Platforms for ₹33,737 crore. PTI

## Zydus seeks nod for trial of antibodies cocktail

NEW DELHI Zydus Cadila on Thursday said it is seeking permission from Drugs Controller General of India to initiate human clinical trials for monoclonal antibodies cocktail for treatment of COVID-19. ZRC-3308 has been found to be safe and well tolerated in animal toxicology studies. Zydus said it is the only Indian firm to have developed a neutralizing monoclonal antibody based cocktail for COVID-19 treatment. PTI

## Bharat Biotech files fresh plea with Brazil

HYDERABAD Bharat Biotech has submitted a fresh application seeking Certification of Good Manufacturing Practices, pertaining to Covaxin, with Brazilian health regulator ANVISA. Besides filing a new certification request, Bharat Biotech has also filed an application seeking certification of GMP for the biological input it produces, according to a translation of the notice in Portuguese posted on the Brazilian regulator's website.

## UCO Bank gets board nod to raise ₹3,000 cr.

NEW DELHI Public sector lender UCO Bank on Thursday said its board had approved raising ₹3,000 crore equity capital for the current fiscal year. The fundraising may take place through various modes, such as follow-on public offer, qualified institutional placement and preferential issue, subject to necessary approvals, the lender said in a regulatory filing. The bank also reported a multifold jump in March quarter net profit at ₹80 crore. PTI

# Uncertainty, risks cloud outlook: RBI

Demand-supply imbalances may exert pressure on food prices; banks must gird for higher provisions

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI



**Slippery path:** Edible oils and pulses may continue to see pressure due to supply issues, the RBI says. ■ PTI

Embattled by new waves of COVID-19 infections and mutant strains of the virus, the slow pace of inoculation in several parts of the world and vaccine protectionism, the global and domestic outlook has once again turned grim and overcast with extreme uncertainty and downside risks, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in its annual report for 2020-21.

"Country experiences underscore the paramount need for speedy and universal vaccination on a war footing – the virus will mutate as long as it stays with humans; nobody is safe until everyone is safe," the RBI added.

## Consumption revival key

A durable revival of private consumption and invest-

## RBI balance sheet grew 7% in 9 months to March

Income dipped 11%, expenditure 63%

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI

While income for the year decreased 10.96%, expenditure declined 63.1%,

The year ended with an overall surplus of ₹99,122 crore compared with ₹57,127.53 crore in the previous year, representing an increase of 73.5%, it added.

### Shift to April-March year

On account of the transition to April-March accounting year from July-June accounting period, the reserve bank has come out with data for nine months for 2020-21 as compared to twelve months for the previous year.

Earlier this month, the Central Board of Directors of RBI had approved the transfer of the ₹99,122 crore surplus to the Centre.

On liabilities, the increase was due to growth in deposits, notes issued and other liabilities.

## Pricol turns ₹14.6-crore profit in FY21

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

COIMBATORE

Automotive components manufacturer Pricol registered a profit of ₹14.6 crore for FY21 compared with a loss of ₹212.9 crore in the previous year.

According to a company statement, total income rose to ₹1,397.8 crore (₹1,213 crore). Revenue from operations was ₹1,336.2 crore (₹1,139.1 crore).

The first wave of COVID-19 and the subsequent lockdown had a major impact on the company's performance in the first quarter of last fiscal, said Nandan M. Nilekani, chairman, in a note to shareholders.

He said the new leadership (CEO Salil Parekh) was working 'quietly' and without a 'fuss.' This has led to unprecedented transformational large deals."

The firm delivered an 'industry-leading growth' in fiscal 2021 and was in pole position for FY22 to repeat the performance. Infosys would continue to innovate and was well-placed to lead the industry in the coming years, he wrote in the latest

## Infosys has set narrative for digital transformation'

In pole position to repeat FY21 act'



Nandan Nilekani also said Infosys was investing in designing and developing the right solutions for accelerating digital transformation. He pointed out that the firm has 'reinvented and modernised' its digital infrastructure to create a safe work-from-home environment after the pandemic hit the world.

## Lakshman retires from Rane board

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

L. Lakshman has stepped down as a non-executive director of Rane Holdings Ltd., the holding company of the Rane Group, according to the retirement policy for the board.

The board, however, appointed him as chairman emeritus for a further term of five years with effect from Friday. He had been associated with the group for more than five decades.

RHL posted a standalone loss of ₹16.59 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 31. It had reported a standalone net profit of ₹8.78 crore in Q4 FY20.

The Q4 FY21 results included an exceptional expense of ₹107 crore incurred by Rane NSK on warranty provision.

## Residential sales to reach pre-COVID size post FY23'

Mumbai, Pune to shrink in FY22: Crisil

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI

The residential real estate demand will touch pre-pandemic levels only after 2022-23, a ratings agency said.

The top-six markets of Bengaluru, Hyderabad, the National Capital Region (NCR), Kolkata, Pune and Mumbai will collectively grow 5-10% by area in 2021-22 on improved affordability and work-from-home needs, Crisil said.

Pune and Mumbai will show a contraction because of the stamp duty cut-fuelled demand in the previous fiscal year, it said.

"Demand in Bengaluru, Hyderabad, the National Capital Region (NCR) and Kolkata is set to rise 40-45% this fiscal after plunging 25-45% last fiscal, propelled by

es of cereals could likely see softening on the back of bumper foodgrains production in 2020-21.

The RBI also expects global crude oil prices remaining volatile in the near term.

### Monitor bad loans'

The regulator also asked banks to closely monitor bad loans and prepare for higher provisioning in the wake of the second COVID wave and the Supreme Court order lifting the ban on classification of non-performing assets.

The waiver of compound interest on all loan accounts that had opted for moratorium during March-August 2020 may put stress on banks' financial health, the central bank said.

The apex bank, however, expressed confidence that banks were better positioned

than before in managing stress in their balance sheets in view of higher capital buffers, improvement in recoveries and a return to profitability.

Stating that the gross non-performing assets ratio of scheduled commercial banks declined to 6.8% by end-December 2020, from 8.8% in March 2020, the Reserve Bank said prudent provisioning had resulted in an improvement in the provision coverage ratio to 75.5% from 66.6%.

"As growth revives and economy gets back on track, it is important for the government to adhere to a clear exit strategy and build fiscal buffers, which can be tapped into in events of future shocks to growth," the central bank said.

(With PTI inputs)

## Centralise vaccine buys to minimise costs: EY

'Current tack risks a hopeless situation'

## VIKAS DHOOT

NEW DELHI



Individual States get involved in floating global tenders. For vaccinating India's total population aged 12 years and above at 108.5 crore, total required doses would be 217 crore considering two doses per person," EY India observed, adding that a single purchase agency would be able to reap economies of scale and have more bargaining power.

If the country maintained the vaccination rate of 2.31 million doses per day recorded over March and April, with the current interstate distribution pattern, it would result in 'a hopeless situation', the consulting firm noted, adding that the pace of vaccinations had already fallen further in May.

"At an all-India level, it would require 748 days to achieve full coverage of the population of 18 years and above (eligible population)," EY India said.

### 'Too many days'

"But, in terms of coverage of individual States, some States would require far too many days. For example, Uttar Pradesh may require 1,553 days, while Bihar may require 1,351 days and Tamil Nadu may require 1,217 days," it added.

## IN BRIEF



## Osaka to skip press meets

Naomi Osaka on Thursday said she would not be taking part in press conferences during the French Open in order to ensure better mental health, saying some post-match inquires are little more than "kicking a person while they're down". "We're often sat there and asked questions that we've been asked multiple times before or asked questions that bring doubt into our minds and I am not going to subject myself to people who doubt me," AFP.

## Tokyo-bound Indian athletes to be vaccinated before departure: IOA

NEW DELHI Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on Thursday said all the Tokyo Games-bound athletes and officials have got their first COVID-19 vaccine and they will get their second doses before their departure from the country for the multi-sporting spectacle. "The IOA is... ensuring that all the participants through the IOA for the Tokyo Olympics including athletes, technical officials and delegate members will follow all precautions and will be vaccinated before leaving for Japan," the IOA said. PTI

## Preyesh, Payas lose

NATIONAL sub-junior champion Preyesh Raj lost to Russia's Ilia Konukhov 11-9, 11-8, 10-12, 11-4 in the under-15 quarterfinals of the WTT Youth Star Contender event in Tunis, the capital city of Tunisia, on Thursday. In the under-19 section pre-quarterfinals, National youth and junior champion Payas Jain went down to Belgium's Adrien Rassenfosse 6-11, 11-4, 11-8, 5-11, 11-8.

**Butcher calls ECB's stand a missed opportunity**  
LONDON Former opener Mark Butcher feels the ECB should have agreed to the BCCI's request to change the Test series schedule to accommodate the remaining games of IPL as it would have given the England Board the leverage to get top Indian players for its 'Hundred' tournament. The Indian Board had informally made a request to shift the five-match Test series between India and England, starting August 4, by a week in order to accommodate the remaining 31 IPL games but it has not met with any favourable response from England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB). PTI

## Ganguly joins Gukesh in lead

RAKESH RAO NEW DELHI Surya Shekhar Ganguly served a timely reminder of his skills in rapid chess by winning all four rounds on Thursday to share the lead at five points with D. Gukesh after seven rounds of AICF World Cup qualifier chess tournament on Thursday.

Strung by the loss to Gukesh on Wednesday, Ganguly resurrected his campaign by beating joint overnight leader Raja Rithvik, Krishnan Saravana, Grandmasters Deep Sen Gupta and S.P. Sethuraman.

Like Ganguly on Wednesday, Gukesh received a bye on Thursday and raised his tally off draws against Rithvik and Deep and in between defeated Sarvana.

Gukesh, Aditya, Rithvik and Iniyian received byes, in that order, on Thursday. **Standings (after day two):** 1-4. Surya Shekhar Ganguly, D. Gukesh, S.L. Narayanan, S.P. Sethuraman (5 points each), 5-6. P. Iniyian, Raja Rithvik (4.5 each), 7. Deep Sen Gupta (4), 8-10. Rahul Srivastava, S. Nitin, B. Adhikar (3.5 each), 11-13. Aditya Mittal, Soumya Swaminathan, Sarvana Krishnan (2.5 each), 14. C.R.G. Krishna (2), 15-17. Vishnu Prasanna, Vatsal Singhania and M. Vinay Kumar (1 each).

## Villarreal triumphs in marathon shootout

Emery hoists his fourth Europa title; United left trophyless fourth year running

## FOOTBALL

REUTERS  
GDANSK (POLAND)  
Villarreal goalkeeper Geronimo Rulli kept his composure to score in a nerve-shredding, seemingly never-ending shootout then denied David de Gea as his side won its first major trophy by beating Manchester United 11-10 on penalties in the Europa League final on Wednesday.

After a tense encounter finished 1-1 following extra time, Rulli stepped up after every on-field player scored their spot kicks and he comfortably beat De Gea, who finally buckled under the pressure in the unfamiliar role of taking rather than facing a penalty.

The win gave Villarreal coach Unai Emery a record fourth title in the competition, leaving United without a trophy since its Europa League triumph in 2017.

Gerard Moreno stretched to reach Dani Parejo's free kick and steered the ball past De Gea to open the scoring in the 29th minute, only for Un-



On top: Villarreal players with Europa League trophy after beating United in the final. ■ AP

ited to level when Edinson Cavani poked the ball home after collecting Marcus Rashford's deflected shot on 55 minutes.

The shootout win also booked Villarreal's place in next season's Champions League.

United coach Ole Gunnar

Solskjær said his players had to remember the pain of the defeat for the future.

Villarreal was the better side in the first half of extra time after Emery made all five changes before fulltime, contrasting with Solskjær, who did not make his first change until the 100th mi-

nute. The five substitutes he did make all scored their penalties in an enthralling shoot-

out but the 11th kick was a bridge too far for De Gea.

**The result:** Villarreal 1 (Moreno 30) drew with Manchester United 1 (Cavani 55). Villarreal won 11-10 on penalties after extra-time.

## 'Big Three' in same half of draw

Federer and Djokovic set to meet in the quarterfinals

## ROLAND-GARROS

REUTERS  
PARIS Thirteen-time champion Rafael Nadal, 20-time Grand Slam winner Roger Federer and World No. 1 Novak Djokovic were placed in the

same half of the French Open draw on Thursday.

The three most successful players in the history of the men's game have won 17 of the last 20 Grand Slam titles between them and Federer and Djokovic are on a quarterfinal collision course.



Much to ponder: Roger Federer has his task cut out with top seed Novak Djokovic drawn to take him on in the last eight. ■ REUTERS

In the other half of the draw, two-time runner-up Dominic Thiem's path leads to a potential quarterfinal clash with German sixth seed Alexander Zverev.

In the women's draw, defending champion Iga Swiatek will start her campaign against Kaja Juvan while last year's runner-up Sofia Kenin, the fourth seed, faces 2017 champion Jelena Ostapenko.

Kenin could face Swiatek, who turns 20 on Monday, in the quarterfinals.

## Osaka returns

After missing last year's event, second seed Naomi Osaka of Japan, who will make her comeback against Maria Patricia Tig, could take on American Serena Williams in the semifinals with the seventh seed bidding for a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam singles title.

World No. 1 Ashleigh Barty of Australia starts her campaign against American Bernarda Pera and faces a possible semifinal against Swiatek.

## No one is invincible, says Rafael Nadal

13-time champion says the one who plays best will prevail in the upcoming Slam



Immortalised: Rafael Nadal poses next to the statue that Roland-Garros unveiled on Thursday as a tribute to its greatest-ever champion. ■ TWITTER/ROLANDGARROS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
PARIS

"My goal is to be the one who plays the best."

## Longevity

Rafael Nadal said "no one is invincible" in an interview on Thursday as he targets a 14th French Open title and record-setting 21st Grand Slam crown.

"No one is invincible, anywhere," said Nadal whose career record at Roland Garros stands at 100 victories against just two losses since his title-winning Paris debut in 2005.

"This year I lost (early) in Monte Carlo and Madrid. I hope not to lose here at Roland Garros. What I can do is fight."

Victory in the final in Paris on June 13 will take Nadal past the record of 20 Majors he currently shares with Roger Federer.

## Special place

"Roland Garros is a very special place for me," said Nadal. "Favourite or not, that is not the question."

"What matters is to play well, and the one who plays the best will be whoever has the most chances of winning the tournament."

Ten years ago, I had so many physical problems that it was difficult for me to imagine that my career would last so long," added the Spaniard whose career has been plagued by a series of knee injuries.

## Overwhelming favourite

Nadal will start this year's French Open as the overwhelming favourite once again, boosted by his recent win over World No.1 Novak Djokovic in the Rome Masters final.

## Nagal fails to make the cut

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

PARIS India's top player Sumit Nagal could not make a hat-trick of Grand Slam main draw appearances following a straight-set defeat in the second round of the qualifying event at Roland Garros.

Nagal crashed out with a 6-3, 6-3 loss to Alejandro Tablado from Chile on Wednesday night.

Ramkumar Ramanathan, Prajnesh Gunneswaran and Ankita Raina have already exited from the tournament.

## Djokovic goes fifth in all-time wins

## TENNIS ROUNDUP

## AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

BELGRADE World No.1 Novak Djokovic booked his place in the semifinals of the Belgrade Open with a 6-1, 6-0 win over Federico Coria on Thursday that puts him fifth on the list of Open era wins.

and Rafael Nadal (1022).

**The results (quarterfinals): At Belgrade: Belgrade Open:** Novak Djokovic bt Federico Coria 6-1, 6-0; Andrey Martin bt Dušan Lajović 3-6, 6-3, 6-4; Alex Molcan bt Fernando Verdasco 6-2, 6-0; Federico Delbonis bt Roberto Carballes Baena, walkover.

**At Parma: Emilia-Romagna Open:** Sebastian Korda bt Yoshihito Nishioka 6-3, 6-3; Tommy Paul bt Jan-Lennard Struff 6-2, 6-4; Marco Cecchinato bt Norbert Gombos 6-3, 6-1; Jaume Munar bt Richard Gasquet 6-1, 6-1.



Cruise mode: Novak Djokovic dismantled Federico Coria to make the last four. ■ AP

## Nice to start getting on grass pitches: Williamson

## ANI

## SOUTHAMPTON

New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson said it was a nice feeling to finally get some quality training outside after spending a lot of time indoors.

New Zealand will be locking horns against England in a two-match Test series, beginning on June 2. After this series, the Black Caps will take on India in the final of the World Test Championship (WTC).

"The guys are pretty excited to see the sun out, so it was nice to get out and start getting on some grass pitches after being indoors for a few days, and trying to make some adjustments which you try to do when you turn up to a new country," stuff.co.nz quoted Williamson as saying.

The 19-man New Zealand squad has been split into two teams for their only warm-up match before the first Test against England at Lord's. "Warm-up games are important in trying to get the guys acclimated in terms of time in the legs, and bowlers get their loads in. It will be nice to add a little bit of match intensity to make those steps forward to the first Test match. It's nice to have that preparation and practice and hopefully guys get what they need," said Williamson.

Earlier, New Zealand's practice ahead of the two-



Kane Williamson. ■ FILE PHOTO

match Test series against England had been hampered by rain in Southampton, but head coach Gary Stead said that his side is on the right track because of some quality sessions back home.

Since arriving in Southampton, the Kiwis were not able to train outdoors in a proper manner due to the wet weather. The Met Office had reported that the UK was at its 10th wettest May since the records began in 1862.

"I guess when you come to an English summer you still expect to get outside occasionally. It's been a little bit frustrating, because you come over and guys just want to get a feel for the different conditions here," Stead said.

## India women sweat it out

## ANI

## MUMBAI

India women cricketers might be in quarantine ahead of the upcoming multi-format series against England, but everyone is sweating it out in the gym to ensure they are raring to go for the high-voltage series.

Taking to Twitter, the official handle of BCCI Women posted a video of the players

working out in the gym and the caption read: "Shut the Noise! We are INDIA."

The women's team will take on England in a one-off Test, three ODIs, and three T20Is. The two teams will first square off in a four-day Test match, beginning on June 16.

Then the teams will lock horns in three ODIs beginning on June 27 with the

## Mary Kom and Sakshi in finals

Three women pugilists lose in the semifinals

## ASIAN BOXING

## SPORTS BUREAU

## DUBAI

Six-time World champion M.C. Mary Kom and two-time World youth champion Sakshi Chaudhary booked their spots in the finals of the Asian boxing championships here on Thursday.

Mary overcame a strong challenge from Mongolian Lutsaikhan Altantsetseg with a 4-1 verdict in a 51kg semifinal bout to set up a title clash with Nazym Kyzaiybay of Kazakhstan.

Sakshi upset top seed Dina Zholoman 3-2 in a 54kg last-four clash.

The Indian relied on her straight shots even as she received a flurry of punches from the Kazakh. Sakshi will meet Uzbek Sitora Shogdorova in the final.

Jit Kaur suffered a 5-0 loss against hard-punching Kazakhstan's Jasmine lost to Vladislava Kukhota (Kaz) 5-0; 60kg: Simranjit Kaur lost to Rima Voloszenko (Kaz) 5-0.

**The results: Women: Semifinals:** 48kg: Monika lost to Aula Balkibekova (Kaz) 5-0; 51kg:

**Wednesday: Men: Quarterfinals:** 57kg: Ashish Kumar lost to Abilkhan Amankul (Kaz) 3-2; +91kg: Narender lost to Kamshibek Kunkabayev (Kaz) 5-0.

**Take that!** Sakshi Chaudhary, left, prevailed over top seed Dina Zholoman of Kazakhstan. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



laman (Kaz) 3-2; 57kg: Jasmine lost to Vladislava Kukhota (Kaz) 5-0; 60kg: Simranjit Kaur lost to Rima Voloszenko (Kaz) 5-0. **Wednesday: Men: Quarterfinals:** 57kg: Ashish Kumar lost to Abilkhan Amankul (Kaz) 3-2; +91kg: Narender lost to Kamshibek Kunkabayev (Kaz) 5-0.

## IN BRIEF



## UEFA dismisses Kudela's appeal against ban

NYON (SWITZERLAND) UEFA upheld a 10-game ban for Slavia Prague defender Ondrej Kudela for racially abusing Rangers midfielder Glen Kamara, meaning he will miss the European Championship. The Czech Republic international had hoped to play in next month's tournament. The ruling means Kudela is suspended for 10 games in UEFA competitions, including for club and country. AP



## Zidane resigns as Real Madrid coach

MADRID Zinedine Zidane is stepping down as Real Madrid coach, again. The club said on Thursday the Frenchman is leaving his job, four days after a season in which Madrid failed to win a title for the first time in more than a decade. "Zidane is one of the great myths of Real Madrid and his legend goes beyond what he has been as a coach and player of our club," Madrid said in a statement. AP



## Rashford faces racist abuse on social media

GDAŃSK Manchester United forward Marcus Rashford said on Thursday that he faced "at least 70 racial slurs" on social media after his team's loss on penalties to Villarreal in the Europa League final. "At least 70 racial slurs on my social accounts counted so far," Rashford wrote on Twitter. "For those working to make me feel any worse than I already do, good luck trying." AP



## Conte to leave Inter Milan by mutual consent

MILAN Inter Milan coach Antonio Conte left the newly-crowned Serie A champion by "mutual consent", just weeks after leading the Nerazzurri to its first league title in more than a decade. Conte was reportedly unhappy about the club's decision to sell players in this coming transfer window because of financial constraints. AP

## Allegri to replace Pirlo at Juventus: reports

ROME Juventus has sacked coach Andrea Pirlo and replaced him with former manager Massimiliano Allegri, Italian media reported on Thursday. Sky Italia said that Allegri will return to the Turin club for a second spell two years on from his departure. REUTERS

## Banthia &amp; Rai duo in semifinals

## INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU MONASTIR (TUNISIA) Siddhant Banthia and Ajeeet Rai of New Zealand outplayed Thiago Cigarran and Bautista Vilicich of Argentina 6-1, 6-1 to make the doubles semifinals of the \$15,000 ITF men's tennis tournament here on Thursday. Other results: Pre-quarterfinals: Ajeeet & Siddhant bt Anas Chakrouni (Mar) & Ezequiel Simonit (Arg) 6-2, 6-3. \$25,000 ITF women, Liepaja, Latvia: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Ekaterina Makarova (Rus) & Iryna Shmyanova (Blr) Dea Herzelas (BIH) & Riya Bhatia 6-1, 6-0.

## Humpy gearing up for online tournament

She is yet to decide on competing at World Cup in Russia

## CHESS

P.K. AJITH KUMAR KOZHIKODE

Koneru Humpy is no fan of playing chess at lightning speed. Neither is she one of playing online.

Yet, she did pretty well at the Women's Speed Chess championship last year, making the final of the last leg and finishing seventh overall.

It had taken her some time before accepting FIDE's invitation. She is, however, looking forward to the second edition of the tournament -beginning on June 10 at chess.com - with more enthusiasm.

"It is going to be a strong tournament with so many top players in the field," Humpy told *The Hindu* over phone on Thursday.

"I will be preparing for it

by playing against the computer."

## Experience

With few chess events taking place over physical boards because of COVID-19, she said the online events helped players to have some kind of tournament experience.

"It may be a while before I get to play a game sitting across a chessboard, as I don't want to take unnecessary risks," said the World No. 3. "I had to pull out of the final leg of the Women's Grand Prix, which is now taking place in Gibraltar."

That decision has come at a cost for Humpy, though. Having done so well in her first two legs, even a third place in Gibraltar would have given her the Grand Prix title. She is now considering whether to play at the Chess World Cup to be held at Sochi, Russia, from July 10.

"It is a very important tournament and I would not normally want to miss it, but one has to think of the pandemic situation, too," she said. "I have some more time to decide."

## Stiff competition

About the Speed Chess event, she said she was expecting stiff competition. "Players like Alexandra Kosteniuk and Kateryna Lagno are rather strong," she said.

"The tournament could be an unpredictable one, especially since it is going to be a knock-out affair, unlike the last one."

Humpy is one of the eight players seeded directly for the tournament. Eight will come through a qualifying event, which opens on Friday.

The event carries a prize fund of \$66,000. It will conclude on July 3.

## Need to bring back former champions into coaching: Gopi Chand

Says it is imperative to have a right mix of foreigners and Indians

## BADMINTON

M.R. PRAVEEN CHANDRAN THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Chief National badminton coach Pullela Gopi Chand said it is important to bring back former champions into coaching programme for developing sports in the country.

Gopi cautioned against the over-dependence on foreign coaches and said it was imperative to have a right mix of foreigners and Indians in the system.

He was speaking at the virtual inauguration of High Performance Coach Education Programme, launched by SAI and National Centre for Sports Coaching here on Thursday.

"I think foreign coaches are very important for our development. But it is also important for us to have a



P. Gopi Chand. ■ FILE PHOTO

right mix of foreign and Indian coaches to reach the next level. However, in events where we don't have expertise, it is good to have foreign support in the beginning. For sports where we have consistently done well and have produced champions, the need is to bring back former champions into the coaching programme.

## SAI's role

"SAI has done some great work and in the next couple of months, we will have a former set of players joining the coaching programme. It will help us bring in majority of Indian coaches into the system."

## Tejaswini acquits herself well

## SHOOTING

SPORTS BUREAU OSIEK (CROATIA)

Former World Champion Tejaswini Sawant shot the best among the Indian shooters in the 50-metre rifle prone event in the European Championship here on Thursday.

In a non-Olympic event, which has no finals, it was basically good training for the forthcoming rifle 3-position event, especially for the Indian shooters.

Former World record holder Anjum Moudgil shot 619.2, while Ashwary Pratap Singh Tomar (620.3) and Sanjeev Rajput (619.7) also had a good spell, in the combined open event, which was conducted in two relays for 130-odd shooters.

Henrik Larsen of Norway topped the overall list with a score of 628.8. Rebecca Koeck (626.4) of Austria and Aliaksandra Dmitrieva (626.1) of Belarus followed the leader, in emphasising the efficiency of the women shooters.



Hoping for the best: Humpy feels the event could be an unpredictable one. ■ FILE PHOTO: K.V.S. GIRI

## Rijiju launches education programme for coaches

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD

Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju formally launched a High Performance Coach Education Programme at the National Centre for Sports Coaching under the aegis of NSNIS Patiala on Thursday.

The course, spread over six months, will have seven modules.

At least 250 top SAI coaches will form the core group of nurturing the best sports talent in the country as coaches.

Each batch will have a limited capacity of 20 students only. "We go to smaller countries (for training) and we think foreign coaches have an edge over Indian coaches," Rijiju said during the virtual launch in the presence of chief national badminton coach P. Gopi Chand, Union Secretary (Sports) Ravi Mittal and Di-

rector-General SAI Sandip Pradhan.

"We speak about *Atma-nirbhar Bharat*, it is the Prime Minister's vision and is applicable across the board. So, we need to be *Atma-nirbhar* in sports too," he said.

"This can happen when we have only Indian coaches across all disciplines in Indian sports. We cannot be running around (to other countries) for a coach."

"Our long-term goal is putting India among the top 10 nations in the Olympics and it is not unrealistic," Rijiju said.

"I think this kind of Higher Performance Programmes for coaches is the key towards achieving that," he said.

Gopi said this kind of programme would help in the emergence of Indian coaches and lower the reliance on foreign coaches.

## Donovan Mitchell returns to spark Jazz

76ers take a 2-0 lead over Wizards; Knicks draw level with Hawks

## NBA

REUTERS SALT LAKE CITY

Donovan Mitchell returned to lead a balanced attack that overpowered a career-best, 47-point performance by Ja Morant and allowed Utah Jazz to even its Western Conference playoff series against Memphis Grizzlies with a 141-129 victory on in Salt Lake City.



Catalyst: Donovan Mitchell played his part in Utah Jazz's series-leveelling win over Memphis Grizzlies. ■ AFP

from beyond the arc to offset an upset loss in the series opener.

Ben Simmons had 22 points, nine rebounds and

eight assists, and Joel Embiid also added 22 points and seven rebounds as host and top-seeded Philadelphia 76ers took a 2-0 series lead

with a 120-95 win over Washington Wizards. Bradley Beal led the eighth-seeded Wizards with 33 points.

Derrick Rose scored 26 points off the bench to lift host New York Knicks to a 101-92 victory over Atlanta Hawks to even the series at 1-1.

Trae Young, who scored 30 points for the Hawks, was serenaded with boos every time he touched the ball. The Madison Square Garden faithful's response was a result of Young putting his fingers to his lips to silence the crowd following Atlanta's victory in the series opener.

**The results:** 76ers 120 bt Wizards 95. 76ers lead 2-0; Knicks 101 bt Hawks 92. Series tied 1-1; Jazz 141 bt Grizzlies 129. Series tied 1-1.

## कनारा बँक Canara Bank

A Government of India Undertaking

सिंडिकेट Syndicate

Together We Can

### Together we can Fight the Pandemic

**Canara JEEVANREKHA**  
Healthcare Business Loan

Financial assistance for manufacture and supply of Medical oxygen and Oxygen cylinders, Oxygen concentrators, etc., to registered Hospitals/Nursing Homes/other manufacturers and suppliers.

- **Loan quantum :** Upto ₹ 2 crores
- Concessional Rate of Interest
- Nil processing fee
- **Collateral security :** For MSMEs – NIL (to be covered under CGTMSE, Guarantee premium to be borne by the Bank)
- **For Non-MSMEs - Minimum 25%**
- Validity of the scheme: 31.03.2022

Financial assistance to registered Hospitals / Nursing Homes / Medical Practitioners / Diagnostic Centers / Pathology Labs, etc. and all other units of the ecosystem engaged in building / servicing Healthcare Infrastructure.

- **Loan quantum :** Above ₹ 10 lakhs to ₹ 50 Crores
- **Repayment :**
  - Term Loan : 10 years (with moratorium upto 18 months)
  - Working Capital: Tenable for one year with annual renewal
- Concessional Rate of Interest
- **Validity of the scheme:** 31.03.2022

**Canara CHIKITSA**  
Healthcare Credit Facilities

Immediate financial assistance (Clean Loan) to customers for COVID-19 treatment during admission or post discharge

- **Loan quantum :** ₹ 25,000 to ₹ 5 lakhs
- Moratorium period of 6 months
- **Validity of the scheme:** 30.09.2021
- Nil processing fee

**Canara SURAKSHA**  
PERSONAL LOAN SCHEME

Call Canara : 1800 425 0018

www.canarabank.com

@canarabank

CanaraBankOfficial

canarabankinsta

canarabankofficial

canarabank

**SRM**  
Institute of Science and Technology

**VIRTUAL CONCLAVE FOR CAREER GUIDANCE 2021**

Powered by THE HINDU

Print Media Partner: தொழில் துறை மாநில பல்கலைக் கழகம்

**IMPORTANCE OF EXPERIENTIAL AND HANDS-ON LEARNING IN SCIENCE**

SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) in association with The Hindu Group brings a 15-part webinar series to provide expert career guidance to Class 10, 11 and 12 students.

Join the webinar on **29<sup>th</sup> May 2021 (Saturday) at 11:00 AM** to hear from the experts followed by a Q&A session.

**G. Jagadeesh Kanna**  
Founder & CEO, Vaayusastra Aerospace

**Dr. Maneesha V. Ramesh**  
Director, Amrita Center for Wireless Networks and Applications (AmritaWNA)

**Dr. D. John Thiruvadigal**  
Professor & Chairperson, School of Applied Sciences, College of Engineering and Technology, SRM Institute of Science & Technology (SRMIST)

**Dr. Sridhar Krishnaswami**  
Deputy Dean & Professor, Dept. of Journalism and Mass Communication, Faculty of Science and Humanities, SRMIST

**R. Sujatha**  
Deputy Editor-Reporting, The Hindu (Moderator)

Register for the Webinar at:  
<http://bit.ly/SRMISTTH10>  
Or Scan QR Code

SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), SRM Nagar, Kattankulathur, Chengalpattu District, Tamil Nadu - 603 203. Phone: +91 (44) 27455510, 47437500, 67370700 | Email to [admissions.india@srmist.edu.in](mailto:admissions.india@srmist.edu.in) | Website: [www.srmist.edu.in](http://www.srmist.edu.in)

N-102