



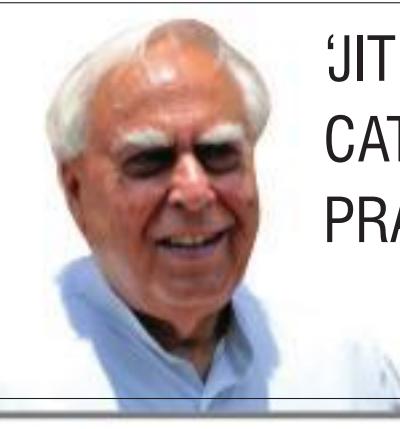
CHINA PASSES NEW  
LAW TO COUNTER  
FOREIGN SANCTIONS

P9



MYANMAR JUNTA  
HITS SUU KYI WITH  
GRAFT CHARGES

P9



JITIN SWITCH JUST A  
CATCH FOR UTTAR  
PRADESH ELECTIONS'

P5



PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION



# Delhi preps for third Corona wave, ramps up O2 capacity

CM inspects oxygen storage and generation plant, says 3 O2 plants with a total capacity of 171 MT have been installed in the city so far; 305 fresh Covid cases, 44 fatalities logged

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 10 JUNE

**A**s part of preparations for tackling a possible third coronavirus wave in Delhi in coming days, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal today inspected an under-construction oxygen storage plant at Siraspur in the city. Once completed, the plant will have a capacity to store 57 tonne oxygen.

Three oxygen storage plants with a total capacity of 171 MT have been installed in the city so far to prepare for a possible third Covid wave, the CM said.

During his visit to the Siraspur plant, Kejriwal told media persons that along with this, the Delhi government was also setting up an oxygen generation plant there which would produce 12.5 tonne oxygen every day.

He said, "Today, we are standing in front of a 57 MT



oxygen storage centre at Siraspur. Two more oxygen storage centres have been set up at Babasaheb Ambedkar Hospital and DDU Hospital. So, three oxygen storage plants of 57 MT capacity each have been installed in the city.

He said that 19 more oxygen storage plants would be inaugurated in a day or two.

Kejriwal said, "We have set up oxygen tanks at various

places in the city to ensure that there is no shortage of oxygen if at all there is a third wave of the coronavirus pandemic. The city will have 19 more oxygen storage facilities."

In a tweet in Hindi, the CM said, "Visited Siraspur oxygen storage centre today as part of the preparations for the future. A 57-tonne capacity cryogenic storage tank is coming up here. A daily 12.5 tonne

oxygen generation plant is also being set up here. Delhi's preparations are on (for a possible third wave of Covid-19)."

He also said in a tweet in English, "We have already installed 3 oxygen storage plants till now of 57 MT each, total capacity 171 MT. Work done on war footing. Grateful to all those who made it happen." Delhi was faced with an unprecedented public health emergency in April. May caused by an acute shortage of medical oxygen, leading to many deaths of Covid-19 patients in the national capital. The government then found itself helpless when it received repeated SOS.

messages for oxygen supply from various hospitals daily as many patients of coronavirus then required to be put on oxygen.

Meanwhile, Delhi today reported 305 fresh Covid cases and 44 coronavirus-linked

fatalities, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin.

These fresh cases were detected out of 75,133 tests. The positivity rate was 0.41 per cent, the health bulletin stated. Delhi's cumulative tally of Covid cases rose to 14,30,433 while its toll climbed to 24,748, the bulletin said.

The city now had 4,212 active cases of the coronavirus infection and the patients undergoing treatment in home isolation numbered 1,369. According to the bulletin, 560 people recovered from the infection in the last 24 hours.

There were now 21,806 hospital beds vacant out of a total of 24,126 beds meant for Covid patients, the bulletin added. Delhi had yesterday recorded 337 coronavirus infections and 36 Covid-linked fatalities while the positivity rate had stood at 0.46 per cent.

## Light rain likely today

NEW DELHI, 10 JUNE

The maximum temperature in the national capital settled at 39.8 degrees Celsius on Thursday, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

The Safdarjung Observatory, which provides representative data for

Delhi, recorded a minimum temperature of 29 degrees Celsius, a notch above normal, it said.

The relative humidity was recorded at 47 per cent at 5.30 pm. The weather department predicted generally cloudy skies with light rain or drizzle in the city on Friday.

## 3rd wave: DUTA seeks setting up of oxygen plant in north campus

PTI  
NEW DELHI, 10 JUNE

The Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA) on Thursday proposed to the varsity administration to set up an oxygen plant in north campus to prepare for a possible third Covid wave, it said in a statement.

The association also urged the university to expedite any clearance process and distribute adequate number of oxygen concentrators among colleges and hostels, it said.

The proposal was discussed at a meeting held by DUTA office bearers with the Delhi University (DU) Vice Chancellor (VC) and Registrar.

According to DUTA, it discussed a proposal of setting up the plant through contributions of teachers and employees decided in the last executive meeting to which the VC assured that they

are also exploring various ways of materialising the demand including requesting funds from the government and various agencies.

In the meeting, the teachers' body also requested inclusion of elected DUTA members in the Covid taskforce of the university, the statement mentioned.

"The delegation also requested that teachers be given EL benefits (30 days) or equivalent days of station leave, which a teacher may avail in the period for which she/he is not assigned any classes or special Covid-care leave to deal with illness of self and family members," it said, adding that the university has agreed to consider the matter.

The DUTA also requested the university to ensure employees get salaries on time in the 12 DU colleges that are fully funded by the Delhi government.

## Delhi Master Plan proposes to set up DDRF for effective response at time of disasters

NEW DELHI, 10 JUNE

The draft of Delhi Master Plan for 2041 proposes that Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) may set up a state-of-the-art Delhi Disaster Response Force (DDRFF) for effective response at the time of a disaster or an unpredictable event.

The draft master plan, which has been placed in the public domain to invite objections and suggestions from people, will facilitate Delhi's development by assessing the present condition and guiding how to achieve the desired development over the next 20 years. It has been prepared by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA).

The plan also suggests that a disaster response protocol shall be developed for Delhi, outlining the procedure to be followed for different types of disasters.

"All service providing agencies shall develop emergency response plans and guidelines to ensure that there is minimal impact on delivery of these essential services during times of disaster."

Dedicated evacuation spaces and refuge spots for residents shall be designated in all localities, especially in dense areas," it says.

The draft also states that evacuation spaces be open to sky areas where people can gather at the time of an event such as fire, earthquake etc. These can be parks, multi-purpose grounds, other open spaces etc. Refuge spots can be any internal spaces identified by RWAs/local bodies to provide alternate locations for unhealthy/unwell residents at the time of contagious disease outbreaks. Such spots should be publicly accessible facilities, it adds.

## Delhi gets 28,900 more Covaxin doses for 18-44 age group

PTI  
NEW DELHI, 10 JUNE

Delhi received 28,900 more doses of Covaxin on Wednesday for the 18-44 age group and the stock is enough to cover those eligible for the second dose in the next four days, AAP MLA Atishi said on Thursday.

At present, Delhi has more than 50,110 doses of Covaxin in stock for this category, she said.

There are 1.24 lakh doses of Covishield available for this age group and these can last up to eight days, Atishi said.

She said 47,978 doses of vaccine were administered in Delhi on Wednesday.

A total of 58,30,579 jabs have been given in the city so far since the inoculation exercise against coronavirus started on January 16. Of this, 13,63,193 people have received both the doses.

The capital has 28,620 doses of Covaxin and 5,20,860 doses of Covishield in stock for those aged above 45, frontline workers and healthcare workers, the AAP leader said.



stocks and the temperature of vaccine storage at public forums, saying it is "sensitive information and to be used only for programme improvement".

The Centre, with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has rolled out the eVIN system under UIP, which is used to track the vaccine stock status and the temperature at all levels of vaccine storage, from national to the sub-district level.

In a letter to states and UTs, the health ministry said it was overwhelming to see that all the states are using the system to update the stock and transactions of Covid vaccines on a daily basis.

Delhi did not have vaccines for the 18-44 category for 16 days. People wanted to know whether a vaccine is available, she said.

The Centre has written to the states and Union territories, advising them not to share the data of the Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN) system on vaccine

I express my gratitude to our frontline health workers for their dedication... despite lack of health facilities and infrastructure

RAJU BISTA, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, DARJEELING

AFTER THE BJP PROVIDED MEDICAL EQUIPMENT TO THE GITDABLING HOSPITAL IN KAIMPONG DISTRICT

## Group of students broke into central library, clashed with staff; FIR registered: JNU

PTI  
NEW DELHI, 10 JUNE

The Jawaharlal Nehru University administration on Thursday alleged that a group of students broke into the central library and clashed with the staff there following which an FIR has been registered with the police.

The varsity alleged that the students have been occupying the library for the last two days.

The police said based on the complaint by the varsity, a case has been registered.

According to the police, the incident took place on June 8 and based on a complaint from the varsity's chief security officer, a case was registered on Wednesday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southwest) Ingit Pratap Singh said "Based on the complaint, a case was registered under section 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) of the Indian Penal Code, Delhi Disaster Management Act and Prevention of Damage to Public Property."

No arrests have been made in the case so far, police said, adding that a meeting between the students and chief librarian of the varsity was also held in this regard.

In a statement, the varsity said, "This (incident) has caused health risk for the library staff and even other students residing in the hostels, since these unruly students return to hostel for lunch/dinner or other purposes."

The varsity said the space is not permitting the library staff to sanitise the library for making it safer for students who will use the library after restoration of normalcy, it said.

The curfew imposed by the Delhi Government is still in place and no new guidelines have yet been announced regarding resuming normal academic activities, it said.

The chief proctor office in the mean time has been tasked with taking necessary disciplinary action against these students as per the university rules," it said.

The students occupying the space are not permitting the library staff to sanitise the library immediately," it said.

A varsity student, requesting anonymity, said, "The library has not opened for a long time which has left PhD students frustrated. Students have their submissions due and have not been able to access the library. The students entered the library but there was no violence."

## The Statesman

KOLKATA

Statesman House,  
4, Chowringhee Square  
Kolkata-700 001  
Tel: (033) 22127070-76,  
(033) 41071700

Fax: (033) 2212-6181 / 7107-1780  
Email: thestatesman@vsnl.com  
statesmandisplay@gmail.com  
thestatesmansclassified@gmail.com

DELHI

Statesman House,  
148, Barakhamba Road,  
New Delhi-110 001  
Tel: (011) 2331 5911

Ishan House (2nd floor)  
A-90, Sector II, NOIDA,  
UP 201 301  
Tel: (0120) 4171421

Email:  
delhistatesman@gmail.com  
delhi@thestatesmangroup.com

BHUBANESWAR

Plot 3A, Zone B, Sector A, Mancheswar Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751 010.  
Tel: (0674) 2588060/61/62/ 2586371,  
Fax: 0674-2588061

Email:  
bhubanewar@thestatesmangroup.com  
statesmanbbsr@gmail.com

SILIGURI

Spencer Plaza, 18/19, 1st Floor  
Burdwan Road  
Above Vishal Mega Mart  
Siliguri-734005, West Bengal  
Ph.: 9832082429

Email:  
sil\_statesman@yahoo.co.in

SHIMLA

Cabin No. 305, P.C. Chambers  
Near Jodha Niwas  
The Mall Shimla-171001, H.P.  
Tel: 0177-2815000

Email:  
delhistatesman@gmail.com  
shimla@thestatesmangroup.com

## HYDERABAD

The Statesman Limited, 2nd Floor, UNI Building,  
A.C. Guards, Hyderabad-500004,  
Ph: 040-2339 1739  
Email:  
delhistatesman@gmail.com  
hyderabad@thestatesmangroup.com

## BANGALORE

No. 68, First Floor, Gold Tower,  
50 Residency Road, Bangalore-560025.  
Tel.: 080-2229129, 080-22234813  
Email:

delhistatesman@gmail.com  
bangalore@thestatesmangroup.com

## MUMBAI

5, Kasturi Buildings, Jamshedji Tata Road, Mumbai-400 020  
Tel: (022) 2202 1045,  
Email:  
delhistatesman@gmail.com  
mumbai@thestatesmangroup.com  
manufrancis@thestatesman.com

## CHENNAI

Fagun Mansion (4th floor), 26, Ethiraj Road, Chennai-600 008, Tel: (044) 28278037, 28224800  
Email:  
delhistatesman@gmail.com  
chennai@thestatesmangroup.com

## LUCKNOW

2/2, Butler Palace (Near Jopling Road), Lucknow-226 001,  
Ph: (0522) 2206705  
Email:  
delhistatesman@gmail.com  
lucknow@thestatesmangroup.com

## RANCHI

11/C, Road#1, Ashoknagar, Ranchi - 834 002  
Fax: (0651) 2247054  
Email:  
delhistatesman@gmail.com  
ranchi@thestatesmangroup.com

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## STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 10 JUNE

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Thursday inspected the ongoing work for the smog tower at Baba Kharag Singh Marg, Connaught Place, and said Delhi was going to be the first state in the country to have a smog tower to control air pollution in the city.

He informed that the tower would be completed by 15 August this year and then experts would study its outcome.

In a statement, Rai said the Delhi government was constructing this tower on a pilot basis. Going by its success, more such towers will be built across the Capital.

He informed that the tower would be completed by 15 August this year and then experts would study its outcome.



He said the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), IIT-Mumbai, the NBC and the Tata Project were working jointly to build this smog tower.



Saddened at the passing away of eminent filmmaker Buddhadeb Dasgupta. Through his works, he infused lyricism into the language of cinema. His death comes as a great loss for the film fraternity

MAMATA BANERJEE  
WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

# Capt slams Modi govt over 'measly' hike in crops' MSP

It's also an insult to farmers protesting Centre's agri laws for over 6 months, says Punjab CM

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, 10 JUNE

Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh on Thursday termed the Narendra Modi government's "meagre" minimum support price (MSP) hike for paddy as not only grossly inadequate but "an insult to the farmers who have been fighting for their rightful dues through their anti-farm laws agitation for the past over six months."

At a time when the farmers continued to put their lives on the line with their prolonged protest at the Delhi borders, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led Central government has, instead of putting the balm on their wounds, added insult to their injury with



the MSP announcement, said the Punjab CM a day after the Centre announced increase in the MSP of paddy by Rs 72 per quintal for the 2021-22 Kharif season.

Capt Amarinder slammed the "anti-farmer government" at the Centre for allegedly failing to protect the interests of the farmers consistently and for its "apathy" towards their problems. The less than four per cent hike in MSP of paddy

was not enough even to meet the increased input costs, he pointed out, citing the extraordinary hikes in diesel and other costs over the past one year.

The increase in MSP of other crops was also quite "measly", the CM said, noting that the small hike in the base price of maize would discourage farmers from going in for the much-needed crop diversification to save the pre-

cious and depleting water resources.

The CM noted that the Swaminathan Committee, whose recommendations the central government has "adamantly refused" to accept, had clearly suggested that MSP should be "at least 50 per cent more than the weighted average cost of production".

Far from implementing the recommendations of the Committee in the interests of the farmers and the nation's food security, the BJP-led government had passed the "anti-farmer" agriculture laws that are "clearly aimed at destroying India's farmers", he lamented.

The CM said that it was not enough for the Union agriculture minister to say that the doors for talks with farmers

were open. The Union government should repeal the farm laws and then sit across the table with the farmers to come out with genuine and meaningful reforms in agriculture in the interest of the agricultural community and the entire nation, he asserted.

Demanding that the Centre should simplify procurement of agricultural produce at MSP that fully covers farmers' costs plus 50 per cent margin, as recommended by the Swaminathan Committee, Capt Amarinder stressed the need to take the actual cost of production into account in measuring the MSP.

The CM said the minuscule MSP hike had once again exposed the Centre's "anti-farmer" policies and programmes.

## Khattar goes on projects inauguration spree

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, 10 JUNE

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, went on an inauguration spree on Thursday dedicating projects with a total cost of more than Rs 1100 crore.

The CM during a state level programme held through video conferencing from Chandigarh today inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of several projects in 16 districts, focusing on education, health, sports, strengthening road connectivity, water, power etc. This includes the inauguration of various projects of more than Rs 200 Crore and laid foundation stone of other projects costing around Rs 900 Crore. Earlier on 21 March, the CM had virtually dedicated and laid the foundation stones of various development projects worth Rs 1411 Crore.

Meanwhile, the CM thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for increasing the MSP of Kharif crops. He said that this decision

would certainly help the farmers to earn more profit. "From last two years, the Prime Minister has made a mandatory rule of increasing the MSP of crops ahead of the sowing season so that the farmers can have an option to choose profitable crops," said Khattar.

The CM said in a bid to address every single grievance raised by the people of the state, one of its kind 'Vivadon Se Samadhan' was launched by the state government to provide adequate water facilities for irrigation purposes of each department.

"While adopting zero-tolerance towards corruption the working of every department was digitalised to ensure paperless, faceless and transparent governance," said Khattar. He said that constant efforts have been made by the State Government to further strengthen the Mandi system across Haryana. "An amount of around Rs. 7000 crore would be spent on establishing International Horticulture Market in Gannaur" the CM said.

The CM said the state government would provide tube-well connections to the farmers in the areas where the groundwater level is less than

## Over 1,300 people fined in Delhi for flouting COVID-19 norms

PTI  
NEW DELHI, 10 JUNE

Over 1,300 people were fined in Delhi on June 9 for violation of COVID-19 guidelines, police said on Thursday.

According to data shared by the police, 1,349 challans were issued in the city on Wednesday, of which 1,167 were for not wearing face masks, 180 for not maintaining social distancing and two were against large public gatherings.

"The process of unlocking has been started and we urge people to follow COVID-appropriate behaviour. Use a face mask while coming out of the house, maintain social distancing and regularly sanitise their hands. People should not come out of their homes unnecessarily," Delhi Police Additional Public Relations Officer (PRO) Anil Mittal said.

A total of 1,538 people were fined in the city on Tues-

day 1,279 for not wearing face masks and 259 for violating distancing norms, the police said.

As many as 1,27,083 challans were issued by the police from April 19 to June 9, the data showed.

While 1,06,886 people were fined for not wearing face masks, 18,473 were penalised for not maintaining social distancing, 1,531 for large public gatherings or congregations, 72 for spitting and 121 for consumption of liquor, pan, tobacco, etc., it stated.

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

The Delhi government allowed all standalone and neighbourhood shops to open, including liquor vends.

## Pb CM writes to PM for release of pending funds for PMS scheme for SC students

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, 10 JUNE

Days after the joint association of private colleges in Punjab threatened to withhold the roll numbers of about two lakh scheduled caste (SC) students in protest against the non-disbursement of the scholarship to the institutions, Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh on Thursday wrote to Prime Min-

ister Narendra Modi seeking release of the state's pending amount and revised sharing pattern under the Post Matric Scholarship for Scheduled Castes (PMS-SCs) for the period 2017-2020.

In his letter, the CM said though the Union government had, on December 31, 2020, amended the guidelines for the scholarship to introduce a revised sharing pattern between the

Centre and the States (60:40), the same had been made effective only from 1 April, 2020. No decision had, however, been conveyed on the issue for the period 1st April 2017-31st March 2020, thus jeopardising the future of lakhs of SC students, he said.

Amarinder said he had brought to the Prime Minister's notice the state's concern regarding the outstanding demand under the scheme. An amount

of Rs 1,563 Crore for the years 2017-20 was still pending with the Union ministry of social justice and empowerment for release as Central Share under the scheme, he said, adding that no response had yet been received to those letters.

Pointing out that Punjab has the highest percentage of SC population in the country, the CM said the state deserves special attention on this count. Further,

being a border state, it needs to ensure that its youth get the opportunity of education and employment so that they do not fall prey to anti-social and anti-national elements.

Therefore, non-release of scholarship funds under the PMS-SCs would adversely affect the education of SC students who are unable to pay the fee from their own pocket, added Amarinder.

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### EXTRACT FROM THE STANDALONE & CONSOLIDATED AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH, 2021

SL. No	Particulars	STANDALONE				CONSOLIDATED					
		31-03-2021 Unaudited	31-12-2020 Unaudited	31-03-2020 Unaudited	31-03-2021 Audited	31-03-2020 Audited	31-03-2021 Unaudited	31-12-2020 Unaudited	31-03-2021 Audited	31-03-2020 Audited	
1	Total Income from operations	297409	294372	303424	1193900	1319276	297409	294372	303424	1193900	1319276
2	Net Profit/ (Loss) from operations before exceptional items and tax	(331)	7775	6504	34346	13614	(980)	7551	5574	33091	12609
3	Net Profit/ (Loss) before tax after exceptional items	(331)	7775	(32381)	34346	(25271)	(980)	7551	(33311)	33091	(26276)
4	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period after tax	(304)	5513	(23935)	24963	(17101)	(953)	5289	(24865)	23708	(18106)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/ (Loss) and Other Comprehensive Income for the period)	(7)	5442	(26205)	25050	(19631)	(656)	5218	(27135)	23795	(20636)
6	Equity Share Capital	49058	49058	49058	49058	49058	49058	49058	49058	49058	49058
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year				168086	143036				164961	141166
8	Earning Per Share (of ₹10/- each)*										
	(a) Basic	(0.06)	1.12	(4.88)	5.09	(3.49)	(0.19)	1.08	(5.07)	4.83	(3.69)
	(b) Diluted	(0.06)	1.12	(4.88)	5.09	(3.49)	(0.19)	1.08	(5.07)	4.83	(3.69)

\* Not annualised in case of quarterly figures

Place : Noida  
Dated : June 10, 2021

NFL: FARMERS' FRIEND, NATION'S PRIDE

For and on behalf of Board of Directors  
(Virendra Nath Datt)  
Chairman & Managing Director  
DIN : 07823778

### BEST EVER FERTILIZER SALE



## Jai Ram lauds Modi govt for hiking Kharif MSP

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
SHIMLA, 10 JUNE

Himachal Pradesh chief minister Jai Ram Thakur on Tuesday thanked the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government for increasing the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) of Kharif crops for 2021-22 marketing season.

Thakur said the decision had been taken by the Union government to ensure remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce.

"The MSP for paddy has been increased from last year's Rs 1868 per quintal to Rs 1940 whereas for A grade paddy, it has been increased from Rs. 1882 to Rs 1960."

Besides, the MSP for maize has been enhanced from Rs 1850 to Rs 1870," he added.

The chief minister stated that concerted efforts were made over the last few years to realign the MSPs in favour of all seeds, pulses and coarse cereals to encourage farmers

shift to larger areas under these crops and adopt best technologies and farm practices to correct demand-supply imbalance. He further stated that the Central government was committed for welfare of the farming community and several schemes have been launched for their socio-economic upliftment.

"In addition, Rs 6000 per year is being provided to the eligible farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojna and 9,26,963 eligible farmers of the state are being benefitted under this scheme," the CM said.

He added that the Union government had also decided to provide free ration to the eligible families under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojna till November this year and over 28 lakh people of the state will benefit under this scheme.

including lactating mothers amongst the prioritized group for Covid vaccination has been anticipated third wave of the Coronavirus in which it has been expected that the paediatric population will be affected more.

The timely vaccination of priority groups shall ensure that the effects of the anticipated third wave will be mitigated," he added.

He added that the priority groups identified by the state including the healthcare workers should get themselves vaccinated with the first dose of vaccine latest by 19 June 2021.

It is worth mentioning here that Himachal had vaccinated 1,49,906 frontline workers with first dose and 42,348 with second dose till 09 June.

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
SHIMLA, 10 JUNE

The Himachal Pradesh government on Thursday included lactating women in priority groups for Covid vaccination as a pre-emptive measure ahead of the third wave of Coronavirus in which children are likely to be worst affected.

The state government has also notified them as frontline workers but they will not be entitled for any other benefit in favor of the beneficiary.

"The main purpose behind

# In TN, 2nd wave of MeToo movement creating ripples

Chief minister Stalin suggests spl helpline for students to report sexual abuse



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
CHENNAI 10 JUNE

The second wave of the MeToo movement unleashed in Tamil Nadu culminated in the arrest of a third teacher in the state which witnesses a growing number of allegations of child abuse in schools.

The action comes days after the police arrested G Rajagopalan, a commerce teacher at the prestigious Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan (PSBB), a private school in Chennai, for sexual inappropriate behaviour with students.

In the backdrop of such allegations, the Tamil Nadu government along with the police department, school and higher education departments has formed committees to roll out a set of guidelines to be followed while taking online classes.

Chief minister MK Stalin stated that special helpline numbers will be announced so that students can report incidents without fear. The CM also warned that those who are guilty will be booked under POCSO Act and such cases will be handled on priority.

Meanwhile, noted lyricist

Vairamuthu (*In photo*), who has been under the cloud of MeToo movement a few years back, has now landed in another controversy when he received the prestigious OVN Kurup literary award instituted by OVN Kurup Cultural Academy in Kerala. Vairamuthu was forced to reject the award after many celebrities, including singer Chinmayi Sripathi, actor Rima Kallingal, Parvathi, actor-director Geethu Mohandas, director Anjali Menon, casted their protests against conferring such an award to a person like Vairamuthu, accused in sexual harassment allegations by several women.

A 51-year-old teacher J Anand of the prestigious Maharishi Vidya Mandir school in Chennai was arrested by the Kilpauk All Women Police station in Chennai on 8 June after being accused by several former students of sexual misconduct.

Anand, a commerce teacher, is arrested under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. The school had suspended Anand on 28 May after allegations were out on social media.

Although the former students recounted experiencing sexual harassment, blackmailing and molestation at his hands, the teacher was arrested only after one former student lodged a formal complaint against him.

On Tuesday, S Annadurai, 52, a physical education teacher at a government-aided school was arrested near Mayiladuthurai in Nagapattinam district after three of the school's former students lodged complaints of sexual harassment by several students against him.

Annadurai has been working for over 20 years in the Diwan Bahadur T Rangachariar (DBTR) National Higher Secondary School in Mayiladuthurai. He was detained on 5 June after a 21-year-old woman complained of being sexually abused when she was a student at the school three years ago.

Meanwhile, a special POCSO court on Saturday refused to grant bail to Rajagopalan, the 59-year-old commerce teacher at a branch of Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan (PSBB) school in Chennai, who had been arrested after he was accused of sexual harassment by several students.

He was the first to be arrested in the second wave of the MeToo movement that came out after current students and alumni of the

school took to social media to share their allegations.

The Maharishi Vidya Mandir Alumni student community on 25 May had written to the Tamil Nadu Commission for Protection of Child Rights, the Tamil Nadu government, the State Commission of Women, and the school's correspondent, demanding action against the accused teacher Anand.

The letter recounts other allegations against him from another school in the city too, where he taught before he joined Maharishi Vidya Mandir.

Rajagopalan of PSBB School had applied for bail before the POCSO court but

while hearing the case on Saturday, Judge Mohammed Farooq dismissed the bail application, observing the probe into the charges against him was in its preliminary stage and is incomplete.

There were many charges made against Rajagopalan, who taught students of Class XI and XII, of allegedly misbehaving with the students during the online classes.

Complaints of the teacher physically and verbally harassing the students were also reported by the present students and alumni of the private school.

Rajagopalan was arrested on 24 May on charges of sexual abuse. The school man-

agement also suspended the teacher, although the school denied of having received any such complaints from the students in the past.

In the Mayiladuthurai incident, the police detained and questioned Annadurai at the Mayiladuthurai All Women's Police Station on 5 June. The police initially refused to arrest Annadurai at the time as at least 30 students, alumni and teachers of the school, gathered at Mayiladuthurai All Women's Police Station after he was detained, claiming he was innocent and being falsely implicated.

However, on Monday, the police received complaints of sexual harassment against Annadurai and started an investigation.

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT						
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)						
No: PW-DPD-CB-Tender/5187-89, Dated: 10/06/2021.						
The Executive Engineer, Dharampur Division, HPPWD Dharampur, Distt: Mandi (H.P) on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the work as detailed in the table.						
Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (In Rs.)	Time Period	Starting Date for downloading Bid	Deadline for submission of Bid.	Earnest Money
1	Construction of 30.00 Mtr span bridge (Single Lane) on Rosso Khad on Mortan Rosso Road (SH: C/O Substructure, superstructure and both side approaches)	86,57,617/-	Nine Month	17.06.2021	23.06.2021	1,20,000/-
2	Construction of link road from Chanderi to Kalsi village Samour road km 0/0 to 90/0 (SH: F/C 5/7 Mtrs Km 3/0 to 3/555)	61,90,626/-	Three Month	17.06.2021	23.06.2021	95,000/-
The bidders are advised to note other details of tender from the department website www.hptenders.gov.in						
Executive Engineer, Dharampur Division, HPPWD Dharampur, Distt: Mandi (H.P) on behalf of Governor of H.P						

1463/2021-2022 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

## TENDER

### Government of Himachal Pradesh JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

Online bids on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division Pragpur on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, in electronic tendering system in two covers for the under mentioned work from the contractors/firms of appropriate class enlisted with Himachal Pradesh Jal Shakti Vibhag.

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Cost of tender form	Time limit
1.	Sustainability of source of L15 Ranch in tehsil Jaswan Distt Kangra (HP) (SH: Construction of Check Dam at Ranoh Nallath )	1916135/-	36300/-	40/-	Three months
2.	Tender documents and other instructions can be downloaded or viewed online from the portal <a href="http://hptenders.gov.in">http://hptenders.gov.in</a> , by the interested bidders/firms/individuals registered on the website which is free of cost.				
3.	Competitive Bidding will be conducted in accordance with "Single Stage Two Envelope" Bidding Procedure. Bid security, and eligibility documents as per eligibility information and criteria and Financial bid should be put in separate envelop and all two separate envelops should be put together in a single envelop. The bids shall be submitted online electronically.				
4.	Bid evaluation of criteria- Technically Qualified lowest evaluated bidder (L1) will be considered as a successful bidder. However, the acceptance of the proposal will rest with the JSV Department who does not bind itself to accept the lowest proposal, and reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the proposals received without assigning any reason.				
5.	As the bids are submitted online and are required to be encrypted and digitally signed, the bidders are advised to obtain Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from suitable vendors or from any authorized agency at the earliest.				

#### KEY DATES WILL BE AS UNDER:

- a. Date of Online publication 10/06/2021 at 5:00 PM
- b. Downloading of e-tender Documents From 10/06/2021 at 5:00 PM to 17/06/2021 at 11:00 A.M.
- c. Date of submission of e-tender From 10/06/2021 at 5:00 PM to 17/06/2021 at 11:00 A.M.
- d. Physical submission of eligibility criteria, pre-qualification documents, earnest money deposit and cost of tender documents (in original) Upto 11:00 A.M. on 17/06/2021.
- e. Date of opening of bids:
  - 1) Cover-1 Eligibility Information and Criteria On 17/06/2021 at 11:30 A.M.
  - 2) Cover-2 Financial Bid Shall be intimated separately

#### 7. TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-

- (1) The e-tender documents shall be uploaded online in 2 (Two) covers:-
- Cover- 1 shall contain Scanned copies of "eligibility information and criteria"
- Cover-2 shall contain the "Financial bid" on the prescribed format.
- (2) shall contain Scanned copies of following "eligibility information and criteria" (Scanned copies to be uploaded): In case of Exemption of EMD the tenderer shall have to submit an affidavit and list of works where he has used the exemption in order to ascertain the amount exempted mandatorily.
- (i) The Earnest Money, unless Exempted/should be deposited (through offline mode) duly pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Pragpur in the shape of National Saving Certificate in any Post Office in H.P. or Time Deposit Receipt/FDR of any Scheduled/ Nationalized Bank having its branch at Dehra or Pragpur should reach the Office of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Vibhag Division, Pragpur on or before the date and time of opening the technical bid, mandatorily.
- (ii) The cost of tender form through online (e-payment) & offline mode(s) shown above in shape of Demand Draft, only drawn in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Pragpur payable at Pragpur.
- (iii) Copy of Certificate of registration with I&PH Department (Now JSV) in appropriate class and latest renewal thereof.
- (iv) Income Tax, PAN No. (Permanent Account No.), GST registration, EPF registration and latest clearance certificate thereof, are to be submitted with the eligibility criteria.
- (v) Copy of similar Work done (Experience Certificates).
- (vi) The authorization letter regarding digital signature certificate (DSC) of the person authorized by the registered renderer to upload the bid, be uploaded along with the other documents online.
- (vii) A scanned copy of undertaking that I have carefully studied all the terms and conditions stipulated in the contract document before quoting the rates.
- (viii) The tenderer shall have to submit an affidavit of being not blacklisted by govt. Department.
- 4. **Cover-2** shall contain "Financial Bid" which will be opened at a later date to be notified separately & shall be opened only of those contractors /firms whose documents as per eligibility information "Cover-1" are found in order. The Financial Bids shall contain only Financial Bid /Offer on departmental schedule of quantity/BQ where contractor /firms will quote his/her offer for each item.
- 7. Earnest money of L1, L2 and L3 shall be retained for a period of 120 days.
- 8. No subletting of work by the contractor is permissible.
- 9. In case, opening day is a holiday, the tenders shall be opened on next working day.
- 10. The offer of the tender shall be kept open for 120 days.
- 11. Ambiguous/telegraphic/ Conditional tenders or tenders by Fax /E-mail shall not be entertained/ considered in any case.
- 12. Conditional bids are liable to be rejected without assigning any reasons.
- 13. The Executive Engineer, reserves the right to reject/cancel any or all the tenders/bids without assigning any reason(s).
- 14. Any enquiry/clarification regarding tender can be obtained on e-mail of the divisional office under e-mail address i.xeniphpragpur@gmail.com and office telephone No. 01970-245045.

-sd-  
Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti Division  
Pragpur

1472/2021-2022 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

HPPWD NOTICE INVITING TENDER BHARWAIN DIVISION HPPWD					
BHARWAIN TEHSIL AMB DISTRICT UNA (H.P.)					
Sealed tenders on item rates basis are hereby invited on behalf of Governor of HP for the following works from the eligible contractor enlisted in the appropriate class in HPPWD. So as to reach in the office of the Executive Engineer, Shimla Division No-1, HPPWD Shimla-3 or on before 06-07-2021 up to 1030 A.M. The tenders will be opened on the same day at 11:00 AM. In the presence of the intending contractors or their authorized agents who may wish to be present. The applications for issue of tender forms shall be received 03-07-2021 from 10.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M. alongwith FDR for the required amount. The tender form shall be issued on 05-07-2021 from 10.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M.					
The intending contractors shall bring their registration letter renewal of their enlistment and proof of CST/GST/ otherwise the tender documents shall not be issued to them.					
The earnest money as shown below shall accompany the tender in the shape of NCS/Time deposit receipt or post office Saving Bank Account in H.P. duly pledged in the name of Executive Engineer. The contractors who do not deposit the earnest money in the prescribed manner, their tender shall summarily be rejected without assigning any reason. The tenders offer shall be kept open for 10 days.					
Terms & Conditions:-					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The contractor/firm shall have his GST No. and attested copy of the same be attached with the application for issue of tender form.</li> <li>2. The contractor/firm should attach attested copy of registration/renewal.</li> <li>3. Copy of PAN card be attached with the application form.</li> <li>4. Copy of EPF be attached with the application form.</li> </ul>					
1421/2021-2022 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK					

HPPWD NOTICE INVITING TENDER BHARWAIN DIVISION HPPWD					
BHARWAIN TEHSIL AMB DISTRICT UNA (H.P.)					
Sealed tenders on item rates basis are hereby invited on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh by the Executive Engineer Bharwain Division, HPPWD, Bharwain Tehsil Amb District Una (HP) from the experienced contractors/ firms enlisted in appropriate class with Himachal Pradesh PWD for the following works. The tender shall be received in his office on or before 15.07.2021 up to 10.30 A.M. and shall be opened on the same day at 11:00 A.M. in the presence of contractors / firms or their authorized representatives , who wish to be present at the time of opening of tenders. The tender applications shall be entertained and tender form shall be sold up to two days before the date of opening of tender i.e.13.07.2021 up to 12:00 Noon. Draft Notice Inviting Tenders/ Drawing/ Specifications can be seen in the office of the Executive Engineer on any working day between 11.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M. Ambiguous / Telegraphic / Conditional tenders or tender by Fax shall not be entertained/ considered in any case. The earnest money in the shape of National Saving Certificate / Time Deposit Account / FDR in any of the Post Office in H.P/ Nationalized Bank duly pledged in favour of Executive Engineer must be accompanied with the application. Conditional tenders and the tenders received without earnest money will not be rejected. The contractor shall accompany his enlistment/ renewal orders with his application for obtaining the tender documents. The Executive Engineer reserves the right to reject the tender without any reasons. The work will be completed by the contractor within the stipulated period. The contractor will have to submit his registration under the H. P General Sale Tax Act 1968 and also labour license under contract Act 1970 from the competent authority. The contractors/ firms are requested to insert the rate of each item in words as well as figures, failing which XEN reserves the right to accept/ reject any or overall tenders. The tender shall remain valid up to 45 days after the opening of tender. If any of the date mentioned above happens to be Local / Gazetted Holidays the same shall be process on next date.					
Sr. No.	Name of work.	Estimated cost.	Earnest Money	Time Limit	Form No.
1	Repair / Restoration of rain damages on various road Under Gagret Sub-Division Division(SH:- C/o Earthen Shoulder, removal of slips and C/o unlined drain (Section Gagret 1&II )	39200/-	7900/-	Three months	PWD-B 350/-
2	Repair / Restoration of rain damages various road Under Gagret Sub-Division Division(SH:- C/o Earthen Shoulder, removal of slips and C/o unlined drain (Section Daulatpur 1,II & III )	39200/-	7900/-	Three months	PWD-B 350/-
3	A/R & M/O Barhi Takrala Nehri road km 0/0 to 14/200 (SH:- C/o R/Wall at Rd 12/470 to 12/570 )LHS	470162/-	9500/-	Three months	PWD-B 350/-
4	A/R & M/O Akrot Harjan Basti to Behar Jaswan Chack km0/0 to 10/00 (SH:- Providing and Laying of G-I in Km: 0/128 to 0/900).	227896/-	4600/-	One Month	PWD-B 350/-
5	A/R & M/O Nauti to Thallia road km: 0/0 to 7/300 (SH:- Repair of pot holes between RD: 3/00 to 4/615);	370132/-	7500/-	One Month	PWD-B 350/-
6	A/R & M/O various roads under Amb Sub Divn (SH: C/o Earthen shoulder, removal of slips & C/o Un-lined drain) Section Nehri.	39200/-	8000/-	Three months	PWD-B 350/-
7	A/R & M/O various roads under Amb Sub Divn (SH: C/o Earthen shoulder, removal of slips & C/o Un-lined drain) Section Repoh & Panja	392206/-	8000/-	Three months	PWD-B 350/-
8	A/R & M/O various roads under Bharwain Sub Divn (SH: C/o Earthen shoulder, removal of slips & C/o Un-lined drain) Section Bharwain & Chintpuri.	392019/-	8000/-	Three months	PWD-B 350/-
9	A/R & M/O various roads under Bharwain Sub Divn (SH: C/o Earthen shoulder, removal of slips & C/o Un-lined drain) Section Koharchhan & Mubarkpur.	392206/-	8000/-	Three months	PWD-B 350/-
10	RR on Chintpurni Talwara road km 0/0 to 15/00 (SH:C/O 900mm dia RCC Hume pipe culvert at RD 1/720 & drain water along the Hotel President)	451380/-	9100/-	Three months	PWD-B 350/-
11	A/R & M/O Mirgo Amrolka road km 0/0 to 4/0 (SH: C/o Retaining wall at RD 2/110 to 2/130)	491735/-	10000/-	Three months	PWD-B 350/-
12	Repair/ Restoration of rain damages on link road to village Major Gurdev Singh Deoli km 0/0 to 2/050 (SH:- C/o paver shoulder between km				



Online registration is not enough for the vaccine. Every person walking in at a vaccination centre should get the vaccine. Those who do not have access to Internet also have the right to life.

**CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI**  
SLAMMING GOVERNMENT'S VACCINATION POLICY

**The Statesman**

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 11 JUNE 2021

05

## THUMBNAILS



Married women perform rituals of 'Vat Savitri Puja' in Kanpur, on Thursday. IANS

**Elgar case:** The Bombay High Court on Thursday said Jesuit priest and activist Stan Swamy (84), arrested in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case, shall remain admitted in a Mumbai-based private hospital till 18 June as he is suffering from Covid. He was on 28 May shifted from the Taloja prison in Navi Mumbai to the Holy Family Hospital. PTI

**Delhi riots:** A Delhi court on Thursday dismissed the bail plea of two accused in a murder case related to the 2020 north-east Delhi riots, noting that the allegations against the duo are serious in nature. Additional Sessions Judge juked the plea filed by Rashid and Shoaib who are accused in the murder case of waiter Dilbar Negi. PTI

**Karnataka lifts lockdown, partially, in some districts:** The state government today decided to continue lockdown in 11 districts where the positivity rate remains high, till 21 June, while partially relaxing it in others. In Bengaluru urban and other districts for example, the government has relaxed the lockdown guidelines from 14 June. PTI

## Left: Centre violating states' rights

NEW DELHI, 10 JUNE

The CPI (M) today said the Modi Government was making repeated attempts at infringing the States' rights, but Odisha, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh were "reluctant" to take a firm stand on the issue.

An editorial in the party journal People's Democracy said that not a day passed without some attack on the federal structure and infringement on the States' rights taking place. The defence of federalism and State rights required a closer coordination amongst the Opposition State governments. Even now, three of the non-BJP state governments of Odisha, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh were "half-hearted," the Left party said.

"The three regional parties running these governments should realise that extinction of federalism and undermining of states' rights will threaten the interests of these parties in the future," the CPI (M) said. "The Centre unilaterally announced a vaccine policy whereby states were asked to procure vaccines and pay for them, then again, the chief secretary of Bengal was summoned to Delhi to report for duty on the day of his retirement, the party said." SNS

## HC refuses to stay release of films on Sushant's life

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 10 JUNE

The Delhi High Court on Thursday refused to stay the release of several movies, purportedly based on the life of late Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput, including 'Nyay: The Justice' which is scheduled to be released on Friday, saying these films are neither portrayed as biopic nor factual narration of what transpired in his life. "Posthumous privacy right is not permissible," the high court said in its interim order on a plea by Rajput's father to restrain such films.

The court said it found merit in the submissions of producers and directors that if information of events which have occurred is already in the

# Jitin switches a 'catch' for UP polls!

Sibal says will never join BJP, asserts such a crossover can only happen 'over my dead body'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 10 JUNE

**A** day after Jitin Prasada quit the Congress, senior party leader Kapil Sibal asked if he would get "prasada" from the BJP or is he merely a "catch" for the Uttar Pradesh elections. Another party colleague Shashi Tharoor also asked if politics can be a career devoid of principles.

"Jitin Prasada joins BJP. The question is will he get 'prasada' from BJP or is he just a 'catch' for UP elections," Sibal asked on Twitter.

"In such deals if 'ideology' doesn't matter changeover is easy," the former Union Minister also said.

In a tweet, Tharoor asked, "Can politics be a career devoid of principle? Politics has to be about ideas, or it's nothing. Can a person of conviction change political parties the way a cricketer changes IPL teams?" In an article on the larger issues in Prasada's defection to the BJP, Tharoor said his decision a year after his "older brother" Jyotiraditya Scindia did the same thing, is "deeply dismaying".

## Moily: Cong needs to undergo major surgery

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 10 JUNE

A day after Jitin Prasada switched to the BJP, senior Congress leader M Veerappa Moily on Thursday said the Congress needs to undergo a "major surgery" and not depend just on legacy, asserting that the top leadership must give primacy to ideological commitment while assigning responsibility to leaders.

Alleging that Prasada had placed "personal ambition" over everything else, Moily said the Uttar Pradesh leader's ideological commitment was suspect from the beginning and the party winning zero seats in West Bengal under

"I say this without any personal bitterness," he said.

"Both Scindia and Prasada were amongst the most eloquent voices against the BJP and the dangers its communal bigotry posed to the India they cherished. Today, they are both happily sporting the colours of the party they once reviled more than any other."

"The obvious question this provokes is: what do they really stand for? What beliefs and values animate their politics? Or are they in politics only for self-advancement and power?

Can politics be a career devoid of principle?" Tharoor asked in the article.

his charge showed that he was incompetent.

In an interview with PTI, Moily also said the top leadership should make a proper assessment of leaders in the party, asserting that "one cannot make people leaders when they do not deserve it".

The Congress has to rethink and re-strategise some of these things and then only the party can move up, the former Union minister said.

Asked if Prasada's exit from the Congress has a message for the party top brass, he said they must give importance to leaders' antecedents, ideology and their approach to the common people, while appoint-

ing them to positions of importance.

"Next year we are facing Assembly elections in seven states and then immediately parliamentary polls will be there after that (in 2024). If we don't perform well in the seven elections we will have more difficulty in the general elections," he said.

"The Congress should not just hinge upon legacy, but we need to readjust ourselves and prepare ourselves for competitive politics played by (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi. It is not that Modi is undefeatable, he can be defeated by putting our party back on track. Major surgery is needed right now, there is no tomorrow," he asserted.

"When you enter politics, then, you don't choose a party the way a graduate chooses the company that makes him the best placement offer. You choose a vehicle for your convictions."

"Your party reflects not merely the institutional framework for your personal ambitions, but the set of principles, beliefs and ideas that you are pledged to promote and defend in the course of your political career," he wrote.

Kapil Sibal slammed Prasada for crossing over to the BJP and said it represented politics of "prasada" or personal gains. He also said hypothet-

ically if his party thinks of him as "dead wood" or of no utility, he may think of leaving, but would never join the BJP, asserting that such a switch could only happen "over my dead body".

Sibal said if Prasada would have left the party unhappy over the response of the leadership on the concerns raised by the letter writers that would have been his personal choice and he was entitled to leave, but wondered why he decided to join the BJP. "What is the rational basis for that except for 'prasada' (personal gain) politics... We see this happening around the country," he said.

Left Cong not due to any individual or for any post: Jitin

NEW DELHI, 10 JUNE

A day after switching over to the BJP, Jitin Prasada Thursday said he left the Congress not because of any individual or for any post, but due to the "rising disconnect" between the party and the people of Uttar Pradesh.

Prasada, who had also served as a Union minister in the Congress-led UPA government and whose family had been associated with the party for three generations, joined the BJP on Wednesday, and termed the saffron party "only true national party" in the country.

Prasada, among the group of 23 Congress leaders who had written to party chief Sonia Gandhi last October seeking an organisational overhaul, didn't put blame on any individual within the party for his departure.

"I left the Congress not due to any individual or for any post. The reason I left the Congress was because there is a rising disconnect between the party and the people. And that is the reason, its vote share is shrinking in Uttar Pradesh and there is no plan to revive the party," Prasada said. PTI

Four cities to upscale genomic surveillance to track variants

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD, 10 JUNE

A consortium of four city clusters, including Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune and New Delhi, has been established for carrying out genomic surveillance of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus and identify and track the emergence of viral variants before they spread widely and cause outbreaks.

This will be correlated epidemiological dynamics and clinical outcomes of emerging variants.

The consortium aims to develop targeted sampling strategies based on granular epidemiological and clinical data.

Along with intense environmental surveillance and advanced computational techniques the consortium would also focus on building capabilities for real-time surveillance and epidemiology.

It will work closely with local governments, hospitals and clinicians.

**Debt Recovery Tribunal-I, Delhi**  
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001  
**O.A. No. 73 / 2020**  
**PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK**  
Versus **Applicant M/s. Bhole Baba Exim Pvt. Ltd. & Ors.**  
Defendants To,

1. **M/s. Bhole Baba Exim Pvt. Ltd.**, A-91, Wazirpur Industrial Area, New Delhi-110052  
2. **Mal Chand Gupta** (Director) R/o. 24-B/12, Road No-12, Punjab Bagh East, New Delhi-110026.

3. **Rajan Gupta** (Director) R/o. 24-B/12, Road No-12, Punjab Bagh East, New Delhi-110026.

4. **Sunita Gupta** (Director) R/o. 24-B/12, Road No-12, Punjab Bagh East, New Delhi-110026.

5. **Avish Gupta** (Director) R/o. 24-B/12, Road No-12, Punjab Bagh East, New Delhi-110026.

6. **Bimla Devi** (Guarantor) W/o. Late Sh. Bishambher Dayal R/o. 26, Ground Floor, Patpura, Delhi-110043.

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 1,53,86,798.02 (Rupees Fifteen Lacs Eighty Six Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Eighty and Two Paisa Only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way.

Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance before Ld. Registrar on 16-07-2021 at 10.30 A.M. (for further details kindly visit DRT website www.tribunal.gov.in) Phone No. 011-23748473)

Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.

Due to ongoing Pandemic Situation, all the matters will be taken up through Video Conferencing and for that purpose:-

(i) All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the 'Cisco Webex' application / Software,

(ii) "Meeting ID" and "Password" for the next date of hearing qua cases to be taken by Registrars/Recovery Officer-I and Recovery Officer-II shall be available one day prior to the next date at DRT Official Portal i.e. "drt.gov.in" under the Public Notice Head.

(iii) In any exigency qua that, the Advocates/Litigants can contact the concerned official at Ph. No. 011-23748473.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this 23rd April, 2021

by order of this Tribunal for Registrar

Respondent may contact under mention phone number for further enquiry.

Amit K. Dar, Ld. Registrar, DRT-I, New Delhi, Phone: 011-23748473

E-mail: drt@delhi-dfs.nic.in

## SEARCH FOR MISSING WOMAN

**Komal**  
General Public is hereby informed that one woman (depicted in the photo) namely Komal W/o Sh. Mithlesh @ Mikal H/o N.H. B-3/688, 12.5 Yards, Raghbir Nagar, Delhi Aged- 24 Years has been reported missing since 24.04.2021 from her house. In this regard a FIR No. 387/2021 Dated 26.04.2021 has been registered at Police Station Khyala, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

**Complexion:** Fair, **Height:** 5'6", **Face:** Round, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Suit-salwar and slipper in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing woman, may inform SHO, Khyala, Delhi at E-mail: cib@cbi.nic.in or website: http://cbi.nic.in

SD/ SHO, Khyala, Delhi Tel.: 011-28335686, 28335696 DP/448/WD/2021 Mob.: 8750871132

## RESTORATION OF TRAIN

For the convenience of rail passengers, Railways have decided to restore the following Special Train as per the schedule given below:-

05624/05623 Kamakhya - Bhagat Ki Kothi - Kamakhya Special Express (Weekly)

TRAIN NO. 05624	STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 05623	
ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.
—	17:15	Kamakhya	23:10
21:45	—	Bhagat Ki Kothi	—

Days of Run : 05624 Ex Kamakhya on Every Friday from 18.06.2021 and 05623 Ex Bhagat Ki Kothi on Every Tuesday from 22.06.2021.

**Accommodation:** AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Sitting.

**Stoppages:** Ranjigh, Barpetra, New Gopalgaon Jn., Kokrah Jn., New Alipurduar, New Coochbehar, New Jalpaiguri, Kishanganj, Kathbar Jn., Naugachia, Khagaria Jn., Begusarai, New Baruari Jn., Patna Jn., Ara, Buxar, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Varanasi, Shahganj Jn., Faizabad Jn., Lucknow, Bareilly, Moradabad, Ghaziabad, Delhi Jn., Delhi Cantt, Gurgaon, Rewari Jn., Mahendragarh, Satnali, Loharu, Sadulpur Jn., Churu, Ratangarh Jn., Sujangarh, Ladnun, Dhadwana, Chhotkhatu, Degana Jn., Mertha Jn. & Jodhpur Jn. stations.

For any kind of information such as detailed Time -Table and stations enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website: www.enquiry.indianrailways.gov.in or NTES App.

All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 including Social distancing, sanitization etc., may be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

Visit RailMadad website: www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in

Download Railmadad App

NORTHERN RAILWAY Your Convenience - Our Concern Visit us at : www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

## Student enrolment up by 11.4% in higher edu: AISHE Report '19-20

SATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 10 JUNE

All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) report for 2019-20 was released today by Union education minister, Ramesh Pokhrayan 'Nishank.'

According to the report, in the last five years from 2015-16 to 2019-20, there has been a growth of 11.4 per cent in student enrolment

## Biden under pressure

A large number of Democrat and Republican legislators in the US Congress have been riveted to India this week. Not out of geostrategic considerations; their concern, as evident on Monday, is embedded in a humanitarian issue, specifically the deadly resurgence of coronavirus. It thus comes about that several lawmakers and Governors have urged the Biden administration to supply more Covid vaccines to India. They have said that India is in crisis and the US has a "responsibility to help its close allies fight the deadly pandemic". The fervent appeal must have resonated in the echo chambers of the American capital. There is little doubt that President Biden is under legislative pressure. It thus remained for the Governor of Texas, Greg Abbot, to declare that "the crisis in India is devastating and demands more action from President Biden". He was explicit on the point that more Covid "vaccines and medical supplies are needed to help one of our most important global allies fight this virus". In a tweet, Abbott urged US citizens to join him in praying for India in what must be reckoned as an almost exceptional expression of concern over public health in India. Similar sentiments were echoed by Republican Senator Ted Cruz ~ "India is a critical friend of the US. Biden's vaccine sharing programme is flawed: We should prioritise our allies such as India, and make sure it receives the Covid-19 vaccines they desperately need." Implicit in his presentation is the fact that the distribution of vaccines beyond the frontiers of the United States has been less than appropriate. Senator Roger Wicker from the Senate Armed Services Committee said that it was important for the US to continue helping other nations beat the coronavirus. He underlined the fact that the US had excess vaccines and they should be sent to India. "Sending excess vaccines to close allies like India doesn't just make sense, it is the right thing to do," the Senator said. The concern for India was crucially the common strand that ran through the presentations. Not that President Biden has been impervious to India's suffering. His noble gesture towards coronavirus patients is in refreshing contrast to the direly ignoble attitude of his predecessor, one that has wrecked the health of the United States and its economy. The President had announced last month that he would send an additional 20 million doses of vaccines abroad by the end of June including, for the first time, shots approved for domestic use, where supply is beginning to outstrip demand. In a remarkable bout of benevolence, almost exceptional, the United States will export 20 million doses of vaccines from Pfizer, Moderna Inc. or Johnson & Johnson. This is in addition to 60 million AstraZeneca doses that he had already planned to give to other countries, according to a senior administration official. Reports do suggest that the measures constitute only the first step as America rivets its attention to quelling the pandemic abroad.

## Subaltern affliction

While it is reassuring to notice a downward curve in Odisha's hitherto unsteady coronavirus graph, it is cause for alarm that the dreaded ailment has afflicted the so-called Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) which inhabits the inaccessible terrain of Nuapada district. Small wonder that the state's public health experts are shaking their heads in disbelief as they flounder in search of the source of the infection. Acutely affected are the Chuktia Bhunja group of tribal settlers, who are among the 13 PVTGs in the state. The residents of the panchayat areas inside the Sunabeda wildlife sanctuary have tested positive. The health authorities are bamboozled as the afflicted are no strangers to the concept of social distancing. Residents of the subaltern belt in Odisha, a predominantly rural state, live in total isolation with little or no connection with society or the world at large. It is virtually impossible to convince the tribal population of the imperative of diagnostic investigation, let alone the dire necessity of vaccines. Out of an estimated 3000 Chuktia Bhunja tribals, barely 100 could be tested thus far and after considerable persuasion. The afflicted segment, and not merely in Nuapada district, have been advised to take medicines and stay at home in isolation. But the health department's appeal has had little or no effect. What will they know of isolation and vaccines who only know of community labour? It has become impossible to convince tribes of the dire need to break what physicians call the "chain of infections". In consequence, infections are spreading at an alarming rate in Odisha's subaltern belt. To that can be added the grinding poverty that has made medical care virtually unaffordable for many, if not most. It thus comes about that none of the settlers could be administered the Covid vaccine "despite the state government's best efforts". Yet another PVTG segment, specifically the Dongria Kondhs of Rayagada district, have seen 136 settlers contracting the disease. A calculated 36 per cent have tested positive. Mercifully, an estimated 834 of the 10,000 Dongria Kondhs, who inhabit 98 villages of the district, have been vaccinated by the district administration. Afflicted no less are the Bonas of Malkangiri district, also integral to the tribal group in the wider canvas. A small fraction of this segment has been vaccinated after prolonged counselling and sensitisation of the region that they inhabit. Indeed, the spread of coronavirus among tribals is in distressing contrast to the narrative last year when primitive tribes were unaffected by the first wave. Sociological studies have shown that the lack of exposure and traditional habits had acted as a shield. While Odisha battles Covid in the developed cities of Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Rourkela for example, conditions in the subaltern belt are frightfully dismal. If this is the situation in a reasonably well-administered state, we must wonder how bad things must be in tribal areas of other states.

# Focus on Sundarbans ~ I

The Sundarbans comprises an ecosystem that forms the frontal area of the Gangetic belt. For all the scenic beauty that the region presents with its unique mangrove forests; for all the biodiversity that it houses; for all the attraction that it has earned as the home of the Royal Bengal Tiger, the region's primary claim to fame is that it is the most powerful bulwark against natural cataclysms



Nature is normally not angry, ferocious, wild, or tamable. More importantly, it encompasses humanity - mankind that is vibrant, thinking, wanting, and often greedy. But things are not going as well as they ought to be due to human wickedness. Nature is both harsh and kind but kinder to those who respect its boundaries and limits. Nature also affords local protection even in adverse circumstances.

"Modern man does not experience himself as a part of the nature but as an outside force destined to dominate and conquer it. He even talks of a battle with nature, forgetting that, if he won the battle, he would find himself on the losing side," said E. F. Schumacher.

It is this frame of human mind that incites natural retribution in a manner that is catastrophic and sometimes cataclysmic. Globally, experts pay attention and devote great energies to prevent some catastrophes from taking place, in at least certain critical sites, with or without success. West Bengal's Sundarbans is considered to be one such region.

Contrary to what the name implies, the Sundarbans is neither just a beautiful forest nor is it just home to the Sundari trees. It comprises an ecosystem that forms the frontal area of the Gangetic belt.

For all the scenic beauty that the region presents with its unique mangrove forests; for all the biodiversity that it houses; for all the attraction that it has earned as the home of the Royal Bengal Tiger, the region's primary claim to fame is that it is the most powerful bulwark against natural cataclysms.

Created at the confluence of

the Ganga, Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers, the Sundarbans is the largest delta (26,000 KM<sup>2</sup>) in the world, spread across the mouth of the Bay of Bengal from India to Bangladesh.

The partition of India resulted in the division of the Sundarbans as well. The Indian portion of the region covers 9603 KM<sup>2</sup> and the forest within the Indian territory sprawls over more than 4262 KM<sup>2</sup>, of which 2320 KM<sup>2</sup> are made up of mangrove forests and the rest is water. On the Indian side are 102 islands, of which 54 are inhabited.

The vast area of the Sundarbans is tidally active where erosion and accretion of land happens to this day. The rivers deposit sediment, estimated at more than a billion tonnes annually, at the sea mouth, which is then carried by high tides into numerous creeks and estuaries in the delta. With every gush of the high tides, the islands get eroded and mudflats are formed.

It is said that Bengal exists because the Sundarbans still survives. But the very existence of Sundarbans is seriously threatened by billowing sea levels, rampant deforestation and increasing salinity. It is estimated that global average increase in sea level during the 20th century was about 17 cm. The IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) has come out with projections for the 21st century, which indicate a range of increase between 18 cm and 59 cm. But the inertia in the system will

ensure that sea-level rise will continue for several centuries. Adapting to global warming in the Sundarbans has been happening incrementally for decades.

The rise in sea levels has meanwhile started showing its might. As many as 13 islands of the region face serious trouble and three of them have already submerged into the Bay of Bengal. The latest in the extinction list is the New Moore Island which Bangladesh refers to as South Talpati. Flooding is commonplace, so are natural disasters. Sidr (2007), Aila (2009), Phani (2013), Bulbul (2019), Amphan (2020) and Yaas (2021),

all devastating cyclones, hit Sundarbans in quick succession and destroyed thousands of farmlands and homes. Villages are disappearing, livelihoods are on the verge of collapsing. Now it is realized that trees of the mangrove forests actually protected residents from nature's fury. But these trees were mistreated, owing

to the natural instincts of humans. However, according to reports of both IPCC and UNESCO, an anthropogenic 45 cm rise in sea level likely within the present century, combined with other forms of anthropogenic stress on the forest, could lead to the destruction of 75 per cent of the Sundarbans mangroves. Indeed, Sundarbans is a sinking ship.

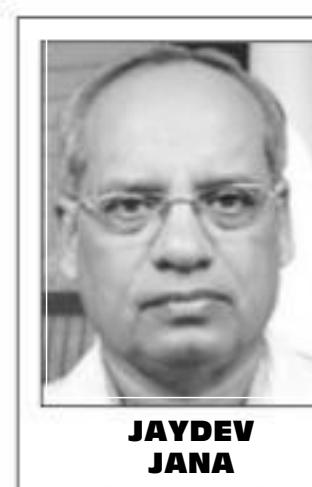
According to UNESCO, the deltaic Sundarbans plays host to 50 out of the 60 mangrove species of India with a wealth of man-

grove flora in the forest. It is home to the world's largest mangrove forests enriched with 36 true, 28 associated, and seven obligatory mangrove species. This is the only mangrove forest in the world inhabited by tigers (Royal Bengal Tigers). It plays host to a rich and unique biota, with a number of threatened reptiles. Its fauna comprises more than 163 bird species, 40 mammal species, and 53 reptile species.

It is also the habitat of the most economic marine estuarine species of fish including 15 prawn species, 67 species of crabs and 23 species of other mollusks. The century-old biosphere reserve of Sundarbans has been internationally recognized. Sundarbans was declared as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1987 and the Indian part of the Sundarbans has been recognized as a Biosphere Reserve in 1989.

The world's largest coastal mangrove forests are located in the 'sinking' Sundarbans. The forests constitute about two-fifths of the Sundarbans regions' overall surface area, with water covering roughly half of that area. For the truthful and holistic description of mangroves we may quote from the Mangrove Action Project (MAP), a US-based non-profit organisation: "One perceives a forest of jagged, gnarled trees protruding from the surface of the sea, roots anchored in deep, black, foul smelling mud, verdant crowns arching towards a blazing sun... Here is where land and sea intertwine, where the line dividing ocean and continent blurs, in this setting the marine biologist and the forest ecologist both must work at the extreme reaches of their discipline."

(To be Concluded)



JAYDEV JANA  
The writer is a retired IAS officer



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

## Battles of the future

SIR, This refers to "Mamata's political moves must be measured" (*The Statesman*, 2 June). The writer, Sunil Sharan, says that Rahul Gandhi refused to endorse Mamata Banerjee as leader of Opposition (and also prime ministerial hopeful) in 2019. Likewise in 2019, Chandrababu Naidu vigorously tried to become leader of the non-BJP Opposition in the country but he failed. This story may be repeated by the fragmented Opposition in 2024 as the past indicates.

Mamata may not even be-

come a short-term Prime Minister like Chandrashekhar, Charan Singh, HD Deve Gowda, IK Gujral and VP Singh because the present political scenario is entirely different from the 1990s. Sharan has placed Mamata alongside Tagore, Subhash Bose, SP Mukherjee and Jyoti Basu. Tagore was not a politician. Bose and Mukherjee were tall political leaders who met with premature deaths. As far as Jyoti Basu is concerned, his party did not let him become even a short-time Prime Minister, decision he termed as a 'Himalayan blunder'.

As a resident of the US, Sha-

ran is fully aware of the predicaments and sensitivities of Asians in that country. He knows how these problems are being tackled by the Biden administration and Congress. India is not free from such prejudices (which I prefer to refrain from specifying).

In this context I recall back in 1977 the Janata Party won a massive majority in the Lok Sabha but a senior national leader like Jagjeet Singh Ram could not become Prime Minister of Ambedkar's India. I visualize that the election battles of 2024 and 2029 will be fought by the young Indian electorate in an arena of charismatic sub-nationalism and the spirit of secu-

## PVT HOSPITALS

SIR, Thousands of patients in India are routinely experiencing arbitrary overbilling at private hospitals and nursing homes. Despite the implementation of health insurance programmes, not all the citizens were benefitted by this. Under Article 21 of the Constitution, it is the primary duty of the government to secure and safeguard the right to life of every citizen, which should not get violated by anyone. So, as a responsibility both the Union and state governments should protect the people facing problems at the hands of private hospitals and nursing homes by exercising executive power to control the pricing strategy. Preservation of human life is the paramount need.

Yours, etc., P S Swagatika Sahoo, Jagatsinghpur, 6 June.

lar nationalism.

Yours, etc., R C Jain, Kolkata, 6 June.

## VALUE OF LIFE

SIR, This is with reference to the article "Is life worth less in India" by Basab Dasgupta (*The Statesman*, 1 June). The article broadly compared American society with present-day Indian society. It is quite natural to assume that higher population has negated the true worth of life in our country. But the population in many African countries is lower than India and even the US. Did this fact cause life to be worth more in those countries? It is wrong to assume that American society places equal worth on human lives. There is discrimination on the basis of skin colour and one's country of origin, even though such discrimination may not be the state's policy. In India, despite its historically higher pop-

ulation, a feeling of community prevailed in the past. Insignificant presence of state mechanisms, especially in rural areas, unified people and made them cooperate with each other. But later on, presence of state mechanisms increased - leading to change in social mechanism. Expectations from the state gradually increased to an absurd degree - often setting the US and/or European standards before the state, without comparing the people and conditions. Any failure on the part of the state is thus interpreted as negligence and indifference. Expecting help/intervention from the state mechanism in every crisis, tendency to avoid one's social responsibilities, lack of sympathy, non-cooperation with the state mechanism - all these have jeopardized the existence of the common people in India.

Yours, etc., Prasenjit Baidya, Subhasgram, 5 June.



AFTAB ALAM

The current round of conflicts between Israel and Hamas which ended recently, at least temporarily, after an Egyptian-brokered ceasefire, has once again triggered a debate on a very contentious issue of international law on the use of force - the invocation of the right of self-defence by a state against an armed attack by non-state actors especially those operating from a territory under its occupation.

The latest outbreak of violence started with the Israeli police crackdown on worshippers at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound and Palestinians who were protesting against their planned and forceful eviction from their homes and land in Sheikh Jarrah in occupied east Jerusalem. This prompted Hamas along with the Palestinian Islamic Jihad group to fire a volley of rockets into Israel in solidarity, triggering air strikes from Israel on May 10 claiming the right to defend itself.

The inherent right of 'individual or collective self defence if an armed attack occurs' has been recognised in Article 51 of the UN Charter. The right of self-defence is an exception to the general prohibition on the 'threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State' as embodied in Article 2(4) of the UN Charter.

Any lawful exercise of the right of self-defence pursuant to Article 51 requires that the defender state is a victim of an armed attack by the aggressor state. However, every use of force may not amount to an 'armed attack' as it has to cross some threshold of intensity as to scale and effect. According to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) it only includes "the most grave form of the use of force" (*Nicaragua v. US*, 1986).

Furthermore, resort to force in self-defence is subject to strict conditions prescribed by international law. Most importantly, it must be directed to repel an 'armed attack' with only measures which are 'proportionate' reflecting the scope, nature and gravity of the attack by the aggressor and 'necessary' to the purpose of driving back the aggression complying with rules relating to the conduct of hostilities. Thus, international law does not allow those self-defence measures which are excessive and not necessary in response to an armed attack.

There are two more conditions which must be met for invocation of the right of self-defence. Firstly, the 'armed attack' must emanate from outside territory under the control of the

## Self-defence claim by Israel flawed



defending state. Secondly, the perpetrator of armed conflict must be a state. Article 51 of the UN Charter has traditionally been interpreted to exclude non-state actors as perpetrators of armed conflict, unless a certain degree of state involvement could be inferred especially when a state from which the non-state actor is operating is unwilling or unable to deal with them.

The view, however, has been contested by some states including Israel and the USA and international law scholars. They argue that there is nothing in the language of Article 51 of the UN Charter that precludes the exercise of the right of self-defence against armed attack by non-state actors. In their views the text of article 51 of the UN Charter only refers to an 'armed attack' without specifying that it should emanate only from a state.

This broader interpretation of the text of the Article 51 gained currency after the attacks on the World Trade Center on 11 September 2001. It was for the first time that terrorists had demonstrated the ability to commit acts comparable in effect to an armed attack by a State.

In the present case Hamas is not operating from a foreign territory but from a territory under Israeli occupation. In their views the text of article 51 of the UN Charter only refers to an 'armed attack' without specifying that it should emanate only from a state.

In the present case Hamas is not operating from a foreign territory but from a territory under Israeli occupation. The ICJ in its 2004 advisory opinion in the *Wall* case also stated that

Israel cannot be allowed to act in self-defence against Hamas as long as it was still regarded as an occupying power in the Gaza Strip.

Israel, however, maintains that its occupation of Gaza ended after its evacuation in 2005. Israel argues that a territory cannot be said to be occupied without "boots on the ground". This is, however, contrary to the situation on the ground. Gaza is still under effective control of Israel as it controls the flow of people and goods and the airspace; patrols the coastline; collects customs and does not allow the building of an airport or seaport; and has the capacity to send troops at any time it decides.

The UN has also been reluctant to accept the view that Gaza is no longer an occupied territory. Even the Israeli Supreme Court in *Ayub, et al. v. Minister of Defense* (2004) admitted that Gaza Strip can still be considered to be an occupied territory. Israel's status as an occupying power has also been confirmed by the ICJ in the *Wall* opinion.

While arguing that as occupying power Israel can't invoke the right of self-defence, it is not to suggest that it

should stand idle or turn the other cheek when Hamas fires rockets and mortars into its territory. In fact, Israel has the right, and indeed the duty, to respond to the security threats emanating from Hamas. It is rather argued that the measures taken by Israel must be in conformity with applicable international law. The most appropriate branch of international law applicable in this case is the law of occupation and *jus in bello* - international humanitarian law (IHL) and not the *jus ad bellum*.

Israel could use belligerent reprisals as justification for its military offensive against Hamas provided it satisfies the conditions laid down under IHL such as the proportionality requirement; the prohibition of indiscriminate attack; the protection of civilians except those taking direct part in hostilities, and civilian objects etc. Media reports suggest that Israel, like in the past, this time has also defied most of these cardinal principles of IHL.

The writer is Professor and Chairperson, Department of Strategic and Security Studies, AMU.

## Objectivity suffers in sedition regime

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA

Two orders given by India's Supreme Court in two separate cases early this month have, once again, brought into sharp focus the issue of the colonial-era law relating to sedition in the context of media freedom. Both cases involve journalists and their reporting.

One case relates to the booking of two journalists of a Telugu language news channel under Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) for telecasting a speech by a dissident leader of Andhra Pradesh's ruling YSR Congress Party, which allegedly spread disaffection with the state government. The other case pertains to an FIR filed against noted journalist Vinod Dua, who was accused of having made remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government's handling of the migrant labour crisis during the Covid-19 lockdown in 2020. In the hearings in both cases, the top court has made important observations which have a strong bearing on media freedom and the future of the sedition law.

In the case relating to the Telugu news channel journalists, the apex court underlined that there is a need for examining afresh the scope of the sedition law, given the frequency of sedition charges being levelled against the media for publishing views critical of the establishment. In the case of Dua, a separate bench of the Supreme Court not only quashed the FIR against him but also said, pointing to a 40-year-old ruling of the apex judiciary, that no journalist can



be arrested just for criticising the government if he or she did not incite violence against the government or foment hatred among communities. The bench made it a point to refer to a 1962 judgement of the top court in the "Kedar Nath Singh versus Union of India" case and averred that every journalist would be entitled to protection in terms of the principles contained in the judgement of the case.

The importance of the Supreme Court orders on June 1 and 3 respectively get amplified when one recalls that a fresh constitutional challenge by two journalists, Kishorechandra Wangkhemcha and Kanhaiya Lal Shukla, is still pending before the apex court.

The media fraternity in the country and the Editors Guild of India have naturally welcomed the two orders of

The political dimension of the use of the sedition law comes out clearly when one sees how several sedition cases were filed in connection with major street protests against the Kudankulam nuclear power project in the southern state of Tamil Nadu when the Congress party ruled India in 2011, and during the violent protests against the BJP dispensation's Citizenship Amendment Act - which gives Indian citizenship to "persecuted" religious minorities from Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan - in December 2019.

The anxiety amongst media professionals over the regularity with which sedition cases have been filed against journalists has often boiled over, leading to calls for abolition of the sedition law. So, the question arises: should the sedition law be done away with? One must realise that even if the law goes, sedition as a crime cannot be wished away. It should be noted that the Supreme Court's 1962 order in the Kedar Nath Singh case upheld the constitutional validity of the sedition law. All that the apex court did was restrict its scope for misuse. In fact, the 1962 ruling's seven principles mention the situations in which the sedition charge cannot be applied.

Section 124A of the IPC says: "Whoever by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards the government established by law in (India) shall be punished..." It has been suggested by many journalists that this formulation

- particularly words like "hatred", "contempt" and "disaffection" - is too vague and leaves a grey area that lends itself to open and subjective interpretations. That perhaps is true of several other laws and not just sedition legislation. It has also been contended that whether a remark or action constitutes *prima facie* sedition should not be left for a police officer or the political executive to decide, but rather a committee of legal experts should take a call on where a sedition case is made out for filing an FIR relating to the charge.

Data dished out by the National Crimes Record Bureau shows that the conviction rate in cases relating to sedition in India is about 3.3 per cent. It is time for the police, an arm of the state often misused by a ruling party to suppress the opposition, and trial courts, which often refuse to grant bail to those accused of sedition, to be very cautious before applying the sedition law. Expression of opinion criticising a government, even if appearing to be toxic at times, can never be held seditious.

The Indian polity has, in the last decade, been sharply polarised. Unfortunately, much of the media too has become highly opinionated bordering on activism, dishing out selective narratives through their news reportage convenient to their political predilections. Such narratives are often presented without a proper perspective on any issue for fear of digging up the past which can be uncomfortable to the ruling party - in either a state or at the Centre. Every story has two sides. But it appears that objectivity as a journalistic value is no longer an option.

The Daily Star/ANN.

NO 28939

100 YEARS AGO

### OCCASIONAL NOTE

A curious controversy has arisen on the subject of the Palestine Defence Force scheme, for which Sir Herbert Samuel is mainly responsible, and which is to include several Arab units. Vehement exception has been taken to the scheme by Mr. V. Jabotinsky, who, writing to the London press, on behalf of the Zionists, refers to the Jaffa riots, in which a number of Jews are alleged to have been killed by Arabs, and asserts that to arm the Arabs will mean death to the Jews. He suggests, as an alternative proposition, that the British garrison should be restored, with a strong Jewish element. Sir Herbert Samuel, on the other hand, finds an uncompromising champion in Lord Eustace Percy, who says: "I hope British public opinion will support Sir Herbert Samuel's Defence scheme and insist that it should be put into operation at once. Already it has been too long delayed." Lord Eustace goes further than this, and maintains that the Zionists in Palestine have made the gross mistake of playing up to the wishes of the small but dangerous communist element in the Jewish population of Palestine. "I write," he concludes, "in the interests of the Jewish national home, and not in opposition to it. If there ever was an administration entitled to our whole-hearted support it is the present British administration of Jerusalem."

### NEWS ITEMS

### INDIAN EMIGRANTS TO FIJI

Chandpur, Je 10  
Mr. C.F. Andrews wires as follows:- Concerning the emigration to Fiji of returned Fiji-born emigrants, it has been pointed out to me that the return even of Fiji-born emigrants during the prolonged strike in Fiji is likely to help the Colonial sugar Refining Company against the strikers. This argument has carried greater weight with me. It is evident from Fiji newspapers that the Fiji Government is expecting an entire reopening of emigration from India and not the return of Fiji-born Indians only, whose number is only a few hundred. This expectation reveals the need of extreme caution. The passage during the monsoon weather is a bad one and I suggest that no further emigration should be allowed during the next few months even of Fiji-born Indians.

### JAIPUR'S ADOPTED HEIR

Jaipur, Je 10  
The festivities that have been continuously in progress when the Maharaja of Jaipur publicly performed the ceremony of the adoption of the ten-year-old son of the Thakur of Isharda, reached their culminating stage this morning when a durbar was held in the audience hall of the Palace at which the Viceroy's Khariata, recognising and confirming the adoption, was delivered by the Hon. Mr. R.E. Holland, Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana. Owing to his present state of ill-health the Maharaja was unable to attend the durbar. The Khariata was brought in a State carriage from the Residency, an escort of twelve sowars of the State cavalry accompanying it. After the Maharaj Kumar had been presented to Mr. Holland, a procession was formed and moved up to the Durbar Hall.

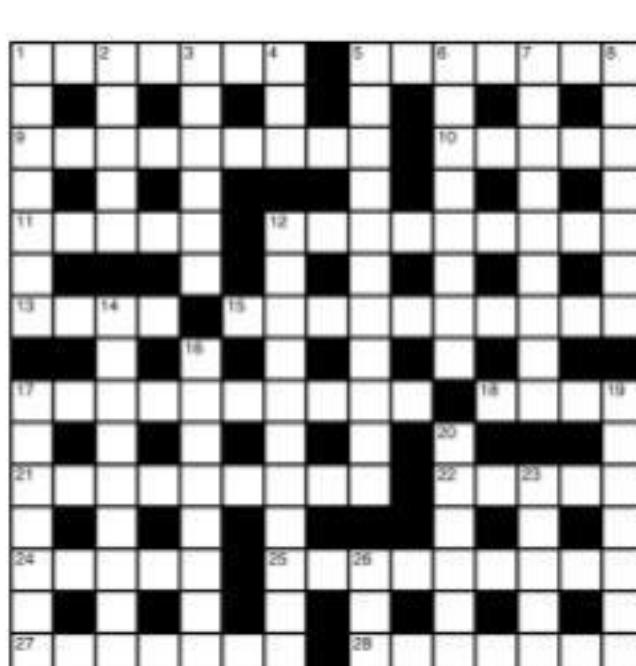
### POONA SHOOTING CASE

Poona, Je 10  
Sergeant G.A. Coles, the accused in the shooting case, in his statement before the District Magistrate said that he knew nothing of the accident. He believed that he fired three rounds in the neighbourhood of the place where the man was killed, but missed the deer. Before he fired he had seen a man about a mile away to the west. He learnt of the accident three hours later near the village of Upalwate. Some of the others of the party, he believed, had fired at a deer, but he was not sure. From that he concluded it could not have been one of their party who had shot the man.

### TEA GARDEN COOLIES AT GOALUNDO

Goalundo, Je 10  
The position here with regard to the steamer and cooly strike is unchanged. Today is the fourteenth day of the strike. The S.S. Kohistan with tea garden coolies on board arrived here at 10 P.M. Mr. Blackmore, Joint Agent of the steamer companies looked after their safe landing and the Collector, the Sub-Divisional Officer and the Superintendent of Police supervised the arrangements made in connection with their arrival. When the coolies reached the platform milk, chapatis, curry, rice and dal were distributed. Clothes were also given to the coolies. As the special steamer off there were shouts of "Gandhi Maharaj k Jai." Another batch of coolies is expected soon from Chandpur.

### CROSSWORD



#### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

#### ACROSS

- 1 Pass round a dirty place, a Government building (7)
- 5 Competing in pursuit of sides in league (7)
- 9 Winged creature, vaguely clear, about to hover (9)
- 10 God, for one Rector, will involve source of tension (5)
- 11 Feeling hot meal is missing starter (5)
- 12 Developed pleasure in penning two lines and good further line (4-5)
- 13 Failure in team is sacked (4)
- 15 Detective in midst of storm pursuing soldier (7,3)
- 17 Carnal, with a bed prepared - romantic lighting? (10)
- 18 Check stone emblem's edges (4)

#### DOWN

- 1 What oblivious theatre-goer may do in part of London (7)
- 2 Nut found in Cape Canaveral (5)
- 3 Poor-quality wood used in test (6)
- 4 Mathematical tool the target of hack? (3)
- 5 Told stories about heartless lady being dastardly (4-7)
- 21 Stopped including section 13 - it's rejected (9)
- 22 Not stunned, dispatching a single (5)
- 24 Big story / cover, involving Australian (5)
- 25 Recalled main article linked to movement of an artistic kind (9)
- 27 Mammal - something necessary when housing revolutionary collection of animals (7)
- 28 See 12 Down

#### 6 Member of tribe settling in Toulouse - see one leave aboard this at sea (8)

- 7 Popular races engaging traveller, one not boosted by others (9)
- 8 French river running north through French station (7)
- 12/28 Mathematical claim confusing for elite maths master? Not I (7,4,7)
- 14 Tabloid is upset initially on identifying daring starlet's curves (9)
- 16 US director supporting live puzzle (8)
- 17 IT-based design with not a word about one reactor element (7)
- 19 No time for doctor saying little (7)
- 20 English regret getting upset about chief American card game (6)
- 23 Quality, one not observed in restaurant worker (5)
- 26 Regular contributors to swift session (3)

NOTE: Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required. (By arrangement with The Independent, London)



We need to make CSR an actionable agenda. CSR is dynamic, scalable and sustainable and we should also look at the impact of CSR.

ANURAG SINGH THAKUR  
UNION MINISTER

## THUMBNAILS

RBI to purchase G-secs worth ₹40,000 crore: The Reserve Bank of India on Thursday announced the third tranche of open market purchase of government securities worth Rs 40,000 crore under the G-Sec Acquisition Programme (G-SAP 1.0) will be held on 17 June, with a view to enabling a stable and orderly evolution of the yield curve. In April, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had said that the RBI would conduct open market purchase of government securities of Rs 1 lakh crore under the G-SAP 1.0 in the first quarter of the financial year 2021-22. PTI

**Summer school for Engineers:** Coforge Limited, a leading global IT solutions organisation, and TalentSprint, India's leading edtech company from the NSE Group, have announced a fast-track, placement-linked summer school to transform new engineering graduates into business process automation and low-code platform professionals, according to a Press release statement. SNS

**Poco 5G phone:** Smartphone maker Poco has unveiled its first 5G smartphone in the country ~ Poco M3 Pro. The smartphone comes with dual 5G support and offers an immersive 90 Hz full high-definition display, and flagship-level 7nm power efficiency, said a company release. SNS

**Vaccination drive:** CNH Industrial, a global leader in the capital goods sector, which produces agricultural equipment (Case IH and New Holland Agriculture) and construction equipment (CASE Construction Equipment) in India announced an in-house Covid-19 vaccination drive for its entire Indian workforce to further ensure their health, safety and well-being, said the Press release. SNS

**AmpliNXT launched:** Soft-Teck Engineers Limited a pioneer in the Software solutions for Architecture, Engineering, and Construction (AEC) sector has announced the launch of its hybrid corporate venture programme, AmpliNXT, to integrate the benefits of an incubator, an accelerator, and a corporate venture. It offers tailored support industries experts, entrepreneurs, and domain experts, said the Press release. SNS

**Honda water pumps:** Honda India Power Products Limited, manufacturer of power products, has launched 2-inch & 3-inch categories of "Self-priming - Gasoline (petrol) driven water pumps". Farmers looking to irrigate crops have been demanding light-weight and economical pumps to increase their productivity, said the company. SNS

**Dettol campaign:** Dettol has launched a one-of-its-kind campaign - #DettolSalutes today. For the first time in its history, Dettol, as a tribute to Covid-19 warriors, replaced its iconic logo with an image of a Covid protector along with the "protector's" inspiring story, according to a Press statement. SNS

# Tata to buy majority stake in 1MG

Investment in line with vision: Company

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 10 JUNE

**T**ata Digital Ltd, a wholly-owned arm of Tata Sons, today said it will acquire a majority stake in 1MG Technologies Ltd, an online healthcare marketplace. The company, however, did not disclose the financial details of the transaction.

Just days after the company said it will invest \$75 million (around Rs 550 crore) in fitness-focused CureFit Healthcare for an undisclosed stake, Tata Digital said its investment in 1MG is in line with Tata Group's vision of creating a digital ecosystem which addresses the consumer needs across categories in a unified manner.

Tata Digital said e-pharmacy, e-diagnostics and tele-consultation are critical segments in this ecosystem and have been among the fastest growing segments in this space, as this sector enabled access to healthcare through the pandemic. The overall market is around \$1 billion and is expected to grow at around 50 per cent compound annual growth rate (CAGR), driven by increased health awareness among consumers and greater convenience. This category will form a key element of the Tata Digital ecosystem offering.

"The investment in 1MG strengthens Tata's ability to provide superior customer experience and high-quality healthcare products & services in the e-pharmacy and e-diagnostic space through a technology-led platform," Tata Digital CEO Pratik Pal said in a statement.

1MG co-founder and CEO Prashant Tandon said, the investment by the Tatas "marks a significant milestone in 1MG's journey to make high-quality healthcare products and services accessible to customers across India."

The deal would pit the salt-to-software conglomerate against Ambani's JioMart, Amazon and Walmart's Flipkart for a piece of the online grocery business that has grown exponentially during the pandemic.

About half of India's \$1 trillion retail market comprises grocery sales. The online grocery market is expected to reach \$4.3 billion in 2021 from \$2.9 billion in the previous year.

**DEAL IN HEALTHCARE**

• The investment in 1MG strengthens Tata's ability to provide superior customer experience and high-quality healthcare products & services in the e-pharmacy and e-diagnostic space through a technology-led platform.

PRATIK PAL  
TATA DIGITAL CEO

vices and tele-consultation to customers.

The company currently operates three state-of-the-art diagnostic labs, has a supply chain covering over 20,000 pincodes across the country and through its subsidiaries is also engaged in the business of B2B distribution of medicines & other healthcare products, the statement said.

On Monday, Tata Digital had announced that it would invest \$75 million (around Rs 550 crore) in fitness-focused CureFit Healthcare for an undisclosed stake. CureFit's founder and chief executive Mukesh Bansal will join Tata Digital in an executive role as its president, an official statement had said, adding he will continue in his leadership role at CureFit as well.

The salt-to-software conglomerate Tata Group has been on an acquisition spree in the e-commerce space. Last month, it had acquired a majority stake in online grocery seller BigBasket for an undisclosed sum of money, pitting it against the likes of billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance and Amazon.

The deal would pit the salt-to-software conglomerate against Ambani's JioMart, Amazon and Walmart's Flipkart for a piece of the online grocery business that has grown exponentially during the pandemic.

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## BharatPe acquires Payback India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 10 JUNE



• The company is committed to build India's largest and most engaged merchant network and this acquisition will be a game-changer in that regard.

ASHNEER GROVER  
BHARATPE CO-FOUNDER AND CEO

BharatPe's strategy to build a robust and engaged network of over 20 million small merchants by 2023, the statement said.

With Payback India, BharatPe will be able to enhance its value proposition for the merchant partners, it added.

Additionally, it will enable BharatPe to build a lucrative set of offerings for end customers, that will enhance

footfalls at merchants and accelerate the growth of their businesses.

As a result of the acquisition, all Payback India employees will become part of the BharatPe group.

Suhail Sameer and Gautam Kaushik (group presidents at BharatPe) along with Sumeet Singh, general counsel of BharatPe, have joined the board of Payback India.

The role of the senior leadership team at Payback India will be expanded to also work on the loyalty programme for the six-million-plus merchants of BharatPe, it added.

The team, led by Pramod Mahanta (MD PaybackIndia) and Rijish Raghavan (chief executive officer at Payback India), will be working closely with Gautam Kaushik to build a new version of Payback India.

Notably, Kaushik was the CEO and MD of Payback India prior to joining BharatPe in

February this year.

The company (Payback India) will continue operating under its current name and there will be no impact on the existing customer and partner relationships with Payback India that will continue to roll out initiatives for customers across India, the statement noted.

"With the acquisition of Payback India, we will be able to add a whole new dimension to our merchant value proposition.

In addition to the range of payment and credit products which BharatPe offers to help merchants scale their business, we will also be able to drive more consumers to their stores," BharatPe co-founder and CEO Ashneer Grover said.

He added that the company is committed to build India's largest and most engaged merchant network and this acquisition will be a "game-changer" in that regard.

However, customers will continue to be eligible for five free transactions (inclusive of

financial and non-financial transactions) every month from their own bank ATMs.

The Reserve Bank of India today permitted banks to increase charges for cash and non-cash ATM transactions beyond free monthly permissible limit from next year.

Bank customers will have to pay Rs 21 per transaction, instead of Rs 20, with effect from 1 January 2022, if they exceed the monthly limit of free transactions.

"To compensate the banks for the higher inter-change fee and given the general escalation in costs, they are allowed to increase the customer charges to Rs 21 per transaction. This increase shall be effective from 1 January 2022," the RBI said in a circular.

However, customers will continue to be eligible for five free transactions (inclusive of

## Reliance shuts unit at Jamnagar

NEW DELHI, 10 JUNE

Reliance Industries Ltd said it has shut a secondary unit at its only-for-exports oil refinery at Jamnagar in Gujarat, which may delay shipment of some product cargoes.

"The Fluidized Catalytic Cracker Unit (FCCU) in our SEZ refinery at Jamnagar had to be taken for an emergency shutdown on 6 June 2021," the firm said. Reliance has two refineries that turn crude oil into value-added fuel such as petrol and diesel at Jamnagar - a 35.2 million-ton-a-year only-for-exports unit and a 33-million-ton plant catering to the domestic market.

"All other units at the Jamnagar refining complex are operating normally," Reliance said. "Consequently, some product shipments may get delayed and we are working to minimise the impact on our customers," the company added. The FCCU unit, it said, is being repaired on top priority.

## ICRA sees 8.5% GDP growth in FY'22

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI, 10 JUNE

With decline in number of fresh Covid-19 cases and easing of restrictions, the country's gross domestic product (GDP) will grow by 8.5 per cent in FY 2021-22, according to credit rating agency ICRA Ratings.

It expects the gross value added (GVA) at basic prices (at constant 2011-12 prices) to grow at 7.3 per cent in FY2022.

"The impact of the second wave of Covid-19 and the ensuing state-wise restrictions was seen across a variety of high-frequency indicators in April-May 2021. Now that the fresh cases have moderated, and restrictions are being eased, we have placed our baseline GDP growth forecast for FY2022 at 8.5 per cent."

ADITI NAYAR

ICRA CHIEF ECONOMIST



as high as 9.5 per cent, with a widening upside in Q3 and Q4 of FY2022.

In FY2020-21, the country's GDP contracted by 7.3 per cent. Last week, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had projected real GDP growth at 9.5 per cent in fiscal 2021-22.

For the full year, it expects the GDP growth to exceed the GVA growth by 120 basis points (bps), based on the expectations related to the value of taxes on products and subsidies on products

in FY2022. It has taken into account the likely higher outgo towards food subsidies by the government in FY2022, relative to the budgeted level, following the decision to provide free foodgrain in May-November 2021.

The agency has excluded the impact of the release of food subsidy arrears in 2021 compared to 2020, it expects the combination of the sharp rise in rural infections, loss of employment as well as remittances to weaken the rural sentiment and demand.

overnment cannot be ascertained at present, Nayar said, adding: "Therefore, we caution that the quarterly trend in GDP growth could differ from our baseline assumption (+14.9 per cent in Q1, +8 per cent in Q2, +5.6 per cent in Q3 and -7 per cent in Q4 of FY2022), based on when the subsidy pay-out is booked."

The rating agency expects a prolonged negative impact of the second wave on consumer sentiment and demand, with healthcare and fuel expenses eating into disposable income, and less pent-up/replacement demand in FY2022 relative to FY2021.

Notwithstanding the expectation of a normal monsoon buffering the prospects for crop output and reverse migration in 2021 compared to 2020, it expects the combination of the sharp rise in rural infections, loss of employment as well as remittances to weaken the rural sentiment and demand.

## Sensex snaps 2-day losing streak, rises 359 points

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI, 10 JUNE

Equity benchmarks returned to winning ways today after two days of declines as investors snapped up financial, pharma and IT stocks which looked reasonable compared to their expensive larger peers.

"While the Bajaj twins provided the firepower to the index, the small and mid-caps put up a stellar show yet again despite apprehensions on higher valuations in select segments," he added.

Sectorally, BSE realty, healthcare, finance and telecom indices emerged as the top performers, with gains of as much as 3.27 per cent. Broader BSE small-cap and mid-cap indices rose 1.73 per cent and 1.26 per cent, respectively. The large-cap index followed with 0.73 per cent gains.

On the forex market front, the Indian rupee lost 9 paise to end at 73.06 against the US dollar today. Foreign institutional investors were net sellers in the capital market on Wednesday.

said bulls were charged up on weekly derivatives expiry day and broader markets saw selective buying in stocks which looked reasonable compared to their expensive larger peers.

"Ahead of US inflation data and European Central Bank policy meeting outcome, Indian equities reflected its Asian counterparts to trade on a positive note.

"With faster vaccine coverage and off-loading of fiscal measures, the economic impact of Covid second wave will most likely be restricted to Q1 FY22, as per the monthly report of the department of economic affairs. Gains in the market were broad-based with all major sectors except auto," said Vinod Nair, head of research at Geojit Financial Services.

S Ranganathan, head of research at LKP Securities,

and their small size.

Under DSF, liberal terms including pricing and marketing freedom are offered, making them viable.

"There will be no DSF next time. Next time, it will be a 'major' round (auction of large fields)," Pradhan said.

He said the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH), the oil ministry's technical arm, has the "full mandate" to identify unmonetised major fields that could be offered for bidding.

"Resources don't belong to a company. They belong to the nation and the government. They cannot lie with a company indefinitely. If somebody cannot monetise them, we will have to bring a new regime," he said. The statement comes weeks after his ministry said India's largest oil and gas producer ONGC to sell a stake in producing oil fields such as Ratna R-Series in western offshore to private firms and get foreign partners in KG basin gas fields.

## ATM transaction beyond free permissible limit to cost more

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI, 10 JUNE

The Reserve Bank of India today permitted banks to increase charges for cash and non-cash ATM transactions beyond free monthly permissible limit from next year.

Bank customers will have to pay Rs 21 per transaction, instead of Rs 20, with effect from 1 January 2022, if they exceed the monthly limit of free transactions.

"To compensate the banks for the higher inter-change fee and given the general escalation in costs, they are allowed to increase the customer charges to Rs 21 per transaction. This increase shall be effective from 1 January 2022," the RBI said in a circular.

However, customers will continue to be eligible for five free transactions (inclusive of

financial and non-financial transactions) every month from their own bank ATMs. They would also be able to do three free transactions from other bank ATMs in metro centres and five in non-metro centres.

It is to be noted here that the central bank had set up a committee in June 2019 under the chairmanship of the chief executive of Indian Banks' Association to review the entire gamut of automated teller machine (ATM) charges and fees with particular focus on interchange structure for ATM transactions.

The RBI said the suggestions of the panel were comprehensively examined.

There were 1,15,605 onsite ATMs and 97,970 off-site ones as on 31 March 2021. About 90 crore debit cards issued by different banks were outstanding at end-March 2021.

## EC50/EC55 mobile computers in 100 list

NEW DELHI, 9 JUNE

Zebra Technologies Corporation (NASDAQ: ZBRA), an innovator at the front line of business with solutions and partners that deliver a performance edge, today announced that CRN, a brand of the Channel Company, has named the EC50/EC55 enterprise mobile computers to its 2021 mobile 100 list.

The EC50/EC55 were recognised among the 20 coolest phones, accessories and mobile computers of 2021.

The CRN Mobile 100 list has become an indispensable resource for solution providers looking to meet their mobility needs with only the best technology and services from IT suppliers.

## FSSAI directive to food companies

PRESS TR



The countries are putting systems in place that will enable such a bubble to emerge between Singapore and Australia.

AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER SCOTT MORRISON

COMMENTING ON THE PREPARATIONS FOR SETTING UP TRAVEL CORRIDOR

The Statesman  
NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 11 JUNE 2021

09

# Myanmar junta hits Suu Kyi with corruption charges

Suu Kyi's lawyers already denied the allegations when they were first raised three months ago

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BANGKOK, 10 JUNE

The Anti-Corruption Commission in military-ruled Myanmar has found that ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi accepted bribes and misused her authority to gain advantageous terms in real estate deals, government-controlled media reported Thursday.

Suu Kyi's lawyers already denied the allegations when they were first raised three months ago by the military regime that toppled her elected government in a February coup. The commission's findings come as prosecutors are set to present their case on separate charges against Suu Kyi in court on Monday.

Suu Kyi's supporters say all of the charges are politically motivated and an attempt to discredit her and legitimize the military's seizure of power. The coup has been wildly unpopu-



lar among Myanmar's people, who voted overwhelmingly for Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party in last year's general election after a first five-year term in office. If convicted of any of the offenses, Suu Kyi could be banned from running in the next election, should there be one. The junta has claimed it will hold new elections, within the next year or two, but the country's military has a long history of promising elections and not following through.

The military ruled Myan-

mar for 50 years after a coup in 1962, and kept Suu Kyi under house arrest for 15 years after a failed 1988 popular uprising against army rule.

Since February's coup Suu Kyi has already been charged with spreading information that could cause public alarm or unrest. She also faces two counts of violating the Natural Disaster Management Law for allegedly breaking COVID-19 pandemic restrictions during the 2020 election campaign; illegally importing walkie-talkies that were for her bodyguards' use; and unlicensed use of the radios.

Another charge, breaching the colonial-era Official Secrets Act, is being handled separately.

Thursday's report of Myanmar newspaper said the complaints based on the Anti-Corruption Commission's findings were filed at the relevant police stations on Wednesday. Other media,

including state television MRTV, carried the same report. The report said Suu Kyi has been charged under Section 55 of the Anti-Corruption Law, which states that political office holders convicted

teur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, Tom Andrews called for international pressure on the junta to deprive it of the resources needed to continue these brutal attacks on the people of Myanmar.

Mass deaths from starvation, disease and exposure could occur in Kayah state after many of the 100,000 forced to flee into forests from junta bombs are now cut off from food, he said.

The UN special rapporteur

for bribery face a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison and a fine. It would be the most severe penalty she faces; the Official Secrets Act has a maximum 14 years' prison term.

## Myanmar military plane crash kills 11

BANGKOK, 10 JUNE

A well-known senior Buddhist monk was among at least 12 people who died when a plane belonging to Myanmar's military crashed Thursday in the country's central Mandalay region.

A boy was one of two survivors on the flight from the capital, Naypyitaw, to Pyin Oo Lwin. The plane was carrying six military personnel in addition to two monks and six devotees to Pyin Oo Lwin for a ceremony.

AP

## Two Palestinian officers killed in West Bank shootout

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
RAMALLAH, 10 JUNE

Palestinian was severely wounded in the shootout. There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military.

A poster circulated on local media identified the two dead as members of the Palestinian Authority's Military Intelligence force.

Israeli raids in autonomous West Bank areas administered by the Palestinian Authority are common, and they are usually meant to arrest wanted Palestinians. However, clashes with the Palestinian forces are rare.

The ministry said a third

carried fuel, food and equipment to the station in preparation for the crewed mission.

The Long March-2F Y12 rocket carrying the Shenzhou-12 spaceship was transferred to the launch pad at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China on Wednesday, the China Manned Space Engineering Office said in a brief statement.

The space agency plans a total of 11 launches through the end of next year to deliver two laboratory modules to expand the 70-ton station, along with supplies and crew members. Next week's launch will be the third of those, and

the first of the four crewed missions planned.

China said in March the astronauts training for the upcoming crewed missions were a mix of space travel veterans and newcomers and included some women. It has sent 11 astronauts into space to date, all of them pilots from the ruling Communist Party's military wing.

The first Tianhe crew will be all male, though women will be part of future crews on the station, according to Yang Liwei, who orbited Earth in China's first crewed mission in 2003 and is now an official at the space agency.

## Rocket on pad, China ready to send first crew to space station

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
BEIJING, 10 JUNE

The rocket that will send the first crew members to live on China's new orbiting space station has been moved onto the launch pad ahead of its planned blastoff next week.

The three astronauts plan to spend three months on the space station doing spacewalks, construction and maintenance work and science experiments.

The main section of the Tianhe, or Heavenly Harmony, station was launched into orbit on 29 April, and a cargo spacecraft sent up last month

will be the third of those, and the first of the four crewed missions planned.

China said in March the astronauts training for the upcoming crewed missions were a mix of space travel veterans and newcomers and included some women. It has sent 11 astronauts into space to date, all of them pilots from the ruling Communist Party's military wing.

The first Tianhe crew will be all male, though women will be part of future crews on the station, according to Yang Liwei, who orbited Earth in China's first crewed mission in 2003 and is now an official at the space agency.

## Pakistan to hold legislative assembly elections in POK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
ISLAMABAD, 10 JUNE

Pakistan-occupied Kashmir's top election official announced on Thursday to hold the general election for the legislative assembly on 25 July, despite appeals to postpone the polls for two months due to the threat of resurgence of the coronavirus.

Last year, Pakistan conducted the legislative assembly election in Gilgit-Baltistan.

India had slammed Pakistan for its decision to hold

elections in Gilgit-Baltistan and said any action to alter the status of the militarily-occupied region has no legal basis.

India has also clearly conveyed to Pakistan that the entire Union territories of

Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, including the areas of Gilgit and Baltistan, are an integral part of the country.

Chief Election Commissioner Justice (retd.) Abdul Rashid Sulehria unveiled the schedule for the elections at a press conference in Muzaffarabad, capital of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

The people of Kashmir (PoK) will use their right to vote on 25 July for good governance, said Sulehria, who is head of the PoK election commission.

The president's office announced that president Gotabaya Rajapaksa

## Sri Lanka requests AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine from Japan

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
COLOMBO, 10 JUNE

requested Prime Minister of Japan Yoshihide Suga provide 600,000 doses of AstraZeneca.

The request has been met with positive responses, according to a statement from the president's office.

Sri Lanka is currently using China's Sinopharm and Russia's Sputnik V vaccines.

The country has witnessed an increase of positive cases and deaths since April, partly caused by celebrations and shopping during last month's traditional new year festival.

Sri Lanka has registered more than 2,10,000 cases.

## China passes new law to counter foreign sanctions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
BEIJING, 10 JUNE

China's Parliament on Thursday passed the Anti-foreign Sanctions Law, providing a comprehensive legal cover for blocking foreign sanctions against Chinese officials and entities and protecting them against the long-arm jurisdiction, especially from the US.

The law was passed by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), China's national legislature. The law was passed in the backdrop of the US and EU countries slapping sanctions against a number of Chinese entities and officials over allegations of human rights violations.

The law was passed by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), China's national legislature. The law was passed in the backdrop of the US and EU countries slapping sanctions against a number of Chinese entities and officials over allegations of human rights violations.

lations against Muslim Uyghurs in Xinjiang and the imposition of China's national security law in Hong Kong.

The sanctions were introduced as a coordinated effort by the European Union, UK, US and Canada. China responded with its own sanctions on European officials.

The new law sparked con-

cerns among foreign companies over the lack of transparency around the legislative process and the potential impact on businesses in China, which analysts say will need to be wary of being linked to foreign entities under Chinese sanctions, Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported.

For some time, out of political manipulation needs and ideological bias, some Western countries have used Xinjiang and Hong Kong-related issues as part of their pretexts to spread rumours on and smear, contain and suppress China, the office of the Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC said.

Defending the law, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing here on Thursday that to safeguard China's national sovereignty, dignity, and core interests and oppose western hegemonism and power politics, the Chinese government has announced counter measures against relevant individuals and entities

of certain countries.

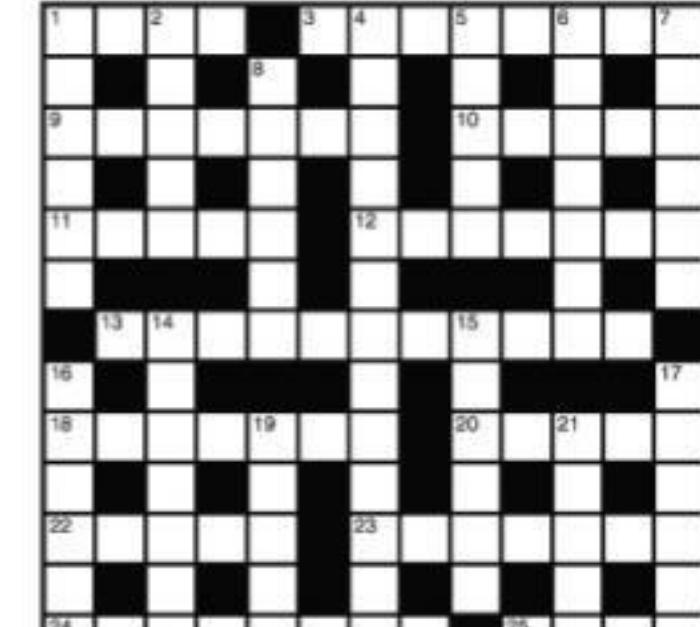
Meanwhile, we believe it is necessary for the country to have specific laws to counter foreign sanctions so that we have legal basis and guarantee for such countermeasures, he said, ruling out that the law will affect China's relations with other countries.

China's legal experts say the Anti-foreign Sanctions Law, the first of its kind in China, will provide strong legal support and guarantees for the country against unilateral and discriminatory measures imposed by foreign countries.

Meanwhile, we believe it is necessary for the country to have specific laws to counter foreign sanctions, he said.

## LEISURE

### 10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



**ACROSS**

- 1 Fish's breathing organ (4)
- 3 Daytime social event (3,5)
- 9 Satiated (7)
- 10 Desert animal (5)
- 11 Beauty parlour (5)
- 12 Accidentally meet (3,4)
- 13 Family money-earner (11)
- 18 Obtain (7)
- 20 Moment (5)
- 22 Scots landowner (5)
- 23 French white wine (7)
- 24 Receptive (8)
- 25 Acid (4)
- 26 Round the (5)
- 27 Ice house (5)
- 28 Down
- 29 Sow
- 30 Root (Sauer-kraut, 3)
- 31 Aliment, 22 C. (6)
- 32 Unw. (7)
- 33 C. (6)
- 34 D. (6)
- 35 Round the (5)
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**SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD**

- 1 Fish's breathing organ (4) LURID
- 3 Daytime social event (3,5) WINE
- 9 Satiated (7) FULL
- 10 Desert animal (5) KANGAROO
- 11 Beauty parlour (5) HAIR SALON
- 12 Accidentally meet (3,4) COINCIDE
- 13 Family money-earner (11) EARNER
- 18 Obtain (7) ACQUIRE
- 20 Moment (5) SPANISH
- 22 Scots landowner (5) TARTAN
- 23 French white wine (7) CHABLIS
- 24 Receptive (8) SENSITIVE
- 25 Acid (4) CITRIC
- 26 Round the (5) CIRCUMSTANCES
- 27 Ice house (5) GLACIERS
- 28 Down WINE
- 29 Sow COW
- 30 Root (Sauer-kraut, 3) KRAUT
- 31 Aliment, 22 C. (6) NUTRITION
- 32 Unw. (7) INNATE
- 33 C. (6) INNATE
- 34 D. (6) INNATE
- 35 Round the (5) INNATE
- 36 Down C. (6) INNATE
- 37 C. (6) INNATE
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By arrangement with The Independent. Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required



There are no tax increases. That is a red line for us.

UNITED STATES REPUBLICAN SENATOR MITT ROMNEY  
ON CRAFTING A U.S. INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN WITHOUT TAX HIKES

## WEATHER

CITY	MAX(°C)	MIN(°C)
SINGAPORE	32	26 R
HONG KONG	33	28 H
TOKYO	23	22 CL
LONDON	24	16 S
DUBAI	38	29 S
SAN FRANCISCO	17	11 H
NEW YORK	28	16 CL
MOSCOW	16	13 H

S=sunny, CL= clear, H=hazy, R=rainy...

## THUMBNAILS



Britain's Prince Charles cycles with representatives of the British Asian Trust at Highgrove in Gloucestershire before they embark on the charity's 'Palaces on Wheels' cycling event, in England. AGENCE

**Sacrificial lottery:** A 19-year-old man brutally stabbed two sisters to death and hid their bodies in UK's Wembley Park last year to win a lottery. Danyal Hussein killed Nicole Smallman and Bibaa Henry attack in London. The police found a note in Hussein's living quarters which proves that he "planned to sacrifice women so that he could make money" from a "demon delivering a lottery win to him, the prosecution said." AP

**Far-right probe:** The German city of Frankfurt's tactical police unit is being disbanded amid an investigation of some members' suspected participation in a chat group where far-right messages were exchanged, authorities said. AP

# G-7 summit: Allies hope to bond & look beyond virus

Meeting will be dominated by Covid, with discussions focusing on physical, economic recovery

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
LONDON, 10 JUNE



There will be round-table meetings, one-on-one chats and a group photo against a picturesque backdrop. When leaders of some of the world's richest nations meet Friday at the English seaside for a three-day Group of Seven summit, much of the choreography will be familiar. But the world has changed dramatically.

When British PM Boris Johnson welcomes US President Joe Biden and the leaders of France, Germany, Italy, Japan and Canada to the cliff-lined Carbis Bay beach resort in southwest England, pandemic recovery building back better – in a phrase both Biden and Johnson like – will top the agenda.

Johnson said the meeting would help move from a miserable period of competition and squabbling that marked the early response to the pandemic.

This is the moment for

the world's greatest and most technologically advanced democracies to shoulder their responsibilities and to vaccinate the world, because no one can be properly protected until everyone has been protected, he said in an article published Thursday, a day before the summit's official start.

That's still on the agenda, but the meeting will be dominated by Covid, with discussions focusing on physical and economic recovery and building resilience against future pandemics. Lest anyone forget that the virus is still raging, there will be daily coronavirus tests for attending politicians, diplomats,

staff and journalists. Johnson also noted that the British government helped fund development at Oxford University of the AstraZeneca vaccine, which accounts for one in three doses around the world.

France said President Emmanuel Macron wanted to see results and not just announcements on vaccines.

We need a specific calendar how many people worldwide and especially in Africa will be vaccinated" before a meeting of the G-20 in Rome in October, an official in the president's office said, noting that Africa has received under 2% of the world's covid vaccine doses.

## Covid cases 'very clearly' going up: Boris

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LONDON, 10 JUNE



up enough protection in the population in order for us to go ahead to the next stage," he said.

Scientists are broadly agreed that the UK may be at the start of a third wave, caused by the Delta variant the highly transmissible B1.617.2 variant of concern (VOC) first identified in India. The size of that wave depends

on how effective vaccines are at protecting people, with both doses of a Covid-19 vaccine found to be more effective against the Delta VOC than just one. "The reason we've been doing the steps on the roadmap with five-week intervals is to give us time to look at all the data as it comes in and assess the state of the pandemic before we go forward

to the next step. So on Monday that four-week period will be up and we'll look at where we are," said Johnson.

On Wednesday, another 7,540 people tested positive for Covid the highest since end-February. There were also a further six Covid deaths, with a total of 1,024 people now being treated in hospital with the deadly virus, up 69 in a week.

Meanwhile, enhanced testing and vaccination measures are being rolled out in the Delta variant hotspot areas of north-west England.

Getting the vaccine gives a strong level of protection against this variant and I strongly recommend that everyone gets the jab when the NHS invites you – it will protect you and your loved ones, said Dr Jenny Harries, Chief Executive of the UK Health Security Agency.

## EU vows a firm response as Brexit tensions rise involving N Ireland

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
BRUSSELS, 10 JUNE

Top European Union officials vowed Thursday to use all measures available to ensure that the United Kingdom respects the terms of its Brexit agreement with the bloc as tensions rise over trade involving Northern Ireland.

It is paramount to implement what we have decided. This is a question of rule of law, European Council President Charles Michel said.

We will use all the tools we have in order to make sure that we defend our interests and to protect the integrity of the single market.

In an effort to defuse the row, Michel and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen are set to hold talks with U.K. PM Boris Johnson on the sidelines of a summit of the Group of Seven

major powers in England. The row centers on provisions of the Brexit deal that essentially created a regulatory border between Northern Ireland and the rest of the United Kingdom.

That angered many pro-British residents of the territory who reject anything that threatens their status as part of the U.K.

The Northern Ireland protocol was designed to keep the peace there by ensuring that trade with the Republic of Ireland, an EU member country, continued to flow freely after Britain left the bloc.

The protocol requires Britain to check certain goods shipped to the region from elsewhere in the U.K.

Earlier this year, Britain unilaterally delayed some of those inspections, saying it needed more time to put the right systems in place.

The EU threatened legal

action over what it saw as a breach of Britain's international obligations. Now the U.K. government is considering further delays.

Von der Leyen told reporters that the EU has shown flexibility, we will show flexibility, but the protocol and the (Brexit) Withdrawal Agreement has to be implemented completely.

She said the EU is determined to do everything to keep peace there by ensuring that trade with the Republic of Ireland, an EU member country, continued to flow freely after Britain left the bloc.

Von der Leyen said the bloc would not hesitate to use remedies laid out in the Brexit agreement, including referring the dispute to an arbitration panel, which could hit the U.K. with financial sanctions, or by the EU imposing punitive tariffs on imports of goods from Britain.

## Frenchman gets four-month jail term for slapping Macron

VALENCE (FRANCE), 10 JUNE

A 28-year-old Frenchman Damien Tarel who described himself as a right-wing or extreme-right patriot was sentenced to four months in prison Thursday for slapping President Emmanuel Macron in the face.

Tarel was also banned from ever holding public office in France and from owning weapons for five years. He testified that the attack was impulsive and unplanned, and prompted by anger at France's decline. He showed no emotion as the court in the southeastern city of Valence convicted him on a charge of violence against a person invested with public authority. He was sentenced to four months in prison and handed 14-month suspended sentence.

## AstraZeneca Covid vaccine linked with small risk of low blood platelets: Study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LONDON, 10 JUNE

The Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, known in India as Covishield, may be associated with a very small risk of developing a blood condition characterised by low platelet counts, according to a nationwide study in the UK.

The increased risk of the condition, known as idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP), is estimated to be 11 per million doses, similar to figures seen in vaccines for flu, and measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR), the researchers said.

Alow number of platelets blood cells that help prevent blood loss when vessels are damaged can result in no symptoms or can lead to an increased risk of bleeding or, in some cases, clotting, they said.



The team, led by researchers at the University of Edinburgh in the UK, noted that people at most risk from ITP tended to be older a median age of 69 years old and had at least one underlying chronic health problem such as coronary heart disease, diabetes or chronic kidney disease.

The researchers were unable to establish a definitive link between other forms of clotting – including the rare form called cerebral venous sinus thrombosis or CVST due to the very low number of cases in vaccinated people included in the study.

The study of 5.4 million people in Scotland, of whom

2.5 million had received their first vaccine dose, is the first analysis of ITP, clotting and bleeding events following vaccination for an entire country.

The authors of the study, published in the journal Nature Medicine on Wednesday, emphasised that the increased chance of developing ITP after receiving the vaccine remains smaller than the risk of developing it because of Covid-19.

They noted that the rare risk should not deter the roll out of the vaccine programme. The same risk of ITP was not found for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. Other vaccines were not included in the study. The researchers analysed a dataset as part of the EAVE II project, which uses anonymized linked patient data to track the pandemic and the vaccine roll out in real time.

## Pope rejects German cardinal's resignation

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
ROME, 10 JUNE

Pope Francis refused to let German Cardinal Reinhard Marx resign over the sex abuse scandal in the church, but said a process of reform was necessary and that every bishop must take responsibility for the catastrophe of the crisis.

Francis wrote a letter to Marx in response to the German's bombshell announcement last week that he had offered to resign as archbishop of Munich and Freising over the church's mishandling of abuse cases.

Francis refused to accept the resignation and told Marx in the letter he must continue as archbishop and shepherd my sheep. Francis said what was necessary instead was a process of reform that

doesn't consist in words but attitudes that have the courage of putting oneself in crisis, of assuming reality regardless of the consequences.

Francis' letter, written originally in Spanish and using an informal, brotherly tone, appeared to give Marx papal backing to proceed with the German Church's controversial reform process that was launched as a response to the abuse crisis and reports into the German hierarchy's mishandling of cases over decades.

The so-called Synodal Path has sparked fierce resistance inside Germany and beyond, primarily from conservatives opposed to opening any debate on issues such as priestly celibacy, women's role in the church and homosexuality.

## Europe tells tourists: Welcome back! Now work out the rules

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
PARIS, 10 JUNE

mood isn't always mutual. US borders, for example, remain largely closed to non-Americans.

Here's a look at current entry rules in some popular European tourist destinations.

► FRANCE: If you're vaccinated, come to France. But only if you got one of the four EU-approved vaccines: Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson. That works for Americans as long as they can produce official proof of vaccination but not for large swaths of the world like China and Russia where other vaccines are used.

France's borders officially reopened Wednesday. Vaccinated visitors from outside Europe and a few green countries will still be asked for a negative PCR test no older than 72 hours, or a negative antigen test of no more than 48 hours. Meanwhile, the welcoming

Unvaccinated children will be allowed in with vaccinated adults, but will have to show a negative test from age 11.

► ITALY: Americans the second-biggest group of foreign tourists to Italy have been welcome since mid-May. However, they need to self-isolate upon arrival for 10 days unless they arrive on so-called Covid-tested flights. That means passengers are tested before and after the flight and must

fill out documents about their whereabouts to facilitate contact tracing if required.

► GREECE: Tourism-reliant Greece started opening to American travellers back in April, and now visitors from China, Britain and 20 other countries are also allowed to visit for non-essential travel.

All must provide a vaccination certificate or a negative PCR test and fill in a passenger locator form on their

plans in Greece. This directive expires on June 14, but could be extended.

► SPAIN: Spain kicked off its summer tourism season Monday by welcoming vaccinated visitors from the U.S. and most countries, as well as European visitors who can prove they are not infected.

Americans and most other non-Europeans need an official vaccine certificate by a US health authority, in English. Spain accepts those who were inoculated with the four EU-approved vaccines as well as two Chinese vaccines authorized by the WHO as long as visitors are fully vaccinated at least two weeks before the trip.

► BRITAIN: There are few, if any, American tourists in the US at present. Britain has a traffic-light system for assessing countries by risk, and the US

along with most European nations is on the amber list, meaning everyone arriving has to self-isolate at home or in the place they are staying for 10 days.

► EUROPEAN UNION: The 27-nation EU has no unified Covid tourism or border policy, but has been working for months on a joint digital travel certificate for those vaccinated, freshly tested, or recently recovered from the virus. EU lawmakers endorsed the plan Wednesday. The free certificates, which will contain a QR code with advanced security features, will allow people to move between European countries without having to quarantine or undergo extra coronavirus tests upon arrival.

Several EU countries have already begun using the system. The rest are expected to start using it 1 July.

# James Bond's 21st century future

**Many are worried that Amazon's deal to buy MGM will take a brutal laser beam to the integrity of the super-spy franchise. But maybe it's always just been 'content'?**

LOUIS CHILTON

**I**t has been a rough couple of decades to be a James Bond fan. There was the glorious rebirth it was *Casino Royale* (2006); then came the disappointments. First, the gaudy, cluttered *Quantum of Solace*, then the nostalgic heavy *Skyfall* (2012) and *Spectre* (2015), both of which dazzled on release but whose reputations dropped like a faulty Union Jack parachute soon after.

The forthcoming release of *No Time to Die*, meanwhile, has been delayed so many times that I'm starting to doubt whether it exists at all. Bond fans must also contend with the changing tides of public opinion – the growing sense that 007's tuxedoed lasciviousness and dry machismo are no longer desirable or acceptable in a 21st-century screen protagonist.

Now, to top it all off, it's been revealed that the rights to Bond -- at least, the 50 per cent belonging to Metro-Goldwyn-Meyer -- are being bought by Amazon for £6 billion. It's no wonder Bond diehards seem shaken. And stirred. But personally, I don't think it's the doomsday plot that some seem to think it is.

It's easy to see why fans have expressed concern over the deal. For one thing, there's the ethical stink surrounding Amazon generally, emanating from criticisms of the online retail giant's alleged labour practices. Amazon's chief executive officer, Jeff "richest man in the world" Bezos, wouldn't make a bad Bond villain himself – a sort of cross between Jonathan Pryce's villainous media mogul Elliot Carver



Jeff Bezos

in *Tomorrow Never Dies* and *Moonraker*'s Hugo Drax, the uber-rich industrialist who shares Bezos's strange dreams of colonising space.

But there are also creative concerns about handing over the reins of a multi-billion-dollar film franchise to a company more at home with cardboard than car chases. Bond is inherently cinematic. Its action sequences and shoot-outs demand the immersive flash and boom of a cinema auditorium; streaming a Bond film on your mobile phone's Amazon Prime app (what one might call the "For Your Eyes Only" experience) would rob it of most of its spectacle.

Another fear – articulated by *Skyfall* screenwriter John Logan in a recent *New York Times* op-ed – is that Amazon will interfere creatively with the franchise. Or else, it could try to flood the market with Bond projects, as Disney has done with *Star Wars* and Marvel, stick a drill in the ground and keep going 'till the oil runs dry.

"Bond isn't just another franchise, not a Marvel or a DC," insists Logan. "It is a family business that has been carefully nurtured and shepherded through the changing times by the Broccoli/Wilson family. Bond is not content, and he's not a mere commodity. He has been a part of our lives for decades... That's why we don't have a mammoth Bond Cinematic Universe, with endless anaemic variations of 007 sprouting up on TV or streaming or in spin-off movies." Despite everything, however, it's hard to get too worked up over the franchise's artistic integrity. On some level, Bond has always been "content".

The Amazon deal is not the end of the world, or even, necessarily, the end

of the criticisms that get levelled against today's big franchise hitters could have been hurled at the Bond films decades ago. Marvel films are rightly condemned for their repetitiveness – squeezing an endless procession of colourfully garbed superfolk into the same formulaic story structure, the same quippy dialogue patterns, the same hero's journey repeated *ad nauseum*. But Bond is just as obedient to formula. Rather than make this a weakness, however, it becomes a selling point. Fans come to expect a constantly shuffling deck of fast cars, exotic (but only superficially explored) locales, photogenic love interests and post-coital one-liners.

Some of the basic tenets of the cinematic art – quality dialogue, convincing performances, nuanced or meaningful storytelling – are often found lacking, with Bond opting instead for the broad, visceral and titillating. On the plus side, recent Bond entries have at least (save for an occasional ice palace or surfing set-piece) avoided the over-reliance on garish computer-generated imagery that blights so much of what we now call cinema.

Despite their structural and aesthetic similarities, the quality of Bond films has also wildly fluctuated down the years. It takes a particularly blinkered enthusiast to try and sell you on the honest merits of *Moonraker* or *Die Another Day*. Surely no amount of interference from Amazon Studios will result in anything more execrable than *A View to a Kill*.

With *No Time to Die*, James Bond reaches the end of an era; Daniel Craig's ageing and jaded 007 embarks on his final mission. When Bond



OCTOBER 2021

of Bond as we know it. Fans can take a modicum (or should that be quantum?) of solace in the fact that before the pandemic hit, Amazon Studios had a commendable record of giving films proper theatrical releases (at least compared to Netflix). It would take a major cultural shift for a Bond film to go straight to streaming – no studio would want that blood on their hands. MGM's ownership of Bond was also only partial: the Broccoli family (via Eon Productions) retains a power of veto over everything Bond-related. If Amazon go hog-wild and start commissioning spin-offs, reboots and *Young Bond: The Animated Series*, you can be assured it will only be with the Broccoli's blessing.

With *No Time to Die*, James Bond reaches the end of an era; Daniel Craig's ageing and jaded 007 embarks on his final mission. When Bond

returns, there's no telling what he'll look like – though it's likely he'll keep moving away from the toxic masculinity and womanising that defined his earlier, randier escapades. He might even take the form of a woman himself (or Tom Hardy, or Idris Elba, or Tom Hiddleston, or Regé-Jean Page, depending on which bookmaker's stab-in-the-dark you want to believe).

At the end of the day, the real changes threatening Bond's status quo are not corporate, but social. Amazon or not, Ian Fleming's unkillable super-spy must work out how to survive in a world that no longer finds him aspirational.

Meanwhile, it's starting to seem like there is no ceiling to Amazon's ambitions for growth. For Bezos, the world is never enough.

The independent

## SNIPPETS

### Delayed again



Tom Cruise is reportedly self-isolating after 14 members of the *Mission: Impossible 7* crew tested positive for Covid-19.

Paramount Pictures has temporarily halted the UK-based production. The positive test results surfaced during routine testing shortly after Cruise shot a scene set in a nightclub. Four dancers initially tested positive, followed by 10 other crew members.

The entire 60-strong production crew is now in self-isolation, in line with established Covid-19 safety protocols.

"We have temporarily halted production on *Mission: Impossible 7* until 14 June, due to positive coronavirus test results during routine testing," a Paramount spokesperson said. "We are following all safety protocols and will continue to monitor the situation."

No further details were given.

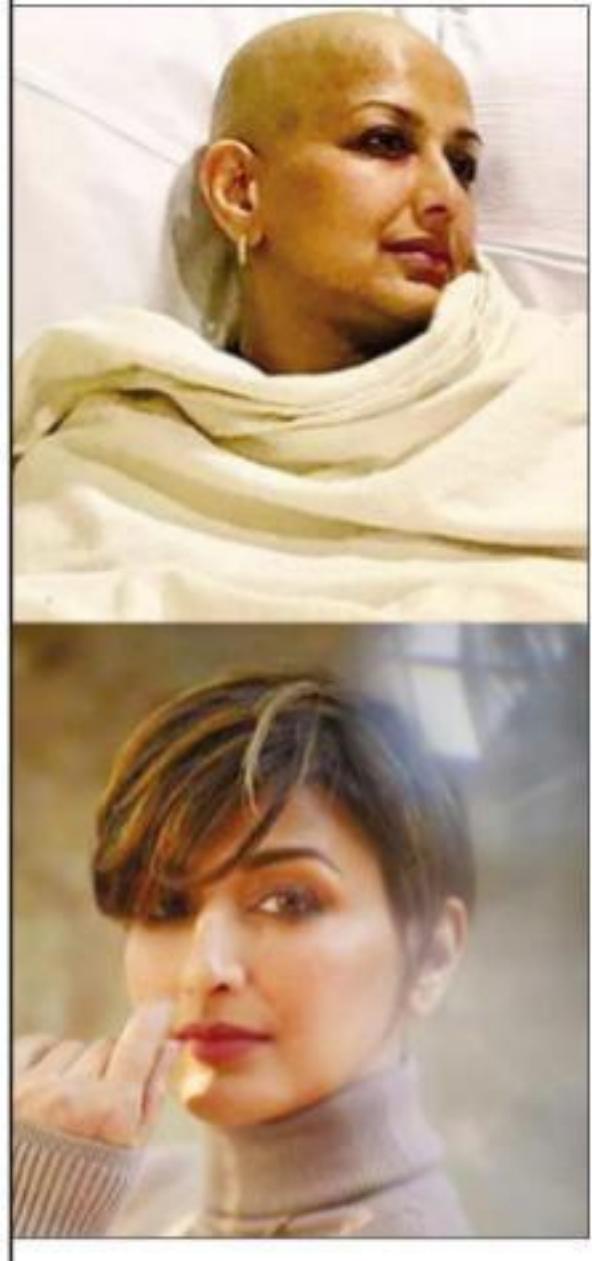
It was previously announced that *Mission: Impossible 7* will be released on 27 May 2022. However, this is at least the third Covid-related delay for the production. In March 2020, filming had to be shut down in Italy. Then in December 2020, an audio recording of Cruise shouting at crew for breaking Covid-19 protocols was leaked.

In April this year, Cruise addressed the rant in an interview with *Empire* magazine. "I said what I said," said the actor. "There was a lot at stake at that point. But it wasn't my entire crew. I had the crew leave the set and it was just select people."

Cruise added that he was motivated by a desire to prevent any further delays in shooting. "I was thinking about the people I work with, and my industry," he said, "And for the whole crew to know that we'd started rolling on a movie was just a huge relief. It was very emotional, I got to tell you."

— The independent

### Victorious battle



famed Mohiniyattam dancer Methil Devika, who has been mentored by Girija Chandran and Kalamandalam Leelamma. She has directed and produced a dance documentary *Sarpatattwam (The Serpent Wisdom)*, which was voted into the Academy Award Contention List 2018. The mythological figure Ahalya's loneliness inspired the artist in her days of home isolation. "Ahalya", however, was an experiential portrayal of the subject and the characters with a hint of life's philosophy. The dancer's focus was not on giving a new interpretation, but on exploring the art form of Mohiniyattam. This oft-heard story unfolded through acting techniques that eventually evolved as a para-text to the original Ramayana by Valmiki.

Bharatanatyam dancer Rama Vaidyanathan, trained under Yamini Krishnamurthy and Saroja Vaidyanathan, has developed a style of her own without forsaking her roots. She presented "Moving Boundaries", letting her instincts explore the boundless possibilities of movement and in the process, discover her emotions and become free-spirited. The pandemic gave her a lot of "me time", which helped her identify with her core principles of life.

The work reflected Vaidyanathan's personal journey of understanding life's subtle boundaries. She confessed that the never-ceasing endeavour for self-discovery has been an incredible experience. The original music score to Vaidyanathan's concept was given by Sudha Raguraman.

Aditi Mangaldas, who flourished under the guidance of Kumudini Lakhia and Birju Maharaj, is known for her artistry, technique, eloquence and characteristic energy that mark her every performance. She has broken

new ground by using her knowledge and experience of Kathak as a springboard to evolve a contemporary dance vocabulary, infused with the spirit of the classical. She has consistently transcended barriers, unafeared to confront social concerns.

At the festival, Mangaldas presented "LOST...in the forest!", which comprised two works. With the help of a questioning mind, she has created a space of her own. In her words, "Dance needs to breathe the air of 'now'. It cannot survive in a vacuum. As the pandemic rages through the world, time and space have become amorphous."

The first work, *Naav Mein Nadiya (River in the Boat)*, written by the acclaimed poet Kunwar Narain, counters that which is apparent. It delves into the depths of darkness where the river finds itself in a boat. And the pilgrim on the boat wonders if he is lost.

The second work embodies a deer as the protagonist. Startled and joyous at the sight of two moons, the real and the reflected, it takes the viewer on a wondrous journey. The realisation dawns upon her that she is lost. The limits of time, space and narrative become blurred. Abstract visions of lost narratives crowd her mind. And, the deer leaps across, free! This poem by Bharatendu Harishchandra helped Mangaldas to immerse herself in the deer-spirit and give her the courage to say, "Tomorrow is another day." What apparently seemed abstract was given the shape of a coherent narrative; herein laid Mangaldas' creative quality.

Celebrating life, in all its forms, is currently denied to humanity, but hope remains one's anchor.

The writer is a senior dance critic  
Photographs are representational



## LOOKING TOWARDS A SILVER LINING

Anvesana's 'Reflections in Solitude' witnessed performances conveying a message of hope

Methil Devika



Aditi Mangaldas

seamlessness, harmony and oneness of the masculine and feminine forms, enabling her to experience the power and sensuality of her being.

That was combined with "Ahirini" where the rebel poet Kazi Nazrul Islam sensitively nudges a girl to voice her choice of Krishna over Shiva. She wished for Krishna as her consort, the cardinal lover, and not the overpowering and awe-inspiring Shiva. Satpathy's body and mind worked together

through soundscapes and visuals to make the voice of the maiden heard.

A story of the mythical love birds that separate at every sunset and await the dawn for union, "Chakravaaka Pallavi" was presented as an abstract embodiment of the sweetness of anticipation. Conceptualised, choreographed and performed by Satpathy, it was supported by an assortment of accompanists of the highest calibre.

"Ahalaya" was performed by the

writer is a senior dance critic  
Photographs are representational

TAPATI CHOWDHURIE

**A**digital dance festival, Anvesana, presented "Reflections in Solitude", bringing together four dance films by exceptionally talented, contemporary artists. The festival, commissioned by Sampradaaya Dance Creations, celebrated the creative genius of each artist in expressing hope for a future of shared values of humanity and solidarity.

"Call of Dawn" was performed by the critically acclaimed Odissi dancer, Bijayini Satpathy, who is known for the ability to transform herself physically and metaphorically into an array of characters without the slightest hint of exaggeration or artifice. She has recently been commissioned by Baryshnikov Arts Center and Duke Performances to create a full-length solo. She is hailed as a trailblazer for paving new pathways through her intense research in Odissi pedagogy.

"One" was about a maiden's encounters with the iconic images of the non-dual divine Ardhanshishwara and Shiva linga, the symbol of eternity in male-female union, based on the picturesque poetry of Adi Shankaracharya. The explicit images empowered the young girl to imagine her approaching union and revel in the

seamlessness, harmony and oneness of the masculine and feminine forms, enabling her to experience the power and sensuality of her being.

That was combined with "Ahirini" where the rebel poet Kazi Nazrul Islam sensitively nudges a girl to voice her choice of Krishna over Shiva. She wished for Krishna as her consort, the cardinal lover, and not the overpowering and awe-inspiring Shiva. Satpathy's body and mind worked together

"Ahalaya" was performed by the

writer is a senior dance critic  
Photographs are representational

Actress Sonali Bendre took to Instagram recently to share a picture of her during the time she was battling cancer. As the world celebrated Cancer Survivors Day on 6 June, the actress said that she won't let the illness define her. Bendre was diagnosed with metastatic cancer in 2018 and was treated for it in New York. She battled the illness and emerged victorious eventually. She put up a picture of herself from days in hospital and merged it with her current, happy self.

She captioned the image, "How time flies. Today when I look back, I see strength, I see weakness but most importantly I see the will to not let the C word define how my life will be after it... You create the life you choose. The journey is what you make of it... so remember to take #OneDayAtATime and to #SwitchOnTheSunshine. (sic)"

The actress has spoken earlier on how her positive approach during the struggle helped her overcome the illness.

For more updates [www.thestatesman.com](http://www.thestatesman.com)

## FRESH SPARK

"Players taking a knee before cricket matches is now a watered-down protest action," says West Indies all-rounder Jason Holder (in photo, left), adding: "I would like to see some new initiative to spark the Black Lives Matter movement again."

## THUMBNAILS

**Ex-player dead:** The death of former Bengal Ranji Trophy cricketer Rabi Banerjee was reported on Wednesday, leaving the Maidan in general and the Dr BC Roy Clubhouse at the Eden Gardens grief-stricken. Among those who mourned the death was Cricket Association of Bengal chief Abhishek Dalmiya.

**Celtic coach:** Scottish club Celtic hired former Australia national team coach Ange Postecoglou as manager on Thursday. The 55-year-old Postecoglou joins the Glasgow club from Yokohama F. Marinos in Japan. Crosstown rival Rangers prevented Celtic from winning its 10th straight title this season, and Neil Lennon resigned as manager in February with the club a distant second.

**Online shooting meet:** Top Indian shooters, including junior world champion Hriday Hazarika and Youth Olympics silver-medallist Shahu Mane, will be competing in the International Online Shooting Championship (IOSC), scheduled to be held on 12 and 13 June.

**Short break:** Pace bowler Ollie Robinson has decided to take a short break from cricket. The 27-year-old missed England's second Test against New Zealand after being suspended from all international cricket pending the outcome of a disciplinary investigation into historical racist and sexist tweets.

**Wijnaldum joins PSC:** Paris Saint-Germain has signed midfielder Georginio Wijnaldum on a free transfer after he left Liverpool. The 30-year-old Netherlands international has joined on a three-year deal until 2024, PSG said in a statement on Thursday.

**The Hundred:** India's T20 skipper Harmanpreet Kaur and teen batting sensation Shafali Verma will be representing the Manchester Originals and Birmingham Phoenix respectively in the inaugural edition of The Hundred in the UK starting on 21 July. The duo will be joined by opener Smriti Mandhana, all-rounder Deepthi Sharma and batswoman Jemimah Rodrigues in the 100-ball tournament involving eight men's and women's teams.

**Contract extended:** Indian Super League (ISL) defending champions Mumbai City FC on Wednesday extended striker Pranjal Bhumi's contract by three years. He has been with the side for four seasons. The 22-year-old striker from Sivasagar in Assam will continue playing for the Mumbai outfit until May 2024. Bhumi represented India in the 2017 U-18 SAFF Championships in Bhutan. He was picked up by Mumbai City FC in the 2017 ISL Draft.

## Indians tune up in unison



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SOUTHAMPTON, 10 JUNE

India held their first group practices session at a ground adjacent to Ageas Bowl here on Thursday, five days after being allowed staggered training in the run-up to the World Test Championship final against New Zealand.

The WTC final is scheduled to be held from Jun 18 to 22.

It was the first time the players mixed with their teammates on the ground after being allowed to run in the gymnasium and the main playing field at different time slots on completion of the third day of their hard quarantine in the UK.

"We have had our first group training session and the intensity was high. #TeamIndia's preparations are on full swing for the #WTC21 Final," the BCCI wrote in a twitter post along with a short video of the training session.

The players had a full net session, where the likes of skipper Virat Kohli (in photo), Rohit Sharma, Cheteshwar Pujara, Rishabh Pant batttered for a considerable amount of time and faced throw-downs as well.

The bowlers too had an intense session with all the main players -- Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Shami, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj and Ravichandran Ashwin -- participating in the practice session. The nets were followed by a fielding session underfield-

ing coach R Sridhar, which mostly focussed on catching in the slip cordon.

Earlier, the players were allowed to come out of their Hilton Hotel rooms, a Hampshire Bowl property, on the third day, following which they started their individual training.

The players were also provided basic equipments in their rooms for exercise.

According to a piece of news from New Delhi, Former India pacer Ajit Agarkar reckons India will have their task cut out in the upcoming World Test Championship final against New Zealand, who boast of a potent pace attack ready to thrive in familiar English conditions.

The much-awaited match

is scheduled to be held in Southampton from June 18-22. Speaking on Star Sports show GAME PLAN, Agarkar highlighted the challenges India could face against the Kiwis. "It (New Zealand pace attack) has certainly got a lot of variety. I mean it is because you look at someone like (Kyle) Jamieson who is a tall guy and will pose a different challenge," Agarkar said.

He then spoke highly of New Zealand's seasoned pace duo of Trent Boult and Tim Southee besides Neil Wagner, who has the ability to surprise with his speed.

"Boult and Southee both will bowl, one delivery coming into you, one delivery going away from you, as a right-hander. And then (Neil) Wagner, who has not had any Test cricket in recent time, not a Test cricket away from home since the Australia tour. Australian conditions are completely differ-

## Witch-hunt alleged

LONDON, 10 JUNE

A probe into England cricketers' old tweets is a "witch-hunt" that must stop, says former skipper Michael Vaughan as the England and Wales Cricket Board investigates alleged racist remarks on social media by many of its cricketers. The country's white-ball skipper Eoin Morgan and wicketkeeper batsman Jos Buttler are under investigation by the ECB after their tweets, mocking Indians, surfaced on social media yesterday.

"No one at the time of Morgan's, Buttler's & Anderson's

tweets seemed offended at the time they tweeted but it's amazing how they now seem offensive a few years later!!!! Utterly ridiculous ... The witch-hunt has started but has to stop," Vaughan tweeted. The posts, in which Buttler and Morgan used the word "sir" to mock Indians, appeared on social media after the ECB had suspended paceman Ollie Robinson for some of his offensive tweets dating from 2012-13. Buttler and Morgan are in the Indian Premier League with the former playing for Rajasthan Royals and the latter leading Kolkata Knight Riders. PTI

when nothing is happening, and you know, everything seems flat, he comes and does something and has been doing it on a regular basis. So the challenges are a bit different."

Agarkar is aware that the conditions in Ageas Bowl are going to be more familiar for the New Zealanders.

"Also what works in their favour is the condition, because you are playing in England, it is almost like what you get in New Zealand. So that makes it a little bit easier with that Duke ball which does swing around. So the challenges are a lot."

"More so because India has not had any Test cricket in recent time, not a Test cricket away from home since the Australia tour. Australian conditions are completely differ-

ent. So that's the biggest challenge. And that's why I feel the preparations (have) got to be the key," he said.

## Hall of Fame

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## 'Siraj should play WTC final'

NEW DELHI, 10 JUNE

Pacer Mohammed Siraj's "remarkable improvement" should be rewarded with a place in the playing XI in the World Test Championship final against New Zealand, reckons former India spinner Harbhajan Singh.

Harbhajan also says young opener Shubman Gill must get back to his groove after a cheap run against England and in the IPL at home since a good start is paramount in seam and swing friendly conditions in England.

Asked about his preferred

team combination for the final, Harbhajan gave his reason why he feels Siraj can pip Ishant for a place in the final XI.

"If I was the captain, I would go with three pure fast bowlers. In that case, Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami pick themselves. In this final, I would like to go with Mohammed Siraj ahead of Ishant Sharma," Harbhajan told PTI on Thursday.

"Ishant is a brilliant bowler but for this game, my choice is Siraj, who has shown remarkable improvement in the last two years."

PTI

## Dingko Singh is dead

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 10 JUNE

inspired the likes of six-time world champion M C Mary Kom among others.

"He was a rockstar, a legend, a rage. I remember I used to queue up to watch him fight in Manipur. He inspired me. He was my hero. It is a huge loss. He has gone too soon," Mary Kom told PTI recalling the iconic boxer who faded from the scene after cancer took its toll on his body.

"Life is so unpredictable," she said. A fearless competitor in the ring, Dingko beat two Olympic medalists -- Son-taya Wongprates of Thailand and Timur Tulyakov of Uzbekistan -- en route to the Asian Games gold medal in Bangkok, which was a remarkable feat for an Indian boxer at that time. Ironically, he had not been among those originally selected and made the cut after registering his protest. "May his life's journey & struggle forever remain a source of inspiration for the next generations. I pray that the bereaved family finds the strength to overcome this period of grief & mourning #dingko Singh," tweeted India's first Olympic medallist in boxing, Vijender Singh.

The Manipuri superstar, who won his maiden national title (sub-junior) as a 10-year-old, was among the first modern stars of Indian boxing with his Asian Games gold and

## England make steady start

AGENCIES

BIRMINGHAM, 10 JUNE

England openers Rory Burns (batting 32) and Dominic Sibley (batting 31) saw off the new-ball challenge and took their team to 67 without loss at lunch on the first day of the second Test against New Zealand here at Edgbaston on Thursday.

Brief scores (Lunch, Day 1): England 67/0 in 29 overs (R Burns 32, D Sibley 31 bat) vs New Zealand.

## Anti-discrimination jerseys

Ahead of the second Test against New Zealand here at Edgbaston, the England cricket team players wore black anti-discrimination t-shirts as they repeated the 'moment of unity' gesture from first Test at Lord's.

The black jersey that the England players wore had the logo of the England team and had 'Cricket is a Game for Everyone' inscribed on the front.

The gesture comes after pace bowler Ollie Robinson was dropped from the second Test as some of his old racist and sexist tweets went viral on the first day of the first Test. He was replaced by pacer Olly Stone in the second Test.

Other national teams have more experience but we can play

## A year late, Italy and Turkey in opening game

AGENCIES

ROME, 10 JUNE

Somehow it seems appropriate that Italy, the first country in Europe that was overwhelmed by the coronavirus pandemic, is hosting the opening game of the European Championship. Even if Euro 2020 is kicking off in 2021.

The biggest crowd to gather in Italy for a year and a half will witness an Azzurri squad aiming for the title play a Turkey team aiming to spring a surprise on Friday at Stadio Olimpico in Rome. We've been waiting a year for this European Championship and we can't wait to experience hearing 15,000 people singing the national anthem, veteran Italy defender Leonardo Bonucci (in photo) said.

Soccer with fans inside the stadium is a different sport.

After embarrassingly failing to qualify for the 2018 World Cup, Italy won all 10 of its qualifying matches for Euro 2020 and enters on a 27-match unbeaten run. We want to go all the way, Bonucci said.

Other national teams have more experience but we can play



with anyone. We don't have a (Romelu) Lukaku or a Cristiano Ronaldo. Our strength is the team.

Turkey took four points of France in qualifying, including a 2-0 win over the World Cup champions, and lost only one of its matches to finish second in its group.

Being in this tournament and playing in the opening match makes us proud, Turkey coach Senol Gunes said. In every opening game there are surprises and I hope we can also score one.

The matchup also features some political undertones after Italian Premier Mario Draghi labeled Turkey President Recep Tayyip Erdogan a dictator in April. Turkey summoned Italy's ambassador to protest, and a

presidential spokesman demanded that Draghi retract his words. Draghi, however, did not issue a public apology or retraction. Draghi is not expected to attend the match since he'll be in Britain on Friday attending a G7 summit. Erdogan is also not expected to attend.

## Fan protocols

The Italian government decided that the Stadio Olimpico can be filled to 25% capacity for the four games it will host. That amounts to a maximum of 15,948 spectators.

Ticket-holders need to show one of three documents to enter the Stadio Olimpico: either a certificate from Italian health authorities showing they have been vaccinated against COVID-19, another document from Italian health authorities showing they have recovered from the coronavirus within six months, or a negative test result issued within 48 hours of kickoff. While more than 2,000 tickets for the opening game were sold in Turkey, many of those fans are not expected to travel to the match.

## Neymar, Thiago Silva in Brazil's Copa America squad

AGENCIES

SAO PAULO, 10 JUNE

Neymar (in photo) will spearhead Brazil's attack for the Copa America, with veteran defender Thiago Silva also included despite a recent injury.

Coach Tite announced his 24-man squad on Wednesday for the tournament, which is set to start Sunday after being moved to Brazil on short notice when co-hosts Colombia and Argentina pulled out.

Most of the squad is identical to the one used for the latest two rounds of South American World Cup qualifying, with Chelsea defender Thiago Silva returning after missing those games. The center-back was injured during Chelsea's win in the Champions League final against Manchester City.

Neymar has previously said he wants to play at the Tokyo Olympics this summer as well, but it's unlikely he can participate in both tournaments. Neymar's club Paris Saint-Germain does not have to release him for the Olympics because the tournament is not listed on FIFA's international

al match calendar.

Neymar led Brazil to its first golden men's soccer at the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. The Copa America final will be on July 10 at the same Maracan stadium where Brazil beat Germany on penalties to secure the title then.

Brazil's first game in Tokyo is on July 22 against Germany in Yokohama. The final is August 7, on the same day the French league starts.

Brazil is scheduled to open the Copa America on Sunday against Venezuela in Brasilia with no fans at the Mano Garrincha stadium due to the alarming COVID-19 figures in the country. More than 475,000 people have died of the disease in the South American nation.



superstar duo's 58th matchup, more than any other two men in the sport's professional era; Djokovic leads 29-28. But Nadal is ahead 10-6 in Slam meetings. Berrettini 5-4.

## Fans angry

Novak Djokovic's French Open quarterfinal against Matteo Berrettini was delayed for about 22 minutes while thousands of spectators were cleared out of the stadium

court because of an 11 pm coronavirus curfew.

Pandemic-related restrictions were loosened to allow 5,000 inside on Court Philippe-Chatrier on Wednesday night to reach his 40th Grand Slam semifinal.

"I wanted this so much that right now I don't feel anything," Pavlyuchenkova said. "Tennis is such a mental sport. That's what is really hard about tennis."

None of the four women's semifinalists had previously advanced so far at a Grand Slam tournament.

Pavlyuchenkova will either

17th-seeded Maria Sakkari or Barbora Krejcirova in Saturday's final.

Zidansek, who had never been beyond the second

court because of an 11 pm coronavirus curfew.

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