



DRDO successfully tests new generation nuclear capable missile Agni-P

Page 8



40,845 mucormycosis cases reported in second wave: Harsh Vardhan

Page 10

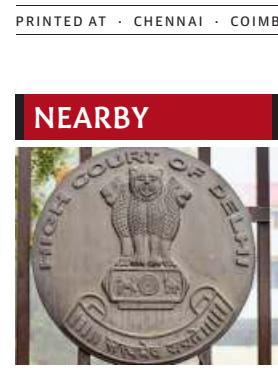


U.S. carried out air strikes against Iran-backed militias in Iraq, Syria

Page 12

Tiafoe knocks out Tsitsipas, Djokovic rallies past Draper

Page 13



Delhi HC to continue virtual hearing till July 23

NEW DELHI
The Delhi High Court on Monday said it will continue to hold court proceedings through videoconferencing till July 23. "Considering the threat of Delta Plus, a variant of concern, the full court has, therefore, resolved to adopt a policy of wait and watch, and to act cautiously, particularly in view of the loss of precious lives," the court said.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

Punjab Congress, AAP engage in war of words

CHANDIGARH
Ahead of Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party convener Arvind Kejriwal's visit to Chandigarh on June 29, AAP and the ruling Congress were on Monday embroiled in a sharp exchange of words over denial of permission to the leader's 'press conference'.

NORTH & EAST ▶ PAGE 4

Farmer leaders unite against 'politics of hate'

GURUGRAM
Krantikari Kisan Union president Darshan Pal on Monday said farmer leaders would visit Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand apart from other States to expose the Narendra Modi government, which happens to be the most "anti-farmer" and "authoritarian". The farmers' fight is for "zameen (land) and zameer (conscience)", he said.

NORTH & EAST ▶ PAGE 4

Level Up IAS
GS Pre Cum Mains Foundation + Current Affairs

Starting 2nd Aug, FEE ₹ 79,000/-GST ₹ 8826486658, 8826496658

NIA, NSG find no debris of drones at Jammu IAF base

Two drones fired upon at Jammu military installation: Army

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

With no wreckage of unmanned vehicles found at the technical airport of the Indian Air Force (IAF), Jammu Air Force Station, a National Security Guard (NSG) team joined the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday to investigate the possibility of the use of a long-distance launching pad to send in drones with payloads of explosives.

Amid the development, the Army said two drones were spotted and fired upon at a military installation in Jammu on the midnight of June 27-28.

Official sources said the teams of the NSG and the NIA failed to find any debris of drones from the two blast spots at the IAF base. They



On high alert: Army personnel on vigil after drones were spotted at the Kaluchak military station on Monday. ▶ PTI

were working on both the angles, the use of a local launch pad and a long-distance one to fly in the drones. So far, no spot had been identified as a launch pad near the base, which is just 16 km from the International Border.

It seems the drones may

have managed to drop the payload and escape from the spot. Drones, which require an open field or a building top for achieving flight, are frequency controlled and easily evade traditional radar systems.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Beating the heat



Splashing around: Youngsters bathing in a canal on a hot Monday afternoon at Magura in Malda district of West Bengal. ▶ PTI

Dialogue not at cost of national security, says Rajnath

Defence Minister recalls sacrifice of soldiers in Galwan clash

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Stating that the country will never forget the supreme sacrifice of those who laid down their lives in the Galwan clash last year, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday reiterated India's commitment to resolving disputes with neighbouring countries through dialogue. However, he assured that the security of the nation will not be compromised.

"Efforts should be made to find a solution through dialogue with neighbouring countries. The intention should be clear. Our Army has the capability to give a befitting reply to every chal-



the 12th round of Corps Commander talks to take forward the disengagement process in eastern Ladakh. This is also his first visit to the region since the first phase of disengagement in February, in which both sides pulled back thousands of troops, tanks and armoured vehicles from Pangong Tso.

"We are the priests of world peace. Even when we take up weapons, that is to establish peace. Till date, India has neither attacked any country nor have we captured an inch of land of any country," the Minister said.

Mr. Singh is on a three-day visit to Ladakh to review the security situation as India and China prepare for

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Himanta defends move on population control

'Disincentives should balance sops'

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, who has cracked down on the drug trade since taking charge on May 10, said disincentives should balance incentives in the government's approach to population control.

He also defended the drive against encroachers on government, forest and monastery land, and said it was unfortunate that some saw the effort through a communal lens. He said it was accidental that some evicted people belong to the religious minority group.

"Muslim population in Assam has been growing at 29% and Hindus are grow-



Himanta Biswa Sarma

ing at just 10%. This means there will be a lot of poverty and illiteracy among Muslims. We need certain measures for slowing down population growth, but we will ensure Muslims themselves take the initiative," he told *The Hindu*.

INTERVIEW ▶ PAGE 9

Colleges, schools in Bihar likely to open after July 6

Classes to restart in a phased manner

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

PATNA

Educational institutions in Bihar are likely to reopen in a phased manner after July 6. All government and private educational institutions across the State have remained closed since April 5.

"If the COVID-19 situation keeps improving like this and remains stable, all government and private educational institutions across the State will be reopened in a phased manner after July 6,"

State Education Minister Jay Kumar Choudhury said. On July 6, 'Unlock-3' will end across the State. In the first phase, all universities and colleges would be allowed to open with 50% students adhering to COVID protocol. In the second phase, senior secondary and secondary classes would resume and Classes I to 5 would start functioning in third phase, the Minister said. Coaching institutes too would be opened.

Leopard killed in road accident

Feline hit by speeding vehicle near Asola Bhatti sanctuary



The female leopard was found dead on Surajkund Road. ▶ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mr. Malik said the leopard strayed onto the road to hunt and was hit by a vehicle. Though there were walls on both sides of the road, the fe-

line could easily scale them.

Two leopards, including the present one, have died in road accidents in Faridabad in less than a year, said Mr. Malik. Similarly, two-three leopard deaths have been reported in road accidents in Gurugram's Manesar as well.

Besides leopards, other wild animals such as jackals, monkeys and neelgais have died or sustained injuries in accidents in Gurugram and Faridabad over the past few years while crossing the roads passing through the Aravallis.

SBI

“ Cover Wash Distance ”

Self-safety begins when I initiate.

Take the first step towards protecting self and family by availing SBI's digital services.

#BreakTheChain

STAY HOME, STAY SAFE AND ENJOY OUR DIGITAL SERVICES FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR HOME

Follow us : Visit our website www.sbi.co.in or call our toll free number 1800-11-22-11

IN BRIEF

'No admission denial over single parent's name'

NEW DELHI The Directorate of Education on Monday issued an order directing heads of schools not to deny admission to candidates who have filled details of even one of the parents in the application form while taking admission. Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia tweeted the order and said: "No school in Delhi shall deny admission to a child on the grounds that the child is declaring name of his/her single parent only."

DU to begin registration for PG courses in July

NEW DELHI Delhi University is likely to begin registrations for admission to entrance-based and postgraduate courses in the third week of July, at least a week prior to starting the process for the remaining merit-based UG courses, a senior official said.

'Kisan Metro' service to ferry protesters

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Protesting farmers have started a service they call 'Kisan Metro' as the tractor will take protesters from one protest site to the other.

The service has been started by Swachh Kisan Morcha and Life Care Foundation. "The Kisan Metro will take farmers from the Singhu border to the Tikri border and back every weekend. For now, it is only the Singhu and Tikri but eventually, it will go to Ghazipur border protest site as well," said Avtar Singh, who runs the makeshift hospital under Life Care Foundation.

He said that protesters want to go to different sites but they don't have any conveyance to go. Hence, the service was started.



Patients being evacuated after a fire at the Emergency Department of AIIMS in Delhi on Monday. ■ THE HINDU

Fire breaks out in room near operation theatre at AIIMS

No injuries reported; seven fire tenders pressed into service to extinguish blaze

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A fire broke out in a room adjacent to the operation theatre of the Emergency Department at AIIMS here on Monday morning, Delhi Fire Service said. No one was injured, they said.

A call was received at 5.04 a.m. about a blaze at the premise and seven fire tenders were rushed to AIIMS, Delhi Fire Service Director Atul Garg said. The fire was brought under control quickly, he said, adding that it broke out in the sto-

C The situation is normal and under control. The casualty area has been reopened for patients

ATUL KUMAR THAKUR
DCP

reroom adjacent to the operation theatre.

According to police, a PCR call was received at Hauz Khas police station at around 5.15 a.m. about the blaze, and on reaching AIIMS, sparking and smoke were observed in a dummy

room near the casualty area.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Atul Kumar Thakur said: "All the patients in the vicinity were evacuated. Seven fire brigade vehicles reached the spot and extinguished the fire."

The situation is normal and under control, and there has been neither any casualty nor injury to any person, he said. The casualty area has been reopened for patients, the police said, adding an investigation is

under way to ascertain the exact cause of the blaze.

Another minor blaze
Another minor blaze was reported at Safdarjung Hospital, fire officials said.

A call was received at 7.58 a.m. about a fire near the canteen area of the hospital. Three fire tenders were rushed to the spot, said Mr. Garg. The fire broke out in an underground cable. It was brought under control very quickly and no injuries were reported, he said.

HC to stick to virtual hearing till July 23 over Delta Plus threat

The full court has resolved to adopt a wait and watch policy'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday said it will continue to hold court proceedings using videoconferencing system till July 23 in view of the looming threat of the Delta Plus variant of the COVID-19.

"Considering the threat of Delta Plus, a variant of concern (VoC), the full court has, therefore, resolved to adopt a policy of wait and watch, and to act cautiously, particularly in view of the loss of precious lives of judicial officers, advocates and court staffers," the High Court said.

Hearing dates

The order, released by Registrar General Manoj Jain, also said that all the pending routine or non-urgent matters listed in the High Court between July 3 and July 23 shall be adjourned en bloc to corresponding dates between August 21 and September 9.

A similar order was



passed by the High Court with regard to the functioning of district courts here, stating that all the judicial officers shall take up urgent matters and 'final arguments cases' of their respective courts through videoconferencing till July 23 while the order matters shall be adjourned.

Utmost precaution

The administrative order said that despite decline in the number of COVID-19 cases in the national capital, utmost precaution needs to be taken in view of the predicted third wave and limited availability of vaccines. The order also ad-

vised the stakeholders to get themselves vaccinated at the earliest.

After the imposition of the first nationwide lockdown, the High Court started conducting hearings through videoconferencing from March 24 last year to contain the spread of the pandemic.

Over five months later, the High Court resumed physical hearing of court proceedings initially with five of its Benches on a rotation basis from September 1. The number of Benches conducting physical hearings was increased gradually.

The HC later commenced complete physical functioning from March 15 this year, which was interrupted due to the second wave of the COVID-19. In April, taking a serious view of the "alarming rise in COVID-19 cases" in the Capital, the High Court decided to take up court proceedings through virtual mode only from April 9.

Man wanted in R-Day violence case arrested from Punjab

Accused was carrying a reward of ₹1 lakh on his arrest

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Delhi Police's Special Cell has arrested a man from Punjab in connection with the Red Fort flag hoisting case, officials said on Monday. The accused has been identified as Gurjeet Singh, they said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Sanjeev Kumar Yadav said Singh was arrested from Amritsar in Punjab. A reward of ₹1 lakh was declared for his arrest.



Many protesters, driving tractors, reached the Red Fort and entered the monument during the R-Day protest. ■ FILE PHOTO

After the incident, he came outside and spoke to the media where he disclosed about his role in the incident. On that basis, he was wanted in the case and a reward of ₹1 lakh was announced on his arrest, the DCP said.

Thousands of farmers

clashed with the police during a tractor parade on January 26. Many protesters, driving tractors, reached the Red Fort and entered the monument. Some protesters even hoisted religious flags on its domes and a flagstaff at the ramparts, where the national flag is unfurled on Independence Day.

+ Unemployed youth kills father after tiff; mother battling for life

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 25-year-old man allegedly tried to kill his parents in east Delhi's Kalyanpuri on Monday morning. While the father succumbed to injuries, the mother is battling for life, police said, adding that the accused has been arrested.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (East) Priyanka Kash-

yap said that the accused has been identified as Vishal. He allegedly stabbed his father Devender, a Delhi Jal Board worker, and his mother Manju at their residence.

Police said that a PCR call was received at 6.33a.m. wherein the caller said he had stabbed his parents. When the police reached the spot, they found a man and a

woman lying in a pool of blood with multiple stab injuries on their bodies. They were taken to Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital where Devender was declared dead and Manju was further referred to Safdarjung Hospital, where her condition is said to be critical.

Police said that Vishal was apprehended from the spot,

and it was revealed that he himself had attacked his parents following a quarrel. "During preliminary investigation, it was found that Vishal was unemployed for the last seven-eight months and before that as well, he wasn't fully employed. He used to ask his parents for money and they used to refuse. Whenever they used to ask him to

work, he would fight," Ms. Kashyap said.

Police said that the accused didn't flee from the spot and made the PCR call. His brother also called the police. The DCP said that a case under Section 302 (punishment for murder) and 307 (attempt to murder) of the IPC has been registered and Vishal has been arrested.

Produced before court
He was arrested on Sunday and was taken to Delhi and produced before a court. He will be handed over to the Crime Branch of Delhi Police who is investigating the case, police said.

He was involved in the violence that took place at Red Fort on Republic Day.

Govt. official held for bid to run over policeman

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NOIDA

A 55-year-old government official has been arrested for allegedly trying to run his car over an on-duty Noida traffic police personnel, officials said on Monday.

Accused Ajay Singh, who works at the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), had allegedly parked his car on the road while his son bought vegetables near the Khoda Tiraha in Sector 58 police station area on Sunday evening.

"While his car was on the road, I saw a motorcycle coming on the wrong lane and took out my mobile phone to take his picture. Wrong lane driving and illegal parking are a very common offence in Khoda area," the traffic police constable who lodged the complaint said.

"Next I saw the car speeding towards me from which I had a narrow escape. The car driver, Ajay Singh, was outraged as he thought I was taking his picture," the constable said.

The Vacation Bench of Justices C. Hari Shankar and Subramoniu Prasad said the matter be listed before another Bench not comprising Justice Shankar. It listed

the matter for hearing before another Bench on June 30. The application for the interim relief was filed in a pending petition in which the petitioner NGO, Justice For All, has sought to modify CBSE policy for tabulation of marks of Class 10 Board Exams 2021 based on internal assessment conducted by the schools.

The application, through advocate Khagesh B Jha and Shikha Sharma Bagga, sought an interim order to direct all the schools affiliated by the

Board to publish the rationale document for devised criteria for the assessment of students of Class 10 on their respective websites, before calculating the result and uploading the same on the CBSE portal, to bring transparency.

It said the students should be able to access the document and raise grievances with the CBSE well in time along with the sagacious grievance redressal mechanism by the Board for the students. The application said that after is-

suance of notice by the court on June 2, a fresh FAQs have been published by the CBSE on June 9, and it became clear that there is no modification in their alleged arbitrary policy of moderation of marks yet, which is in violation of Article 21 (right to life) of the Constitution.

"The present policy is absolutely discriminatory, unfair, illogical and would result in huge manipulation of marks by schools, based on the performance of the senior batch of students," it said.

Plea to direct CBSE schools to give info on assessment

Publish details on websites before finalising Class 10 results for transparency'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A plea in the Delhi High Court on Monday sought direction to the CBSE-affiliated schools here to publish on their websites the rationale document of assessment criteria for Class 10 students before finalising results for greater transparency.

The application, through advocate Khagesh B Jha and Shikha Sharma Bagga, sought an interim order to direct all the schools affiliated by the

Board to publish the rationale document for devised criteria for the assessment of students of Class 10 on their respective websites, before calculating the result and uploading the same on the CBSE portal, to bring transparency.

It said the students should be able to access the document and raise grievances with the CBSE well in time along with the sagacious grievance redressal mechanism by the Board for the students. The application said that after is-

Woman, PUBG partner rob sister to meet alcohol expenses

CCTV footage helped to nab accused

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

C The boy with the pistol searched the house and ran away after locking the house from outside

PARVINDER SINGH
DCP

ing the victim's cry," Mr. Singh said.

During investigation, with the help of CCTV footage, the police identified the scooty of the accused, which they failed to take while fleeing. When one of the accused returned to take it, police apprehended him. He was identified as Sunny.

During interrogation, Sunny allegedly disclosed that the plan was hatched by victim Shashi's sister Jyoti who knew that there would be ₹50,000-60,000 at her sister's house. As they needed money, they hatched a conspiracy to rob them and divide the money.

Subsequently Jyoti was also arrested. Jyoti allegedly told the police that she had lost her job a few months ago and was addicted to alcohol. To meet the needs, she decided to rob her married sister. On the day of the incident, she was near the sister's residence till her friends carried out the robbery.

City gyms ready to scale up operations after easing of norms

Vaccination mandatory to enter some facility while a few are offering discounts, incentives and new training methods



People working out at a gym that opened in the Capital on Monday after over two months of lockdown. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

have increased burdens on owners as well and many also had to shut down."

Novel training
Siddharth Singh of Crosstrain Fight Club, however, said that vaccination of members have been made mandatory. Mr. Singh also added that with only five months of operations in the last 14 months, novel training methods were being devised to improve the business.

"We are into combat sports and it is usually difficult to maintain social distancing while training. So we have created a special programme where members will get 30 minutes of personal-

ised workout. It will be circuit training and there is no fixed time. Members can visit whenever they choose to. Usually we used to train 50 people in a group which is not ideal right now," said Mr. Singh while adding that this was in addition to the regular protocol that are followed.

Improved revenue
Stating that despite the unprecedented situation, it was important to re-innovate and hope for improved revenue, Mr. Singh said: "The last year has definitely affected revenue but we are keen to solve the issues. We have to evolve and survive so that once there is a boom, we have be-

nfits to reap. We are confident that our new programme will be effective."

Some also said that along with reopening of centres, online classes will continue.

Rupali Kapoor of BoxFit said: "We will be opening our centre next week. Currently, we are having a thorough sanitisation process. We have a studio where only personal training will be practised. One has to book a particular slot and sanitise prior to and after training. The multiple lockdowns did affect us a lot. But initially, people did not know about online training but now it is better. So we will continue with our online training as well."

SHINJINI GHOSH
NEW DELHI

With further easing of the lockdown guidelines, gyms in the city resumed operations on Monday. Apart from the usual sanitisation and temperature checks of members, several gym owners said that vaccination has been made mandatory while some others added that those vaccinated will get incentives in terms of membership deals.

Chirag Sethi, vice-president of the Delhi Gym Association said: "The SOPs were already drafted. This time we have also advised members of the association to promote vaccinations and give dis-

Timings <small>DELHI</small>		
TUESDAY, JUN. 29		
RISE 05:27 SET 19:24		
RISE 23:22 SET 09:58		
WEDNESDAY, JUN. 30		
RISE 05:27 SET 19:24		
RISE 23:54 SET 10:57		
THURSDAY, JUL. 01		
RISE 05:28 SET 19:24		
RISE 00:00 SET 11:53		

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	40	28
Safdarjung	40	28
Palam	41	28

Delhi Palam Today
40°C Moderate dry winds during day likely. Uneasy hot day and warm evening would prevail.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
41°C The weather will be hot & humid with uneasy afternoon. Moderate winds with dust raising winds to prevail. Night will be slight warm.
© Copyright Skymet Weather 2019 All rights reserved.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any publication before responding to any publication or any advertisement or offer or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. If in event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director or any other employee of the company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

IN BRIEF



Govt. sanctions 324 schemes for villages

NEW DELHI
Delhi Village Development Board has sanctioned 342 schemes, including improving of roads, drains, water bodies, community centre, parks, at a cost of ₹235 crore, authorities said on Monday. Development Minister Gopal Rai instructed for a time-bound progress in village development projects and said that the Delhi government is committed to provide facilities to people living in village areas.

'First' public toilet for third gender inaugurated
NEW DELHI
The New Delhi Municipal Council on Monday said that the "first" public toilet exclusively for third gender in the city was inaugurated by members of third gender in presence of the NDMC chairman Dharmendra. The public toilet has been started near the parking of Press Club of India close to Shastri Bhawan, the NDMC said.

34 dengue cases in city this year till June 26

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Thirty-four cases of dengue have been reported in the national capital this year, according to a civic report released on Monday.

The count of dengue cases for the period between January 1 and June 26 is also the highest this year since 2017 when the count was 55 in that same duration.

Dengue mosquito larvae breed in clear, standing water, while those of malaria thrive even in dirty water.

Cases of vector-borne diseases are usually reported between July and November, but the period may stretch till mid-December.

According to the civic report issued by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation, the nodal agency which tabulates vector-borne diseases report for the entire city, 34 cases of dengue have been recorded till June 26 this year.

The month-wise distribution of cases are – January (0), February (2), March (5), April (10) and May (12), and June (5), it said.

However, no deaths have been reported due to dengue till now, it said.

Over 250 fined per hour during Unlock 4

This is double the number of people penalised for COVID violations compared with the first phase

JATIN ANAND
NEW DELHI

More than double the number of people were fined for not adhering to COVID-appropriate behaviour during the fourth consecutive instalment of the unlock process in the Capital last week, as compared to the first.

From 124 residents being challaned every hour during Unlock 1, over 251 were fined every hour during Unlock 4 with as many as 6,502 single-day prosecutions on June 27, a Sunday.

According to Delhi government records, almost one-third of these prosecutions – for offences ranging from not wearing masks, or wearing them improperly, not following social distancing and spitting in public – were recorded during the seven-day period from June 21 to June 27.

After consistently declining for three weeks straight, the number of citizens testing positive for COVID-19, too, increased during the interval. However, this slight increase is attributed to the addition of over 600-old cases to the city's cumulative tally of infections.



No worries: People shopping at a weekly market at Outer Ring Road on a hot Monday afternoon in New Delhi. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

From the beginning of the unlock process towards the end of May, Delhi government teams prosecuted 1,29,493 people for not following COVID-appropriate behaviour over four weeks of the unlock process from May 31 to June 6.

As many as one-third of these violations, a total of 42,275, were observed and led to prosecution, last week

when restaurants and bars among most other economic and commercial activities were allowed to resume after a series of lockdowns between mid-April and May.

Phases of unlock

Only construction and industrial activities were allowed during the first phase of unlock between May 31 and June 6; 20,966 fines

were issued and 3,321 infections were recorded during the week.

The second week of unlock between June 7 and June 13, during which the Delhi Metro was permitted to ply and shops at city markets were allowed to open on an odd-even basis, a total number of 29,343 people were prosecuted while the number of infections went

down to 2,080. Between June 14 and June 20, when the Delhi Metro continued to function and all shops and city markets were allowed to open irrespective of the odd-even criterion, the number of violations soared to 36,909 even as infections reduced to 1,106.

Recorded a surge

The fourth phase of the unlock process, during which bars and pubs were added to the list of permitted activities, the number of violations recorded an increase of over almost 15% while the tally of COVID-19 cases witnessed a surge of almost 10% with 1,215 infections during the week.

Government sources said the increase in the tally during the week was because of the addition of 477 old cases

on June 23 and 170 cases to the tally on June 27. According to government records, the highest number of challans, 6,889, was issued in the South East district followed by 5,995 in Shahdara; at 2,245, the South West district accounted for the least number of fines.

rate (TPR) was 0.10%. Tests done as per bulletins on Mondays are usually less as it reflects tests done on Sunday. Of the total cases, 14,07,473 people have recovered and there are 1,553 active cases.

Delhi has a vaccine stock for the next three days, as per a vaccination bulletin.

Also, as government vaccination centres were shut on Sunday, only 9,563 doses were administered due to it, as per the bulletin.

A total of 73.3 lakh doses have been administered in the city so far.



A beneficiary gets a COVID-19 vaccine dose at a centre in Jahangirpuri in north Delhi on Monday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

59 new cases in Capital as testing comes down

This is the lowest daily rise this year

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

With fewer tests being done, the Capital reported only 59 new COVID-19 cases in the past 24 hours, taking the total cases to 14,33,993, according to a health bulletin released by the Delhi government on Monday.

This is the lowest daily cases since April 15 last year when 17 cases were reported in a day. Also, only two deaths were reported and the total number of deaths stood at 24,967. A total of 58,895 tests were done in a day and that test positivity

Central Delhi second rain deficit district in country

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

As the southwest monsoon continues to evade the Capital, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Monday released data that showed that Central Delhi which has recorded 8.5 mm rainfall so far this season is the second-most rain-deficient district in the country.

The deficit of 84% comes behind Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir that has recorded 5 mm precipitation, a short-fall of 93%.

Other parts of the Capital have also received less than normal rainfall with East Delhi recording a deficit of 64%, North East Delhi a shortage of 61% South Delhi a shortage of 58%, South West Delhi and New Delhi and shortage of 50%. North Delhi and North West Delhi have received 33% and 22% less than normal. Only West Delhi has received normal rainfall so far.

The Met Department has forecast a hot week ahead as conditions are not favourable for the advancement of the monsoon over Delhi.

The normal date for the monsoon to reach Delhi is June 27. However, this year, westerly winds have been blocking its advance into Delhi. On Monday, the maximum temperature settled at 40.2 degrees Celsius which is three degrees warmer than normal.

The minimum settled at 27.6 degrees Celsius which was one degree lower than normal.

The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to settle between 41 and 27 degrees Celsius respectively on June 29.

Govt. reduces COVID-19 beds

Decision comes after rise in demand for non-COVID beds

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Monday reduced the number of beds for COVID-19 treatment in government facilities and allowed for reduction of such beds in private hospitals, according to official orders.

On April 18, the Delhi government had directed all private hospitals and nursing homes providing COVID-19-related treatment in the city to reserve at least 80% of their ICU bed capacity and 80% of their ward bed capacity for COVID-19-related treatment, the order said.

"Within a matter of four days, 1.5 lakh people applied to be a part of this training programme. This indicates that people are enthusiastic to be a part of this course and learn. We plan on scaling this and making it a long-term, ongoing initiative," he added.

Health Minister Satyendar Jain, who was also present, further stated that this course is extremely important to tackle any medical crisis in the future. "This course will be able to provide individuals with employment opportunities considering there is an increasing need of health assistants in hospitals who will be able to assist nurses and doctors," Mr. Jain said.



Outside Lok Nayak Hospital in New Delhi. ■ FILE PHOTO: SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

oxygen beds may be reduced to 30% of their total bed capacity or three times of occupancy as on June 16, whichever is more. Further, for private hospitals having bed capacity of less than 100 beds will have an option to keep COVID beds in their hospitals," an order issued on Monday read.

A separate order regarding government hospitals, said that due to the "reduction of COVID-19 cases" and "vacancy" of designated COVID-19 beds, the competent authority decided that private hospitals having bed capacity of 100 beds or more,

the number of COVID-19 beds in the hospitals and COVID health centres under the government.

The number of COVID-19 beds in Delhi government-run Lok Nayak Hospital has been reduced to 700 from 2,000, Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital to 150 from 650, GTB Hospital to 600 from 1,800, among others. In total, beds in 20 government-run hospitals and COVID health centres have been reduced to a total of 3,000 beds and 1,620 ICU beds, as per the order.

Will continue to protest till Kejriwal is booked, says BJP

Leaders protest over oxygen 'misuse' during second wave

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The BJP president on Monday staged a protest at Jantar Mantar here demanding that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his Cabinet colleagues be booked for "creating" an oxygen shortage during the second wave of COVID-19 infection which led to the loss of thousands of lives.

Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta declared that the BJP would continue to stage demonstrations and protests till a criminal case in this regard was registered against Delhi government Ministers and till such time that Mr. Kejriwal was arrested.



"Delhi is the only State where during the second COVID wave, the entire healthcare system was crumbling. And the irony is despite all this, Kejriwal was still claiming about Delhi having world-class health facilities," Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri alleged.

plaint has been made.

"This is in the teeth of a verdict of a coordinate Bench of this court in Rashi vs Union of India, which mandates that an internal complaints committee must not comprise members who are subordinate in rank to the person who is the subject matter of the complaint before such committee," Ms. John submitted.

THE HINDU
Air surcharge: Leh, Srinagar & onward — Rs. 5.00 and Kathmandu — Rs. 3.00.

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT

Mr. N SELVA KUMAR

PH: 9820350726

selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in

THE HINDU

India's National Newspaper

Harassment issue resolved with officer under inquiry, woman IPS informs HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

A woman IPS officer who complained of sexual harassment by her superior officer, Inderjeet Singh Sehrawat, has also "illegally" constructed a hotel 'The Orient' in Mahipalpur and the hotel is working without any licence from the SDMC.

AP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj alleged that Mr. Sehrawat has also "illegally" constructed the third and fourth floors of a DDA flat in Vasant Kunj, but the municipal corporation did not take any action on a complaint lodged regarding it. About the hotel, Mr. Bharadwaj said, "The High

Court, too, has asked the municipal corporation to take action and submit an action report on it. If I show you the status of the construction today, the hotel has been fully constructed and is now ready. However, according to municipal corporation's paperwork, this hotel has been booked and all the construction activities therein have been stopped. And according to the police report, this building has been demolished."

The AAP leader claimed that this property is worth around ₹20 crore, but neither the property nor the hotel was mentioned by Mr. Sehrawat in his election affidavit.

In a related development,

Court, too, has asked the parties involved in the case to file a conciliation note. The conciliation note has been drawn up and filed today along with an application seeking disposal of the petition.

However, the conciliation note and application are not on record. Let the same be

brought on record," the judge said.

Next hearing

The matter has been listed for next hearing on July 5.

The High Court on June 21 had issued notice to the Centre on the petition by the senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer and suggested that in the meantime, the counsel may attempt resolu-

tion of the matter, if possible. Senior advocate Rebecca

CLASSIFIEDS MART
TO ADVERTISE:
www.thehinduads.comPERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, Pappu Yadav, S/O Mahesh Prasad Yadav, R/o. B-136 74 Colony Bharat Vinar Kakola Sector-15, New Delhi - 110078, have Change my Name from Pappu Yadav to Piyush Yadav.

I, Rahul S/o Dr. Rash Lal Yadav R/o 216, Second Floor, Tagore Park, Dehi-110009 have changed my name to Rahul Yadav for all purpose.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby informed to the General Public that I, Gauri Mehta, D/o Lalit Mehta, R/o Star Court 8 Jaypee Greens Greater Noida have lost the Original Provisional Allotment Letter No. JGGV00753 dated April 11, 2008 issued by Jaiprakash Associated Limited in respect to Unit bearing No. 901 in Star Court 8 project, situated at Jaypee Greens, Greater Noida on 23 June 2021. Anyone finding the said documents is requested to kindly return the same to me or to the Company.

Gauri Mehta, 901 Star Court 8, Jaypee Greens, Greater Noida

MADRAS RACE CLUB
CIN: U74999TN1922PL001455
Regd. Office: Post Box No.2639,
Guindy, Chennai 600032
Website: www.madraseraceclub.com
Tel. No.: 91-44 22351712/345 & 22350774
Email Id: secretary@madraseraceclub.com

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING 2020-21**
Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting ('AGM') of the MADRAS RACE CLUB ('the Club') for the year 2020-21 is scheduled to be held on Friday, the 23rd July, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. (IST) through Video Conference ("VC") / Other Audio Visual Means ("OAVM") to transact the business, as set out in the Notice of the AGM only through e-voting facility.

The AGM will be held only through VC/OAVM in compliance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. The instructions for joining the AGM electronically are provided in the Notice of the AGM.

Notice of the AGM along with the Annual Report 2020-21 has been sent through electronic mode to those Members whose e-mail addresses are registered with the Club and hard copy has been posted to those who do not have or who have not furnished the email id and will also be available on the Club's website at www.madraseraceclub.com and on the website of KFin Technologies Private Limited (KFinTech), the service providers for conduct of e-AGM at www.kfintech.com.

Club Members are requested to register / update their email addresses by writing to the Club with details of their membership number and attaching a self-attested copy of PAN card as identity proof and self-attested copy of any document (viz. Driving License, Election Identity Card, Passport) in support of the address of the member at secretary@madraseraceclub.com or to KFinTech at meetings@kfintech.com. The Club has engaged the services of KFinTech as the authorised agency for conducting of the e-AGM and for providing e-voting facility. Members can cast their vote online from 10.00 A.M. (IST) on Tuesday, the 20th July, 2021 to Thursday, the 22nd July, 2021 till 5.00 P.M. (IST). At the end of remote e-voting period, the facility shall be disabled. Facility for e-voting shall also be made available during the AGM to those Members who attend the AGM and who have not already cast their vote. The Members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting prior to the AGM may also attend/participate in the AGM through VC/OAVM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again.

Only those members, whose names are recorded in the Register of Members as on the 'cut-off date' i.e. 20th June, 2021 only shall be entitled to avail of the facility of remote e-voting.

In terms of Articles of Association of the Club, no Club Member shall be entitled to vote at or take part in any meeting of the Club until all moneys due to the Club by him have been paid. Hence, Club Members are requested to settle all their dues on or before Thursday, 15th July, 2021, in order to cast their vote through e-voting facility.

Querries/grievances, if any, with regard to e-voting, may be addressed to the Secretary, Madras Race Club through e-mail at secretary@madraseraceclub.com OR may please visit Help and FAQs section available at KFinTech's website www.kfintech.com OR contact toll free No. 1800 345 4001 / 1800 309 4001.

By Order of the Committee of Management of MADRAS RACE CLUB

S.NIRMLA PRASAD
Secretary

Place : Chennai
Date : 20.06.2021

SITUATION VACANT

GENERAL

LAKSHMI COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
Kasan, Manesar, Gurgaon
lakshmicollegeofeducation@gmail.com

Requirement of Teaching staff for D.E.L.D course under SFS:

Principal/HOD, English, Science, Hindi, Fine Arts/Music, Maths, S.S.T, Phy.Edu.Each one staff

Qualification and pay As per NCET norms.

The Eligible candidates for Walk in interview on 15.07.2021

Contact: **9717717765**

WESTERN RAILWAY

CORRIDURGEM
TO LEASING OF SLRS

DATED 21.06.2021

Tender Notice No.: 01104 - FSLR-II-2021-06. Notice Date :

16.07.2021. To be treated as CANCELLED.

Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRail

Optimism over tiger sighting in small Assam sanctuary

It covers 26 sq. km bordering Bhutan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

I, Pappu Yadav, S/O Mahesh Prasad Yadav, R/o. B-136 74 Colony Bharat Vinar Kakola Sector-15, New Delhi - 110078, have Change my Name from Pappu Yadav to Piyush Yadav.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby informed to the General Public that I, Gauri Mehta, D/o Lalit Mehta, R/o Star Court 8 Jaypee Greens Greater Noida have lost the Original Provisional Allotment Letter No. JGGV00753 dated April 11, 2008 issued by Jaiprakash Associated Limited in respect to Unit bearing No. 901 in Star Court 8 project, situated at Jaypee Greens, Greater Noida on 23 June 2021. Anyone finding the said documents is requested to kindly return the same to me or to the Company.

Gauri Mehta, 901 Star Court 8, Jaypee Greens, Greater Noida

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

IN MEMORIAM



Padma Shri Dr. Jaya Arunachalam

"You still live in our hearts, thoughts & deeds"

Remembered Forever by

Family - Yashovardhan - Nandini Azad,
Ramesh Arunachalam - Janaki,
Mithila - Dhananjaya Dendukuri

Indira Arjun Dev

Working Women's Forum (India)
Indian Cooperative Network for Women Ltd.,
Vidya Bharathi Kalyana Mandapam
Independent Commission for People's Rights and Development
Rabo Home & Kamaraj Ilam

55, Bhimasena Garden Road, Mylapore, Chennai - 4
Ph: 044-24993937, 24992853, 24991248, 24993797

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES



Seventh Anniversary

20.09.1938 - 29.06.2014

W/o Late C.N. MARGAM

Retd Chief Engineer PWD

"Heaven's light our guide"

"It's this day 7 years ago you left us to the eternal world, but not a day passes without your presence being felt / guidance..."

Your ever-loving Children & Grandchildren

Home no: 044-23762743,
HP: 9840047816

DEATH

K.RATHINAVELU (72), Retired Senior Technical Assistant (Composing), The Hindu, Chennai. Passed away on 28-06-2021. Address: 61, Stain Nagar, Anakaputhur, Chennai - 600070. Mobile No: 9884074090

In memory of your loved ones

To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:

011-43579797

from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. &

For Placing Advertisements Online log on to

www.thehinduads.com

DONATE EYES-GIFT SIGHT**KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED**

(BALLARI THERMAL POWER STATION)

CIN: U85110KA1970SC001919

No. KPCL/2021-22/PS/WORK_INDENT 11253 Dated: 24.06.2021

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement Portal)

Competent bids are invited through e-tender platform i.e. <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> from the agencies who meets PQR, adequate financial resources and experience for the work of Routine Sample preparation, conducting analysis of Raw coal samples of Loading and Unloading end, Station coal, Bottom Ash, Fly Ash, Pulverized Mill Samples, Oil and Mill reject and Up-keeping Coal Laboratory Equipments and Instruments and Preparation of Reports of Fuel Management system AND Collection, Loading, transportation and Unloading of Coal Lump and Mill reject at BTPS Unit 1, 2 & 3. Total Tender Amount: Rs. 3,47,29,794/- EMD: NIL. The bid documents will be processed only to those bidders who meet the stipulated qualification requirements. Tender documents may be downloaded from the GoK e-procurement website: <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>. Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/clarifications: 08.07.2021 upto 11.00 Hrs. Date & Time for Pre-bid meeting: 14.07.2021 @ 11.00 Hrs. Last Date & Time for receipt of completed bids through e-portal: 26.07.2021 upto 16.00 Hrs. Date & Time for opening of Technical Bid: 27.07.2021 @ 16.30 Hrs. Further details can be had from the office of the Executive Engineer (Fuels)/ AGMC/FMBTPS, KPCL, Kudlithi-583 152, Bellary (Dist.) Mob: +91 94808 49649/ 94482 90744.

By Order of the Committee of Management of MADRAS RACE CLUB

S.NIRMLA PRASAD
Secretary

Place : Chennai
Date : 20.06.2021

GENERAL

SITUATION VACANT

GENERAL

LAKSHMI COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Kasan, Manesar, Gurgaon
lakshmicollegeofeducation@gmail.com

Requirement of Teaching staff for D.E.L.D course under SFS:

Principal/HOD, English, Science, Hindi, Fine Arts/Music, Maths, S.S.T, Phy.Edu.Each one staff

Qualification and pay As per NCET norms.

The Eligible candidates for Walk in interview on 15.07.2021

Contact: **9717717765**

GENERAL

SITUATION VACANT

GENERAL

LAKSHMI COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Kasan, Manesar, Gurgaon
lakshmicollegeofeducation@gmail.com

Requirement of Teaching staff for D.E.L.D course under SFS:

Principal/HOD, English, Science, Hindi, Fine Arts/Music, Maths, S.S.T, Phy.Edu.Each one staff

Qualification and pay As per NCET norms.

The Eligible candidates for Walk in interview on 15.07.2021

Contact: **9717717765**

GENERAL

SITUATION VACANT

GENERAL

LAKSHMI COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Kasan, Manesar, Gurgaon
lakshmicollegeofeducation@gmail.com

Requirement of Teaching staff for D.E.L.D course under SFS:

Principal/HOD, English, Science, Hindi, Fine Arts/Music, Maths, S.S.T, Phy.Edu.Each one staff

Qualification and pay As per NCET norms.

The Eligible candidates for Walk in interview on 15.07.2021

Contact: **9717717765**

GENERAL

SITUATION VACANT

GENERAL

LAKSHMI COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Kasan, Manesar, Gurgaon
lakshmicollegeofeducation@gmail.com

Requirement of Teaching staff for D.E.L.D course under SFS:

Principal/HOD, English, Science, Hindi, Fine Arts/Music, Maths, S.S.T, Phy.Edu.Each one staff

Qualification and pay As per NCET norms.

The Eligible candidates for Walk in interview on 15.07.2021

Contact: **9717717765**

GENERAL

SITUATION VACANT

GENERAL

LAKSHMI COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Kasan, Manesar

IN BRIEF



6 of family found dead in farm pond in Karnataka

YADGIR
Six persons, including four children, belonging to the same family were found dead in their farm pond in Doranahalli village of Karnataka's Yadgir district on Monday. Quoting villagers, the police said, unable to bear financial difficulties, Bheemaraya, 45 and his wife might have decided to end their lives, along with their children.

(Those in distress can call 104).

HC dismisses plea for banning WhatsApp

KOCHI
The Kerala High Court on Monday dismissed a PIL seeking a directive to the Centre to ban the operations of WhatsApp if it does not co-operate with the lawful authorities in the country. The petition was filed by K.G. Omanakuttan from Idukki.

Customs arrests prime suspect in gold case

Charged with abetting smuggling

G. ANAND

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Customs team probing the Karipur gold smuggling case arrested prime suspect Arjun Ayanki, with alleged links to the ruling CPI(M), after interrogating him here on Monday.

The Kannur resident was learnt to have been arrested for abetting smuggling of 2,332 gm of gold with a market value of ₹1.11 crore. A Customs officer said the agency suspected the involvement of over 30 people belonging to multiple gangs in the spree of gold smuggling incidents and allied incidents such as kidnapping

CBI seeks to record Narayanan's statement

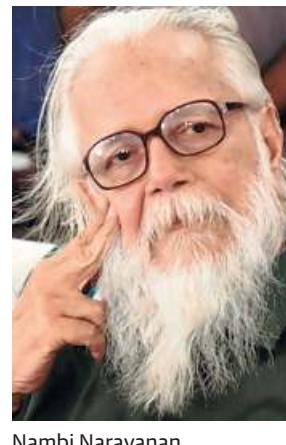
Central agency's team is in Kerala to probe police frame-up that resulted in the ISRO spy case in 1994

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A Central Bureau of Investigation team was here to investigate the police "frame-up" that allegedly resulted in the infamous "ISRO spy case" in 1994.

Last month, the CBI filed an FIR marked as classified in the Chief Judicial Magistrate court here accusing four former law enforcers of "wrongful arrest, custodial torture, and unjustified incarceration" of former ISRO scientist Nambi Narayanan and others.

It had named retired Director General of Police Siby Mathews, who headed the Special Investigation Team (SIT) that probed the ISRO scandal, his deputies K.K. Joshua, S. Vijayan, and Thampi. S. Durgadutt, and the then Deputy Director, Intelligence Bureau, R.B. Sreekumar, as accused in the FIR. Recently, a district court



Nambi Narayanan

here had granted anticipatory bail to Mr. Mathews in the case.

According to sources close to Mr. Narayanan, the CBI had contacted the former scientist and sought time to take his statement on Tuesday. They said the agency had spoken to him on the phone. Mr. Narayanan reportedly told the investiga-

Former police officers move anticipatory bail plea

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

An anticipatory bail petition was filed on Monday before the Kerala High Court by S. Vijayan and Thampi S. Durgadutt, former police officers and accused in a case registered by the CBI for torturing and hatching a

conspiracy to frame ISRO scientist Nambi Narayanan in the ISRO espionage case.

The petitioners said they had not done any excesses on anyone. Nor had the two foreign women made any complaint against the police when they were produced before the court.

However, the agency had not fixed the interview venue. It was not immediately known whether the CBI had contacted the accused in the case. They have also moved the court for anticipatory bail.

The grim chapter in the annals of police investigation

tors that he was ready to give his statement.

in Kerala has its provenance in a case registered at the Vanchiyoor station on November 13, 1994.

Based on a "dubious" special branch report, the police had booked two Maldivian women for overstaying and violation of the provisions of the Official Secrets Act.

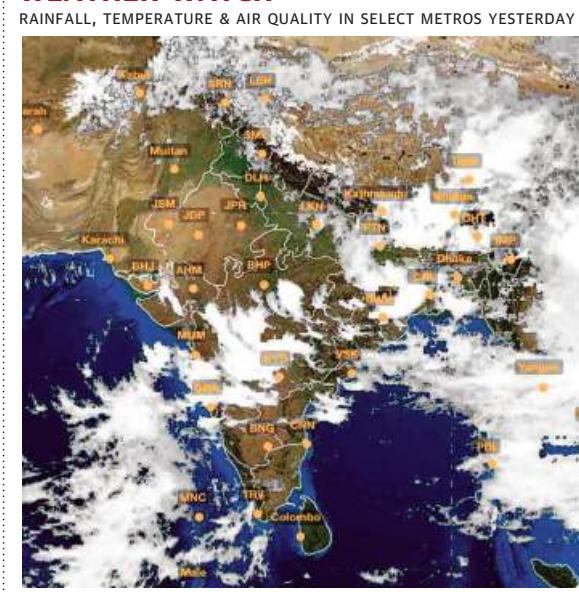
The charging officers accused the women of attempt-

ing to entrap ISRO scientists involved in the cryogenic engine procurement project. In addition, they alleged the women had spirited out high-end space secrets out of India for a foreign power.

Soon, newspapers were awash with "ill-informed and salacious" reports about honey traps, stolen rocket designs, ensnared scientists, complicit politicians, and conniving police officers. Mr. Narayanan, fellow scientist D. Sasikumaran, and two ISRO consultants K. Chandrasekhar and Sudhir Kumar Sharma were caught up in the vortex of the stormy scandal.

Opposing factions in the then ruling Congress exploited the scandal to settle scores. The ISRO spy case led to the resignation of then Chief Minister K. Karunakaran. The CBI had registered the case at the behest of the Supreme Court.

WEATHER WATCH



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

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Gangetic West Bengal and Bihar. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, central Maharashtra, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Lakshadweep

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	...32.0...	27.4	21.7	Kozhikode	...31.6...	24.0	21.7
Ahmedabad	...32.6...	27.7	21.7	Kurnool	...15...	32.9...	24.4
Aizawl	...24.7...	22.9	21.7	Lucknow	...35.2...	28.4	21.7
Althababad	...36.6...	27.7	21.7	Madurai	...36.6...	26.1	21.7
Bengaluru	0.4...	26.7...	20.8	Mangaluru	3.7...	29.9...	24.0
Bhopal	...35.2...	24.0	21.7	Mumbai	20...	31.4...	24.8
Bhubaneswar	2.2...	34.0...	26.5	Mysuru	...30.9...	21.4	21.7
Chandigarh	...34.3...	23.7	21.7	New Delhi	...40...	27.6	21.7
Chennai	34.3...	33.3...	23.7	Patna	29...	34.6...	25.8
Coimbatore	5...	32.4...	23.0	Puducherry	...34.2...	25.4	21.7
Dehradun	...33.7...	25.1	21.7	Pune	3.8...	31.6...	21.7
Gangtok	4.4...	20.7...	17.7	Raipur	0.1...	34.5...	25.8
Goa	3...	29.5...	24.1	Ranchi	...32.4...	24.1	21.7
Guwahati	0.4...	33.6...	27.0	Shillong	0.7...	25.1...	18.7
Hubballi	...29.0...	21.0	21.7	Shimla	...28.6...	20.5	21.7
Hyderabad	25...	30.6...	22.5	Imphal	3...	31.0...	28.7
Imphal	3...	27.1...	22.4	Jaipur	...41.0...	30.2	25.1
Kochi	...30.4...	24.8	21.7	Kohima	2...	37.9...	26.4
Kohima	2...	25.8...	18.0	Tiruchi	...37.9...	26.4	21.7
Kolkata	14...	34.5...	27.4	Vijayawada	2...	37.0...	25.4
Visakhapatnam	6...	34.6...	25.4	Visakhapatnam	6...	34.6...	25.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO _x	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.3	17	97	.54	.74	...
Bengaluru	.4	53	38	.28	.67	...
Chennai	.8	5	50	.41	.74	...
Delhi	.5	34	71	.204	.230	...
Hyderabad	.2	82	17	.27	.34	...
Kolkata	.8	22	20	.46	.71	...
Lucknow	10	15	58	.69	.94	...
Mumbai	.4	9	87	.106	.71	...
Pune	...	28	91	.24	.23	...
Visakhapatnam	12	36	28	.32	.49	...

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sonipat, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 200, indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 26.

"He [PV] took over as the Prime Minister when the country's economy was in a state of bankruptcy with the RBI's gold reserves mortgaged to overcome the foreign exchange problem," Mr. Chandrasekhar Rao said, adding that the credit of heralding economic reforms in the country and allowing foreign investments to create large-scale employment opportunities would go to the late Narasimha Rao.

Mr. Chandrasekhar Rao said the land reforms taken up by Narasimha Rao during his time were pioneering as they were not possible but for a strong resolve considering the litigations on land issues then.

Besides, he had set an ex-

ample by donating 800 acres of their family land for distribution among the poor, Mr. Rao said.

Based on a "dubious" spe-

cial branch report, the police had booked two Maldivian women for overstaying and violation of the provisions of the Official Secrets Act.

The charging officers accused the women of attempt-



Celebrating centenary: A statue of former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao was unveiled in Hyderabad. ■RAMAKRISHNA G

ty, Warangal. A PV Memorial would also be established at PV. Gnan Bhoomi here.

Eight books published to commemorate the occasion, including the coffee table book brought out by Sanjaya Baru on Narasimha Rao, were released at the event.

Mr. Chandrasekhar Rao said the land reforms taken up by Narasimha Rao during his time were pioneering as they were not possible but for a strong resolve considering the litigations on land issues then.

Besides, he had set an ex-

ample by donating 800 acres of their family land for distribution among the poor, Mr. Rao said.

"He [PV] took over as the

Prime Minister when the

country's economy was in a

state of bankruptcy with the

RBI's gold reserves mortgaged to overcome the

foreign exchange problem,"

Mr. Chandrasekhar Rao said, adding that the credit of heralding economic reforms in the country and allowing foreign investments to create large-scale employment opportunities would go to the late Narasimha Rao.

Dr. Tamilsai Soundararajan said the real tribute to the first Prime Minister from the south would be to follow his ideals and continue his reforms.

Besides, he had set an ex-

ample by donating 800 acres of their family land for distribution among the poor, Mr. Rao said.

"He [PV] took over as the

Prime Minister when the

country's economy was in a

state of bankruptcy with the

RBI's gold reserves mortgaged to overcome the

foreign exchange problem,"

Mr. Chandrasekhar Rao said, adding that the credit of heralding economic reforms in the country and allowing foreign investments to create large-scale employment opportunities would go to the late Narasimha Rao.

Based on a "dubious" spe-

cial branch report, the police had booked two Maldivian women for overstaying and violation of the provisions of the Official Secrets Act.

The charging officers accused the women of attempt-

ample by donating 800 acres of their family land for distribution among the poor, Mr. Rao said.

"He [PV] took over as the

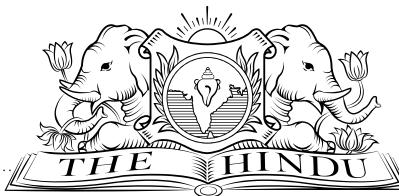
Prime Minister when the

country's economy was in a

state of bankruptcy with the

RBI's gold reserves mortgaged to overcome the

foreign exchange problem,"



A case of no case

The trend of imputing seditious design to criticism of the government is disturbing

The seditious case against Lakshadweep film-maker Aisha Sultana has all the undesirable indicators of the misuse of the penal provision: intolerance towards any strident criticism of policy, tendency to discern non-existent threats to the state and deliberate resort to it despite the absence of any ingredient of the offence. Therefore, it comes as no surprise that the Kerala High Court has granted her anticipatory bail mainly on the ground that neither Section 124A, which penalises seditious speech or writing, nor Section 153B, which seeks to punish imputations against national integration, is attracted. There may be some cause for those in the Lakshadweep administration to feel aggrieved that the film-maker, in the course of a heated discussion on the policy changes sought to be brought about by the Administrator, accused the authorities of unleashing a "bioweapon" against the people by relaxing quarantine rules for those entering Lakshadweep. However, as the court has rightly pointed out, there is nothing in use of the term that tended to create disaffection against the government or incite the people against it. It ought to have been clear to everyone except the administration, its police and the BJP functionary who complained against her speech that there was no malice or motive to subvert the government established by law. Of course, it is noteworthy that the police did not rush to arrest her, but only issued a notice to her to appear before the police to explain her remarks, indicating that there may not have been a threat of arrest.

Yet, the very institution of the case is questionable. It is disconcerting that courts are repeatedly called upon to reiterate that strong speech or writing against government policy is not enough to book someone for sedition, and that only incitement to violence or an inclination to cause public disorder amounts to such an offence. The court considered the political context in which the vehement criticism of the administration has come about. There is much debate about the administrative changes introduced by the Administrator, Praful Khoda Patel, since he assumed office last December. The context, indeed, was the criticism of the modified operating procedure, under which the mandatory provision for quarantining visitors to Lakshadweep was given up. Many attribute the exponential rise in COVID-19 cases to this modification. Another Bench of the High Court has stayed the administration's order to close down dairy farms run by the Animal Husbandry Department and remove meat from the menu for school mid-day meals. When controversial orders are made, they do have a propensity to attract vehement protests and strident criticism. Unfortunately, the tendency to accuse critics and detractors of having a design to provoke disaffection against the government is spreading among authorities across the country. It is clear the problem lies in the continuance of questionable provisions such as the one on sedition on the statute book.

War of words

Govt. should require Twitter to follow rules, but not be vindictive for political reasons

IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad's censure of Twitter, after it temporarily blocked his account upon receiving a notice for copyright violation last week, is valid, but only to an extent. Mr. Prasad was right in calling out Twitter, as he did over a series of tweets, for not giving him prior notice of the blocking, as required by India's IT Act rules. The blocking was triggered because Twitter had reportedly received a notice for violations under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA), filed by the International Federation of the Photographic Industry, the content in question being A.R. Rahman's song 'Maa Tujhe Salam'. Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, who is also the Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology, replied to Mr. Prasad, saying he had a similar experience. "Locking is a foolish response to a DMCA notice; disabling the video (which they've now done) should be enough," Mr. Tharoor wrote. Having raised the issue, however, Mr. Prasad went on a needless attempt to make the issue look more than what it really is. One of his tweets in this regard was this: "It is apparent that my statements calling out the high handedness and arbitrary actions of Twitter, particularly sharing the clips of my interviews to TV channels and its powerful impact, have clearly ruffled its feathers."

It is quite likely that this is just a case of a global platform struggling to adhere to the laws of multiple jurisdictions where it has substantial interests. Mr. Tharoor's point in this regard needs highlighting. He tweeted, "But getting a notice from a UK-based organisation, citing @Twitter's role as a 'service provider' under a US law, points to the challenges of @TwitterIndia's operations in India." Nothing more needs to be read into it. Mr. Prasad's outburst is a pointer to the level of deterioration in the relationship between Twitter and the Indian Government. Their already strained relationship has worsened further after Twitter's defiance in not accepting all of the Government's takedown requests from time to time. The problematic new IT rules have also contributed to this unease. But then Twitter also has to share some blame. It has opened itself up to attacks from all sides because of its inability to pull down or label problematic content consistently. It has also come across as being indifferent in adhering to the requirements of the new IT rules, including the timely appointment of a grievance officer. On the other hand, it would be best for the Government to just let the rules do the talking rather than take every opportunity to raise the pitch. This only makes it look inefficient and cantankerous.

The law of sedition is unconstitutional

An urgent review of the Kedar Nath judgment is necessary as 'sedition' violates the basic right of speech and expression



P.D.T. ACHARY

In Vinod Dua's case (2021), the Supreme Court of India has reaffirmed the law of sedition laid down in *Kedar Nath Singh* (1962) and directed governments to adhere to it. This reaffirmation seems to be a little problematic. The *Kedar Nath* judgment upheld the constitutional validity of sedition as defined in Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code. And the Court read down the provision by holding that only writings or speeches which incite people to violence against the Government will come within the mischief of sedition. So, as per this judgment, unless speeches or writings tend to cause violence or disorder, there is no sedition.

Issue of 'disaffection'

Section 124A of the IPC, which contains the law of sedition, categorises four sources of seditious acts. They are, spoken words, written words, signs or visible representations. The gist of the offence is: bringing or attempting to bring the government into contempt or hatred, or exciting or attempting to excite disaffection towards the government. There are three explanations attached to this section. The first explanation says that 'disaffection' includes disloyalty and all feelings of enmity. The second and third explanations say that one can comment on the measures of the government or other actions of the government without bringing or attempting to bring it into contempt or hatred or exciting or attempting to excite disaffection towards the government. These explanations do not convey anything different from

what the defining section says.

Here is an illustration. If a person writes that the Government is very good but the vaccine policy is bad, perhaps he may not attract the charge of sedition as per the explanations. But he should invariably state that the government is very good. If he only says that the policies and actions of the government are consistently bad and does not say that the government is very good, he is liable to be charged with sedition. The recent examples of sedition cases amply prove this point.

The Supreme Court's assertion in *Kedar Nath* that there is sedition only when writing or speech can lead to violence or disorder has consistently been ignored by governments all these years, and citizens of all ages have been charged with sedition for merely criticising the authorities. The Lakshadweep case is the latest example.

The problem actually lies in the fact that the law of sedition was not struck down by the Supreme Court in 1962 as unconstitutional. There was every justification for doing that because sedition, as defined in Section 124A of the IPC, clearly violates Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution which confers the Fundamental Right of freedom of speech and expression, the most valuable right of free citizens of a free country.

Not a reasonable restriction

Further, this section does not get protection under Article 19(2) on the ground of reasonable restriction. It may be mentioned in this context that sedition as a reasonable restriction, though included in the draft Article 19 was deleted when that Article was finally adopted by the Constituent Assembly. It clearly shows that the Constitution makers did not consider sedition as a reasonable restriction. However, the Supreme Court was not swayed by the decision of the Constituent Assembly.



It took advantage of the words 'in the interest ... of public order' used in Article 19(2) and held that the offence of sedition arises when seditious utterances can lead to disorder or violence. This act of reading down Section 124A brought it clearly under Article 19(2) and saved the law of sedition. Otherwise, sedition would have had to be struck down as unconstitutional. Thus, it continues to remain on the statute book and citizens continue to go to jail not because their writings led to any disorder but because they made critical comments against the authorities.

A few ironies

A great irony here is that the law of sedition, which should have gone out of the Statute Book when the Constitution of India came into force, was softened through interpretation and made constitutionally valid by the Supreme Court. This law was enacted by the British colonial government in 1870 with the sole object of suppressing all voices of Indians critical of the government. James Stephen, the author of the Bill, had clarified then that not only critical comments but even a seditious disposition of a person will attract this penal law. It was the policeman who would decide whether a person's disposition was seditious.

The history of this most draconian law during colonial rule would reveal that the basic propositions laid down by Stephen have been followed by courts in all cases on sedition before Independence. In the Bangabasi case in 1891, Bal Gangadhar Tilak's case in

1897 and 1908 and Mahatma Gandhi's case in 1922, the High Courts, and ultimately the judicial committee of the Privy Council, consistently held that incitement to violence or rebellion is not a necessary part of sedition under Section 124A of the IPC and a mere comment which the authorities think has the potential to cause disaffection towards the government is seditious and the person can be arrested and put on trial. Justice Arthur Strachey, while stating the law of sedition before the jury in Tilak's case, had made it absolutely clear that even attempts to cause disaffection would attract the provision, meaning thereby that rebellion, disorder or violence are not an ingredient of sedition. This statement of law by Justice Strachey was approved by the Privy Council.

The Supreme Court, while dealing with *Kedar Nath*, faced a tricky situation. On the one hand, there was the overwhelming judicial opinion saying that in order to attract sedition, a critical comment which causes disaffection towards the government or bring the government into hatred or contempt, is all that is necessary. If this opinion were followed by the Supreme Court, sedition in the IPC would have become unconstitutional. But the top court, for some unexplained reason, did not want to hold it unconstitutional. So, it adopted the reasoning given by the Federal Court in *Niharendu Dutta Majumdar vs Emperor* in 1942 in which it was held that the gist of the offence of sedition is public disorder or a reasonable apprehension of public disorder. In fact the Privy Council's statement of law of sedition had clearly held that public disorder was not an ingredient of sedition. The Supreme Court itself admits that the Federal Court did not have the advantage of seeing the Privy Council's statement of law, otherwise it would have affirmed the Privy Council's

view.

Here we cannot miss the irony that the Supreme Court's attempt to read down Section 124A, to soften it and make its application conditional on public disorder, has made this colonial law constitutionally valid which otherwise it is not. On the other hand, if the judicial opinion on sedition given during the colonial period had been accepted, it would have been held unconstitutional and free India's citizens would not have been thrown into jails for criticising the governments.

Impacting rights

In the ultimate analysis, the judgment in *Kedar Nath* which read down Section 124A and held that without incitement to violence or rebellion there is no sedition, has not closed the door on misuse of this law. It says that 'only when the words written or spoken etc. which have the pernicious tendency or intention of creating public disorder' the law steps in. So if a policeman thinks that a cartoon has the pernicious tendency to create public disorder, he will arrest that cartoonist. It is the personal opinion of the policeman that counts. The *Kedar Nath* judgment makes it possible for the law enforcement machinery to easily take away the fundamental right of citizens.

In a democracy, people have the inalienable right to change the government they do not like. People will display disaffection towards a government which has failed them. The law of sedition which penalises them for hating a government which does not serve them cannot exist because it violates Article 19(1)(a) and is not protected by Article 19(2). Therefore, an urgent review of the *Kedar Nath* judgement by a larger Bench has become necessary.

P.D.T. Achary is former Secretary General, Lok Sabha

Reopen the files, reconsider privatisation

In the backdrop of an economic contraction, it is prudent to revisit the aggressive privatisation of public enterprises



AJAY SHANKAR

Privatisation of the public sector, including banks, has been part of the wish list of economic reformers since 1991. This was at the core of the 'Washington Consensus'. The private sector is inherently more efficient. The ground realities of democratic politics in India, however, kept coming in the way of actual privatisation, though progressive disinvestment of the shares of public sector undertakings in the market has been taking place over the years.

The National Democratic Alliance in the early 2000s did undertake some privatisation but had to pause because of political backlash. This was never in the United Progressive Alliance agenda. For six years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also did not consider it important. But it is now being pursued with vigour, has high priority with extremely ambitious targets, reminiscent of the Thatcher era in the United Kingdom.

India is right now going through its worst economic crisis. The highest-ever contraction in the economy took place last year, unemployment has risen, incomes for growing numbers are falling, bank non-performing assets (NPAs) may be ballooning, and the fiscal deficit is rising. In these circumstances, it would be prudent to think through the pros and cons of the aggressive privatisation of

public enterprises that is on the anvil. There are three categories of public sector enterprises, with each needing its own analysis.

Categories, issues, solutions

There is the category of enterprises which have been sick for a long time. Their technology, plants and machinery are obsolete. Their managerial and human resources have atrophied. Reviews have come to the same conclusion: these are beyond redemption. They should be closed, and assets sold. But this has been difficult with successive governments as the labour in these enterprises have had a political constituency which has prevented closure. With its political strength, the Government should be able to close these in a time-bound manner with a generous handshake for labour. After selling machinery as scrap, there would be valuable land left. These land values have become high. Prudent disposal of these plots of lands in small amounts would yield large incomes in the coming years. All this would need the creation of dedicated efficient capacity as the task is huge and challenging. These enterprises may be taken away from their parent line Ministries and brought under one holding company which should have the sole mandate of speedy liquidation and asset sale.

Then there are enterprises which have been financially sick but can be turned around. Their difficulties can be traced to ministerial micromanagement especially in enterprises with a direct consumer interface. Where private management through privatisation or induction of a strategic



partner is the best way to restore value of these enterprises, this should be pursued on priority. Air India and the India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) hotels are good examples. But these need bold decisions. Air India should ideally be made debt free and a new management should have freedom permitted under the law in personnel management to get investor interest. Once debt free, management control with a 26% stake may be given. As valuation rises, the Government could reduce its stake further and get more money. If well handled, significant revenues would flow to the Government.

The Chinese model

Then there are many profitable enterprises. Pragmatism instead of ideology should guide thinking about them. The Chinese chose to nurture their good state-owned enterprises as well as their private ones to succeed in the domestic and global markets by increasing their competitiveness in cost, quality, and technology. In the Fortune 500 list, the number of Chinese enterprises is 124, and of these, 91 are state-owned enterprises (<https://bit.ly/2Ud8dH6>).

The Chinese chose to promote

both their public as well as their private sector enterprises to rise. Both have made China the economic superpower that it is today.

With profitable public enterprises, the Government can continue to reduce its shareholding by offloading shares and even reducing its stake to less than 51% while remaining the promoter and being in control. Calibrated divestment to get maximum value over the medium term after considering market conditions should be the goal instead of being target driven to get a lower fiscal deficit number to please rating agencies. In correct accounting practice, asset sales should not be classified as revenue income for computing the fiscal deficit.

In parallel, managements may be given longer and stabler tenures, greater flexibility to achieve outcomes, and more confidence to take well-considered commercial risks. It was done in the past when, say, Maruti was set up. It can be done again. Many have the potential of becoming global champions. They can also be asked to invest patient capital in strategic areas where risk is high and where risk averse private investment may not be easily forthcoming. The Chinese have done this well.

Redirect the private sector

Outright privatisation has other implications. First, the number of Indian private firms which can buy out public sector firms are very few. Their limited financial and managerial resources would be better utilised in taking over the large number of private firms up for sale through the bankruptcy process and where a paucity of

buyers is slowing down the much-needed rapid turnaround of these firms to give a higher growth momentum to the economy. Then, these successful large corporates need to be encouraged to invest and grow both in brownfield and greenfield modes in the domestic as well as international markets. This would be better for India entering a higher growth trajectory with an increase in investment rates which have been falling, than in using their scarce resources for taking over government enterprises with no real value addition to the economy in the near term. Sale at fair or lower than fair valuations to foreign entities, firms as well as funds, has adverse implications from the perspective of being 'Atma Nirbhar'. Again, greenfield foreign investment is what India needs and not takeovers.

Then, there are broader considerations. These enterprises provide for reservations in recruitment. With privatisation, this would end and unnecessarily generate social unrest. In dealing with the novel coronavirus pandemic crisis, the Government has been able to use its ownership to get banks and public enterprises to do so many things on an immediate basis. A similar option does not exist with private enterprises. Would it be in India's interest to lose the strategic capacity that its ownership of public enterprises including financial ones provide it? It would be better to think carefully now. These are one-way streets where one cannot retrace one's steps easily.

Ajay Shankar is former Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Government of India

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

'Drone' attack
The report, "Suspected drone attack on IAF Jammu station leaves 2 injured" (Page 1, June 28), only leaves one shocked. One cannot help but contrast this with a report, "DRDO successfully tests new generation nuclear capable missile Agni-P" (Online edition, June 28). Though there is an explanation (Inside pages, June 28) about how difficult it can be to detect drones, a reader is left wondering about our state of readiness and the grave dangers drones can

pose to other vital and sensitive installations.

MANOHARAN MUTHUSWAMY, Chennai

■ As is usual when a peace or political process is on to resolve the Jammu and Kashmir issue and usher in peace, those elements opposed to peace seem to have raised their ugly heads yet again. One can only draw the conclusion of this being a result of activity from across the international border. The needle of suspicion points to anti-India syndicates. The ingenious modus operandi

now does not require manpower and the perpetrators are less traceable. India does need to heighten its security.

NALINI VIJAYARAGHAVAN, Thiruvananthapuram

■ As the incident shows, sabotage and violence are gaining momentum, which should not be allowed to grow. We cannot rest content that this attack resulted only in injuries. And, what has happened to our intelligence?

SRAVANA RAMACHANDRAN, Chennai

Clearing court cases

It is to be appreciated that the Madras High Court is considering the appointment of ad hoc judges to clear the backlog of nearly six lakh cases. As far as only civil cases are concerned, ad hoc judges could be appointed as it is common that litigants go in for arbitration in civil matters and where retired judges are usually involved as arbitrators. It is not advisable to have this formula for criminal cases. The elephant in the room is the alarming level of judicial vacancies. There should be

no vacancies at all when comes to judicial fora which is a sine qua non for the enforcement of the rights of the people.

N.G.R. PRASAD, Chennai

Police excesses
The move by the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister to grant compensation of ₹10 lakh to the family of a victim of police brutality in Salem only highlights the fact that there is falsehood to the hackneyed statement often bandied about: the police is your friend and not your foe.

It is the opposite in many cases and this is the sorry state of affairs in India. The higher-ups do need to go through the police manual frequently, if there is one, and not hesitate to add or delete clauses. Police excesses are still etched in the mind – the case in Tamil Nadu, in 2020, of a father and his son being brutally manhandled and losing their lives, and the Bhagalpur blindings of 1979-80.

MANI NATARAJAN, Chennai

To read more letters online, scan the QR code</p

Keeping alive conversations about AIDS

We can draw key lessons from chronic epidemics such as HIV/AIDS to stymie the COVID-19 pandemic



SOMA BASU



Four decades ago, on June 5, 1981, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported an unusual fungal infection of the lungs (*pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia) in five gay men in Los Angeles. That was the first time the world learnt about the devastating infection caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) in people with a weak immune system.

We are in June of another decade and another century, and another virus is haunting us. Clue epidemiology is the study of information from past epidemics for advice about the present. We have dealt with the HIV infection for 40 years. What stops us from drawing from the collective experience of the past and entering this new battlefield against COVID-19 well-armed?

Falling short of targets

It is widely acknowledged that India scripted one of the biggest success stories in fighting HIV/AIDS between 1997 and 2010, after the infection hit the shores in 1986. The achievement of "controlling AIDS" was flagged by the Centre in 2012 as a small victory in the long journey of accepting, understanding and fighting the disease. But soon, we fell short of our targets.

The aim of the World Health Organization, of which India is a member, was to ensure that 90% of the people living with HIV/AIDS are on anti-retroviral therapy by 2020. The target has been pushed by at least five years. Similarly, the 2017 National Health Policy and the UN Sustainable Development Goals aim to end AIDS by 2030. This goal too looks like it may take longer to achieve. Former Union Health Secretary and National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) Director, J.V.R. Prasada Rao, who helmed India's AIDS response programme till 2017 as Special Envoy to the Secretary General of the United Nations on HIV/AIDS for the Asia Pacific region, fears that the country is at risk of losing hard-won gains.

When the COVID-19 outbreak

shook the world last year, transferring the blame for unmet targets got easy. But AIDS had actually fallen off the radar long before. And if it is further flushed out of public memory, it will be difficult to check progress on controlling it.

How India slipped

After years of debate and hard work, India had everything going for it to escalate the fight against HIV/AIDS. The information and education campaigns of the 1990s helped to check the transmission of HIV infection through two routes: mother to child, and blood transfusions. Strict antenatal protocols were established and blood banks were upgraded with superior testing facilities. The sale of blood was banned. Excellent awareness programmes and intensive follow-up action plans led to significant decline in incidence, but the reduced visibility of the disease led to plateauing of efforts. While politics let AIDS slip from being priority health news, arrogance and complacency of governments between 2013 and 2019 slackened the implementation of AIDS control programmes country-wide.

Post-2014 elections, the government was keen to show the world that it was close to beating AIDS, says Mona Mishra, strategic planning consultant (HIV/AIDS project), UNDP. The HIV infection diagnosis rate dropped from 60% in 2010 to 23% in 2019, the mortality rate doubled and new cases spiked five times more during the period. According to NACO's annual HIV Estimates report of 2019, there were over 58,000 AIDS-related deaths and over 69,000 new HIV infections added to the pool of 2.3 million people living with HIV/

Trusting the same formula

The pioneers of the AIDS movement understood that a strong political leadership, financial support, advocacy and activism were non-negotiable in the successful handling of the movement. "When the HIV reality was unfolding in India, we did not look at short-term interests but took a long-term view of AIDS beyond the health sector and the socio-economic impacts of the epidemic," writes Mr. Prasada in his book *Celebrating Small Victories: My Journey Through Two Decades of AIDS Response*. India needs to keep the conversation going and focus on the broad coalition of economists, scientists, doctors, researchers, technicians, civil society representatives and policymakers, he says. He stresses on the need for a multi-sectoral and multi-pronged strategy to contain AIDS. To fight any medical crisis, we can trust the same formula of supporting science-driven responses, good quality data and empirical evidence; and consolidating guidelines.

"There is a road map for reducing new HIV infections by 2030; we only

need to repurpose it," says Ms. Mishra. Good data and information from scientific investigations have to be combined and the Centre needs to provide resources to scale.

The nationalised AIDS treatment plan is a perfect example of how early detection, diagnosis and treatment saved many lives. It gave a head start to the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) when every State and Union Territory established its own AIDS control organisation and was given a free hand and funds to monitor the epidemic and work on integrated action plans under NACP's supervision.

Universal precaution and prevention were NACP's bedrock. Experts say the NACP's experience in dealing with HIV needs to be tapped into. The existing workforce in 21,000 Integrated Counselling and Testing Centres (ICTC) is well-equipped. They can help in early detection of infections, provide basic information on modes of transmission, promote behavioural change, reduce vulnerability and link people with care and treatment services. A majority of the ICTCs has an excellent outreach in the interiors. The staff can also be easily utilised for dealing with COVID-19 now.

At the core of every exit strategy is a strong surveillance system. The government needs to rejig its priorities and re-energise the ICTCs along with the 32,000-plus primary and urban health centres to uphold the right to treatment and the dignity of individuals affected by diseases – AIDS, COVID-19 or any other. For that, acknowledging the existence and enormity of the problem is crucial. Using the available tools in the healthcare system is the best way to mainstream health crises. By integrating education and awareness outreach programmes and re-allocating and releasing funds on time, any chronic (TB/HIV/malaria), acute (cholera/plague) or new outbreak becomes easier to deal with.

There is no dearth of experiences to draw from if only we are inclined to learn from our past, rather than forget and be "condemned to repeat it", in the words of writer-philosopher George Santayana. And that is also why AIDS needs to be back on the agenda.

soma.basu@thehindu.co.in

Rattling foreign investors

India's failure to honour adverse international judicial rulings hurts its image as an investment destination



PRABHASH RANJAN & PUSHKAR ANAND

On August 15 last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid down his vision for an Atma-Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan (self-reliant India initiative). He said that India is emerging as a major destination for foreign direct investment (FDI) and is shifting its focus from 'make in India' to 'make for the world'. In pursuit of this ambition, the Commerce Ministry recently reported that India attracted the highest ever FDI of \$81.72 billion in 2020-21. However, several economists argue persuasively that the surge in FDI inflows is driven by unprecedented short-term portfolio investment inflows and a few major acquisition deals involving select corporations.

An important factor that propels investors to invest in foreign lands is that the host state will keep its side of the bargain by honouring contracts and enforcing awards even when it loses. But when the host state refuses to do so, it rattles the investors, shakes their confidence in the host state's credibility towards the rule of law, and escalates the regulatory risk enormously. Sadly, to an extent, this has been India's story over the last few years.

Defiance of awards

Last year, India lost two high-profile bilateral investment treaty (BIT) disputes to two leading global corporations – Vodafone and Cairn Energy – on retrospective taxation. The responsibility for these two adverse arbitral awards lies at the door of the United Progressive Alliance-2 (UPA-2) government that startlingly amended the tax law retrospectively after losing a case to Vodafone at the Supreme Court. The current government, instead of remedying the past mistake by honouring both the arbitral awards and restoring India's lost credibility in the eyes of the investor community, continues to exhibit the same defiance. India has challenged both the awards at the courts of the seat of arbitration. While India is well within its rights to do so, it continues to maintain that it 'never agreed to arbitrate' a tax dispute – an argument that the Cairn tribunal rejected unequivocally, and rightly so.

As India drags its feet on the issue of compliance, Cairn has launched legal proceedings in the U.S. to enforce the arbitral award of \$1.2 billion by seizing the assets of Air India. This not only puts Air India in dire straits, especially when the government is at

tempting to privatise it, but also harms India's reputation in dealing with foreign investors.

The interminable Devas saga

The other set of high-profile BIT disputes which stick out like a sore thumb for India arose from the cancellation of an agreement between Antrix, a commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation, and Devas Multimedia, a Bengaluru-based start-up, for the lease of satellite spectrum. The UPA-2 government annulled this agreement arbitrarily on the grounds of national security. This annulment led to three legal disputes – a commercial arbitration between Antrix and Devas Multimedia at the International Chambers of Commerce (ICC), and two BIT arbitrations brought by the Mauritus investors in Devas Multimedia under the India-Mauritius BIT and by Deutsche Telekom, a German company, under the India Germany BIT. India lost all three disputes. The ICC arbitration tribunal ordered Antrix to pay \$1.2 billion to Devas after a U.S. court confirmed the award earlier this year. India challenged the Deutsche Telekom tribunal award in the Swiss Federal Tribunal (being the court of supervision of the arbitration) requesting for annulment, but lost the case.

After the ICC award, Indian agencies started investigating Devas accusing it of corruption and fraud. In what seemed to be a case of pulling a rabbit out of the hat, last month, the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) ordered the liquidation of Devas on the ground that the affairs of the company were being carried on fraudulently. Further, the NCLT directed the official liquidator to prevent Devas from perpetuating its fraudulent activities and abusing the process of law in enforcing the ICC award. This has led to Devas issuing a notice of intention to initiate a new BIT arbitration against India, sowing the seeds for complex legal battles again.

Indisputably, transgressions by foreign investors should be dealt with firmly. But a closer reading of these cases reveals that whenever India loses a case to a foreign investor, immediate compliance rarely happens. Instead, efforts are made to delay the compliance as much as possible. While these efforts may be legal, it sends out a deleterious message to foreign investors. It shows a recalcitrant attitude towards adverse judicial rulings. This may not help India in attracting global corporations to its shores to 'make for the world', as Mr. Modi correctly aspires.

Prabhash Ranjan will soon join the Jindal Global Law School as a Professor and Vice Dean. Pushkar Anand is an Assistant Professor of Law at Delhi University. Views are personal

Entering the CAPF's turf

It makes no sense to appoint Army officials as advisers for anti-Maoist operations in the Home Ministry

M.P. NATHAEL

tain parts, they do not pose a very serious threat.

In the Punjab, it was the CRPF alongside the Punjab Police that brought the situation under control.

Several operations conducted jointly by the CRPF and the Kashmir Police resulted in many losses for the militants and caused little damage to the security forces. This brought a modicum of order in the region. As Deputy Inspector General of Police (Operations) of CRPF in the Valley, this writer along with CRPF Battalions and the Special Operations Group of the Kashmir Police was involved in several operations. In almost all these operations, the security forces emerged unscathed. The Army was never associated in any operations in Srinagar then.

A versatile force

It is absurd to appoint Army officials as advisers for anti-Maoist operations in the Ministry of Home Affairs. What exposure and experience do they have to combat Maoists? The Army has never fought against the Maoists. What sort of advice can they expect to render to the experts of the CAPFs in the field who have spent a major part of their lives combating insurgents and extremists?

Trained initially by State police officers, the Greyhounds, a specialised commando outfit of erstwhile Andhra Pradesh, was able to inflict heavy casualties on Maoists forcing them to migrate to neighbouring States. The elite Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) has played a stellar role in killing some top Maoist leaders and continue to be dreaded by the Maoists.

The CAPFs have well-established training centres across the country with instructors of high calibre. Let us not cast aspersions on their training or competence. The fact that they are able to tackle terrorism in Kashmir, fight the Maoists in left wing extremism-affected States, combat insurgency in the Northeast, ensure smooth conduct of elections and control riots across the country speaks volumes about their versatility.

M.P. Nathael is Inspector General of Police (Retd.), CRPF



DATA POINT

Spending more, eating less

The prices of edible oils and pulses have increased significantly in June. An analysis of retail prices of 21 essential items across India shows that to buy 1 kg of each, a consumer has to spend ₹500 more in June 2021 than its average cost between 2016 and 2019 in the same period. This expense comes at a time when income levels have decreased due to stringent lockdowns. The Hunger Watch Report* found that 27% of the respondents lost their incomes due to the national lockdown and 24% saw their incomes reduce by half by October 2020 compared to pre-lockdown levels. As a result, at least 64% of them said that their consumption of pulses had decreased "a lot or somewhat" by October 2020 compared to March 2020. The second wave and its associated local lockdowns might have worsened the situation further.

By Suman Sen, Jasmin Nihalani and Vignesh Radhakrishnan

1. INFLATED BILL | The table lists the retail prices of 1 kg/1 litre* of an essential commodity in two time periods: on June 25, 2021, and the average price between 2016 and 2019 on the same day. For instance, 1 kg of sunflower oil cost ₹172 on June 25, 2021. Its average price on the same day between 2016 and 2019 was ₹96.

Figures in ₹/kg or ₹/litre

Item	June 25, 2021	2016-2019 avg.	Item	June 25, 2021	2016-2019 avg.
Sunflower Oil	172	96	Urad Dal	109	99
Tea	277	206	Milk*	49	42
Soya Oil	152	87	Rice	36	30
Mustard Oil	171	108	Wheat	31	26
Palm Oil	131	73	Jaggery	47	44
Vanaspatti	134	78	Salt	18	15
Groundnut Oil	181	130	Gram dal	77	74
Moong dal	105	83	Potato	21	19
Masoor dal	87	70	Sugar	40	40
Arhar Dal	107	94	Tomato	23	32
Onion	28	17	Total	1,997	1,461

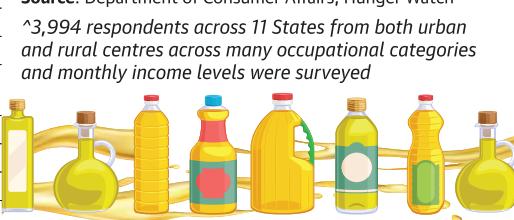
INCOME DROP | The table depicts the change in monthly household income in October 2020 compared to the period before the national lockdown. Over 27% of the households which were earning before the lockdown had no source of income after the lockdown was imposed

Change in income	%
No income	27
Reduced by half	24
Reduced by quarter	20
Reduced slightly	19
Income is unchanged	6
Can't say	4

EATING LESS | The table depicts the change in household consumption of commodities in October 2020 compared to March 2020. For instance, 38% of households reported that the consumption of vegetables decreased a lot in October 2020 compared to March 2020

Commodity	Decreased a lot	Decreased somewhat	Increased	No change
Rice/ wheat	24	30	16	26
Pulses	29	35	11	21
Veggies	38	35	8	15
Egg / Meat	43	28	3	10

Source: Department of Consumer Affairs, Hunger Watch
*3,994 respondents across 11 States from both urban and rural centres across many occupational categories and monthly income levels were surveyed



The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 29, 1971

Constitutional revolution

Cuticut, June 28: Mr. Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer at the Kerala High Court said here last evening that political freedom by itself was not sufficient to complete the revolution to which the Indian people had dedicated themselves. A ballot, he said, was not a bread. It could only bring bread. Speaking on "Fundamental rights under the Indian Constitution and social revolution" at a symposium organised in memory of Mr. C.K. Govindan Nair at the Town Hall, he said that he had always felt when hearing politicians denouncing courts that the judges were more sinned against than sinning. The judiciary did and must occupy the highest place in the constitutional set-up and must play its role in bringing about a

FROM PAGE ONE

Govt. unveils stimulus of ₹6.28 lakh crore

She also unveiled a fresh loan guarantee facility of ₹1.1 lakh crore for healthcare investments in non-metropolitan areas and sectors such as tourism. A separate ₹23,220 crore has been allocated for public health with a focus on paediatric care, which will also be utilised for increasing ICU beds, oxygen supply and augmenting medical care professionals for the short term by recruiting final year students and interns.

Indirect support for exports worth ₹1.21 lakh crore over the next five years, free one-month visas for five lakh tourists, and new seed varieties for farmers were also included in the package. The existing sop to spur employment, where the government bears EPF contributions for new employees earning less than ₹15,000 a month for two years, has been extended till March 31, 2022.

"Setting aside the guarantee schemes and the announcements that had al-

NIA, NSG find no debris of drones at IAF base

They could cover up to 30-40 km of distance. Police sources said a few persons working at the base were questioned but let off later.

So far, India has not blamed any country for the attack, which has left two IAF personnel injured.

Meanwhile, the Army has sighted and opened fire at two drones near a military installation in Jammu's Kaluchak. "On the midnight of June 27-28, two drone activities were spotted over the

+ 10-month dosage gap boosts antibodies: study

The volunteers chosen were among those who'd been part of the phase 1/2 and phase 2/3 clinical trials

Covishield, which is the India-made version of the AstraZeneca vaccine, is now the mainstay of India's vaccination programme comprising nearly 88% of the 32 crore doses administered so far. Though the dosage interval of the vaccine was initially designed as between 4-6 weeks, a supply crunch in May, as well United Kingdom data on the vaccine's efficacy administered 8-12 weeks apart weighed on Indian experts to recommend a 12-16 week interval between two doses of the vaccine.

The latest study also reported reduced common adverse events after the second dose compared to the first. After a first dose, antibody levels peaked in 28 days and after 180 days were nearly half as that of the peak. At 320 days, these were only 30% of the peak paper.

The study also reported higher antibody levels after the second dose than prior to it when antibody levels were measured against the coronavirus variants Alpha (B.1.1.7), Beta (B.1.351) and Delta (B.1.617.2), also the most prevalent variant in India.

'Dialogue not at cost of national security'

Mr. Singh inaugurated 63 bridges, built by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) located in six States and two Union Territories (UTs), at an event held at Kyungam, 88 km from Leh. "I'm confident that the bridges inaugurated today will play a crucial role in strengthening security as well as promoting the economic development of the respective states through improved connectivity," he said.

One of them is a 50-metre single span steel super structure bridge constructed on the Leh-Loma Road in Ladakh and replaces a Bailey bridge. This will ensure

unhindered movement of heavy weapon systems including guns, tanks and other specialised equipment, the Defence Ministry said. "The Leh-Loma Road, which connects Leh with places such as Chumathang, Hanley and Tso Morori Lake, is vital for access to forward areas in Eastern Ladakh."

Eleven of the bridges are in Ladakh, four in Jammu and Kashmir, three in Himachal Pradesh, six in Uttarakhand, eight in Sikkim, one each in Nagaland and Manipur and 29 in Arunachal Pradesh built at a combined cost of ₹240 crore.

Nuclear-capable Agni-P missile test-fired

It has many advanced technologies and will strengthen our credible deterrence capabilities: Rajnath

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A new-generation nuclear-capable ballistic missile, Agni-P (Prime) was successfully test-fired by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on Monday.

"Agni-P is a new-generation advanced variant of Agni class of missiles. It is a canisterised missile with range capability between 1,000 and 2,000 km," a DRDO statement said. The test was conducted at 10.55 a.m. from the Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam island, Balasore, off the coast of Odisha.

High accuracy
Various telemetry and radar stations positioned along the eastern coast tracked and monitored the missile, the statement said. "The missile followed textbook trajectory, meeting all mission objectives with high level of accuracy."

Congratulating the DRDO,



Advanced variant: 'Agni Prime' being test-fired from Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam island off the coast of Odisha on Monday. ■ PTI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Twitter: "Many advanced technologies including composites, propulsion systems, innovative gui-

dance and control mechanisms and state-of-the-art navigation systems have been introduced. The Agni-P missile would further

strengthen India's credible deterrence capabilities."

Explaining the differences from the earlier Agni class of missiles, a DRDO official said Agni-P had improved parameters, including manoeuvring and accuracy. "There is a complete technology upgrade in every way."

Cuts launch time

Canisterisation of missiles reduces the time required to launch the missile while improving its storage and mobility, one defence official explained.

The Agni class of missiles are the mainstay of India's nuclear launch capability which also includes the Prithvi short-range ballistic missiles, submarine-launched ballistic missiles and fighter aircraft.

The longest of the Agni series, Agni-V, an Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) with a range of over 5,000 km, has already been tested several times and vali-

dated for induction.

In the past few years, India has also operationalised its submarine-based nuclear launch capability, completing the nuclear triad. This is especially important given India's no-first-use policy while reserving the right of massive retaliation if struck with nuclear weapons first.

As reported by *The Hindu* earlier, the DRDO, in January 2020, successfully test-fired a 3,500-km range submarine-launched ballistic missile, K-4, from a submerged pontoon off the Visakhapatnam coast.

Once inducted, these missiles will be the mainstay of the Arihant class of indigenous ballistic missile nuclear submarines (SSBN) and will give India the stand-off capability to launch nuclear weapons submerged in Indian waters.

INS Arihant, the only SSBN in service, is armed with K-15 missiles with a range of 750 km.

A-G Venugopal gets one more extension

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union government has extended the tenure of Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal by a year. He will continue as the government's top law officer till June 30, 2022.

This is the second time the Centre has extended his tenure. Mr. Venugopal, 89, who was appointed Attorney-General in July 2017, received his first extension in 2020.

He took over as the 15th Attorney-General after senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi demitted office citing personal reasons.

Mr. Venugopal would be at the helm of the government's legal defence in several sensitive cases pending in the Supreme Court, which includes the challenge to the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and the withdrawal of special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

Allow CA exam, ICAI urges court

It is a professional exam and should not be equated with Class 10 or 12 exams'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) told the Supreme Court on Monday that it had a statutory duty to conduct the chartered accountants (CA) exam in July for the benefit of around 3.74 lakh candidates.

Appearing before a Bench led by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar, senior advocate Ramji Srinivasan, for the ICAI, said opt-out option was available for candidates or whose families had tested COVID-19 positive.

"The option can be exercised on production of COVID-19 positive RTPCR report. Such examinee would be shifted to November 2021 examination cycle," a brief note submitted by the ICAI in the court said.

The court adjourned the case for detailed hearing to



June 29. The exam is scheduled for July 5.

The Bench was hearing pleas to cancel the exam, like the CBSE exams, because of the pandemic.

"The chartered accountants exams are professional examinations and ought not to be equated with the CBSE or other State Board examinations for Classes 10 or 12. It is in the interest of the candidates aspiring to become chartered accountants, start

their professional lives and earn livelihoods, that the examinations be held," the ICAI said.

July was the apt time to conduct the exams with all safety protocols in place, considering the lull in COVID-19 cases. The third wave may hit in September or October, it stated.

'COVID-19 cases low'

"The COVID-19 spread is now at a substantially low level, therefore, this is the opportune moment to offer the aspiring chartered accountants to further their professional careers. As on date, the number of COVID-19 cases are comparatively low and thus it would be in the best interests of the candidates if the examinations are held as per the schedule and not cancelled or postponed," it argued.

The ICAI questioned the bona fide of the petitions seeking the cancellation or postponement of the exams at this last minute.

The Supreme Court had in the past allowed exams to be held whenever the risk had been minimum. "The court has been pleased to allow Class 12 exams for Kerala and Bihar, which were held in April 2021 and February 2021," the note reasoned.

The candidates were eager to take the exam. "Out of 3,74,230 candidates, as on June 27, more than 2,82,000 candidates have downloaded their admit cards, thus showing their eagerness to appear in the examinations," the ICAI said. The decision to have the exams was taken after meticulous planning. The average number of examinees in an examination room was 12.

The ICAI questioned the bona fide of the petitions seeking the cancellation or postponement of the exams at this last minute.

Delhi HC seeks Centre's response to portal's plea

Fact-checking site challenges IT rules

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday sought a response from the Central government on a petition by *Alt News*, an online fact-checking website, challenging the new Information Technology (IT) rules that seek to regulate digital news media.

The court is already seized of similar pleas by major online news portals such as *The Wire*, *The News Minute*, and *Quint Digital Media Ltd.*

A Vacation Bench of Justices C. Hari Shankar and Subramonium Prasad, however, declined to pass any interim order on a fresh application filed by *The Wire* and *Quint*, which claimed that the Union government was "threatening to take coercive action" against on

line news outlets. The court has put the fresh applications for hearing next week when it reopens after the summer vacation.

"You have challenged the [IT] rules. You have made an interim application for their stay. That application has come up before the regular Bench on at least two occasions. The action they [Centre] are now taking is implementation of those rules," the bench remarked.

"Now the notice that has been sent to you is only by way of implementation of the rules, because there is no stay," the court said.

Senior advocate Nitya Ramkrishnan, for the online news outlets, contended that they were forced to approach the court now as the government was "threatening to take coercive action".

P. Sainath selected for 2021 Fukuoka Grand Prize

He promoted civil cooperation through his writings'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Noted journalist P. Sainath has been selected as one of the three recipients of the Fukuoka Prize for 2021. Mr. Sainath will receive the 'Grand Prize' of the Fukuoka Prize while the Academic Prize and the Prize for Arts and Culture will go to Kishimoto Mio of Japan and filmmaker Prabda Yoon of Thailand, respectively.

In a statement issued by the Secretariat of the Fukuoka Prize Committee, Mr. Sainath was described as a "very deserving recipient of the Grand Prize of Fukuoka Prize".

The Secretariat noted his work for creating a new form of knowledge through his writings and commentaries on rural India and for



P. Sainath

"promoting civil cooperation".

The Fukuoka Prize is given annually to distinguish people to foster and increase awareness of Asian cultures, and to create a broad framework of exchange and mutual learning among the Asian people. The Grand Prize has earlier been awarded to Muham-

mad Yunus from Bangladesh, historian Romila Thapar, and sarod maestro Amjad Ali Khan. Eleven Indians have received the Fukuoka Prize so far.

A total of 115 people from 28 countries and areas have received the prize in the past 30 years. The prize was established in 1990.

Professor Mio has been recognised for her understanding of Chinese history. Prabda Yoon will receive the prize for increasing understanding of Japan in Thailand and for pursuing "a deeper philosophical insight into the future of humanity", said the statement from the Secretariat of the Fukuoka Prize Committee.

This year's award ceremony will be held online on September 29.

'Mode of entry no bar to promotion of disabled'

Employee eligible for quota: Bench

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Leesamma Joseph was eligible for reservation in promotion under the Pwd quota. Ms. Joseph, whose permanent disability was assessed at 55%, was employed in the police department on compassionate grounds after her brother's death in harness.

"The 1995 Act [Persons with Disabilities Act of 1995]

does not make a distinction between a person who may have entered service on account of disability and a person who may have acquired disability after having entered the service. Similarly,

the same position would be with the person who may have entered service on a claim of a compassionate appointment.

The mode of entry in service cannot be a ground to make out a case of discriminatory promotion,

Justice Kaul wrote.

IN BRIEF



Term of Deputy Election Commissioner extended

THE APPOINTMENTS Committee of the Cabinet has approved the extension of tenure of Umesh Sinha as Deputy Election Commissioner, Election Commission of India, on contract basis for one year up to July 30, 2022, or until further orders, whichever is earlier, on usual terms and conditions. Mr. Sinha is a retired IAS officer from the Uttar Pradesh cadre.

EX-ENCOUNTER SPECIALIST SENT TO JUDICIAL CUSTODY

A special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court on Monday remanded former encounter specialist and Shiv Sena leader Pradeep Sharma, arrested in the Antilia bomb scare and Mansukh Hirani murder case, in judicial custody till July 12. Co-accused Santosh Shelar and Anand Jadhav were further remanded in the NIA custody for five days.

The NIA arrested Mr. Sharma on June 17.

KAZIRANGA GUARD FACES ACTION FOR KILLING TIGER

The Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve authorities have suspended a forest guard for "unwarranted firing", leading to the death of a 10-year-old male tiger in a village on the outskirts of the park on June 18. Forest officials said the guard was instructed to protect some households in the village where the tiger had entered.

"Instead of firing in the air when the tiger tried to attack him, the guard shot it dead," an official said.

Haryana BJP leader refuses nomination

FinMin's steps will not curb inflation, unemployment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

Former Home and Finance Minister of Haryana Sampat Singh on Monday turned down his nomination as member of the State executive committee of the Bharatiya Janata Party in support of the farmers' agitation.

In a letter to State BJP chief O.P. Dhankar, Mr. Singh said "he was unable to accept this responsibility because of ongoing farmers' agitation... which I also supported from Day One".

Credit guarantee schemes have not guaranteed revival since India's economic downturn. The Finance Minister needs to realise that doing the same thing over and over again delivers headlines but little else," former Union Minister Jairam Ramesh tweeted.

At a virtual press conference, Congress spokesperson Gourav Vallabh said the government's measures would not tackle low demand, low GDP, high inflation and unemployment.

"There is only one way to revive our economy. We have to generate new demand and for that to happen, we need to increase consumption. Ours is not an export-driven but a consumption-driven economy.

INTERVIEW | HIMANTA BISWA SARMA

'Disincentives and incentives go together in approach to population'

We will have to expand health and educational initiatives for slowing down population growth in the State, says Assam Chief Minister

RAHUL KARMAKAR

Since taking oath as Assam's 15th Chief Minister on May 10, **Himanta Biswa Sarma** has waged a war against drugs. But he has grabbed more attention for his advice to Muslims to adopt "decent" family planning measures and for sanctioning a drive to evict encroachers from temple and government lands in which the minorities have mostly been affected. He speaks on these and other issues:

What made you advise the Bengal-origin Muslims to adopt family planning measures, and consider linking government schemes to a two-child policy in future?

■ Today, we have been able to manage our annual population growth to somewhere around 1.6%, but further dissection of the past two censuses shows that the Muslim population in Assam is growing consistently at almost 29% while Hindus are growing at just 10%. This means there will be a lot of poverty

and illiteracy among Muslims. Somehow we need to bring certain measures for slowing down population growth and for that we need to expand health and educational initiatives.

You must look at our policy parameters when you talk of government schemes. First we said there should be incentives like free education for girls, financial inclusion for minority women, reservation in panchayat and government jobs for women in general, and the establishment of women's colleges and university in minority

areas. But if you only focus on incentives without disincentives, any policy is bound to fail. To put it simply, if you are punishing someone for criminal activity, you must reward people for good deeds. In a society, you have to have an approach where both incentives and disincentives work together. But the approach (to population) should come from within the community, because any effort from outside will be interpreted on political lines.

What is the logic behind excluding the tea plantation workers apart from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes from the population-based incentives and disincentives?

■ The Scheduled Tribes population in Assam is decreasing. People belonging to the tea community are essential-



As Chief Minister, my duty is to protect the forests and I don't have to see which religion the evicted belong to

ly tribals although they are constitutionally not recognised as STs. But they are Adivasis and are either SCs or STs in their original homeland. So our policy is consistent in the national context. It is very difficult to address the issue of the demand to grant them ST status (along with five other communi-

ties). The communities enjoying ST status are opposed to the move, and I don't want clashes because of this opposition. This has been a long-pending issue and I don't think we can address it in a hurried manner.

You have launched an eviction drive against encroachers on government, forest and temple land. Is this directed at migrant Muslims?

■ It seems so from the outside. It is merely accidental that some of the evicted people belong to the religious minority group, but we have also evicted non-Muslims. We evicted people from Ghatanagar (in Guwahati on June 26) who are all Hindus and indigenous Assamese. It is not that we are targeting a community but unfortunately, encroachment is higher

on that side. For me, encroachers are a class who turn out to be Muslims or Hindus when the action is taken on the ground. As Chief Minister, my duty is to protect the forests and I don't have to see which religion the evicted belong to. The Supreme Court and the High Court keep passing orders for ensuring that the forest cover does not reduce. I am just acting according to the national policy.

As for land belonging to *satras* (Vaishnav monasteries) and *namghars* (community prayer halls), we are on the same page as the Congress and the All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF). There was unanimity across the board when I appealed in the Assembly for Hindus not to occupy mosque land and Muslims not to occupy the land of the *satras* and *namghars*.

What is your stand on the National Register of Citizens (NRC) that seems to have been left in limbo?

■ Our NRC coordinator has filed a petition in the Supreme Court for a relook at the document. It is up to the court to hear the petition.

Your government has launched a massive drive against drugs, but the major problem is the inflow of narcotic substances from Myanmar through border States ruled by the BJP or allies. Are you going for a coordinated push?

■ We have not discussed the issue at the Chief Ministers' level because Union Home Minister Amit Shah is coming to Shillong in July and one of the issues is coordination among the northeastern States for checking the drug

menace and trafficking of women and children. I think we will see more prompt and positive results.

The ULFA-Independent declared a three-month ceasefire after your appeal. Is a peace process possible despite its chief Paresh Baruah's insistence on discussing the sovereignty of Assam?

■ That terminology is dicey. He has his ideology impacted by decades of living in the jungles, and I have taken an oath to protect the sovereignty of the country. This is an irreconcilable matter but if we can coin another word if we can coin another word to discuss the same issues, we can make some progress. Nevertheless, there are many people who are in touch with the ULFA-I for discussing substantial issues without insisting on the word.



Sidhu to meet Rahul, Priyanka in Delhi

CHEMIDGARH

Amid the ongoing infighting within Punjab Congress, former Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu, who has been at odds with Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, is slated to meet Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in New Delhi on Tuesday. They are expected to have deliberations on ways to end the factionalism in the party's Punjab unit.

NHRC panel extends West Bengal visit

NEW DELHI

The National Human Rights Commission committee investigating complaints of post-poll violence in West Bengal has decided to extend its interaction with stakeholders by another day due to the response on the first two days, an official said. The committee, headed by NHRC member Rajiv Jain, was appointed on the orders of the Calcutta High Court on June 18. Its members met victims, complainants and other stakeholders on Sunday and Monday in Kolkata as part of the investigation, the official said.

Bengal Bar Council wants acting CJ removed

KOLKATA

Chairman of the Bar Council of West Bengal Ashok Kumar Deb has written to Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, seeking the removal of acting Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court Rajesh Bindal owing to his alleged bias. "We would like to set out some instances which has given rise to perception that Hon'ble Bindal is an unfair, biased and partial judge and whose continuance at the Hon'ble High Court interferes with the fair and impartial dispensation of justice," the letter said. Mr. Deb, who is also a Trinamool Congress MLA, noted the "way" bail to the four accused in the Narada case was withheld without hearing the accused and "improper listing" of various cases, including the petition of CM Mamata Banerjee.

Small civilian drones pose significant threat, say officials

Armed forces need to gear up, they point out

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

As investigation continues into the two explosions at the Jammu airbase, believed to have been carried out using drones, defence officials and experts said there was a potent threat from small civilian drones, and the armed forces should accelerate their plans to put in place counter-drone systems.

"This incident brings to reality the long apprehensions of security forces. A quadcopter available in the open market for a few thousand rupees can hit strategic targets and cause huge damage," a defence official said. To counter this, the Services should speed up plans for procuring anti-drone technologies, which would come



Watchful eyes: Army soldiers standing guard at the Jammu Air Force Station. ■ AP

at a huge expense, the official noted.

Another official said there had been several instances in the past couple of years where quadcopters were used to drop drugs, arms and ammunition from across the border in Jammu and Punjab. There have been several warnings in the recent past on the possible use of drones by terrorist groups.

As the civilian market for drones is set to see a major

expansion, requisite measures in terms of capabilities as well as policy measures should be put in place, the official pointed out.

There have been warnings that Pakistan-based terrorist groups could attempt to target military bases with drones. After the drone attack on the Saudi Aramco oil facilities in Saudi Arabia in September 2019, the armed forces held deliberations on the issue and put in place

plans to procure counter-drone capabilities. "There will now be a review of these progress of these efforts," the official said.

The armed forces indicated their intent to develop or acquire Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems capability in the Technology and Capability Perspective Roadmap-2018 issued by the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff, according to a research article published in *Asian Defence Review 2019*.

The most popular methods of neutralising drones, as per the article, are jamming or spoofing of the radio frequency link between the rogue UAS and its operator, using Directed Energy Weapons such as lasers for dazzling of sensors or by destructing the critical airframe components of the drone and the traditional means of employing guns, missiles and other hard kill options.

While the policeman and his wife, Raja Begum, died on Sunday, their daughter, Rafia Akhtar, died of injuries at a Srinagar hospital on Monday morning.

Militants kill policeman, family

Jaish operatives behind attack in Pulwama, say police

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Militants shot dead a policeman, his wife and daughter in Pulwama in Jammu and Kashmir late on Sunday, the police said.

The incident took place at Hari Parigam village when militants barged into the residence of special police officer Fayaz Ahmed around 10.30 p.m. and fired indiscriminately at those inside.

"There was a movement of Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) militants in the area. It seems that two foreign militants carried out the attack. They fired at special police officer Fayaz Ahmed, and when his wife and daughter tried to save him, they too were fired upon," Inspector-General of Police Vijay Kumar said.

While the policeman and his wife, Raja Begum, died on Sunday, their daughter, Rafia Akhtar, died of injuries at a Srinagar hospital on Monday morning.

The incident comes less than a month after two off-duty policemen, including an inspector of the Crime Investigation Department, were killed in Srinagar by suspected militants.

Political parties, including the J&K Apni Party, the National Conference, the Peoples Conference, the CPI(M) and the Peoples Democratic Party, condemned the incident.

LeT 'commander' held

The security forces on Monday arrested Nadeem Abrar,



Gun battle: Army jawans taking cover during an encounter on the outskirts of Srinagar on Monday. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

a top 'commander' of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), in Srinagar. Abrar was involved in several killings. His arrest is a big success for us," Mr. Kumar said.

Initial reports suggested that Abrar was travelling in a car when he was arrested near Parimpura, which is in close vicinity of Maloora, where a militant was gunned down in an encounter during the day.

A police officer said a militant could be hiding in the Maloora area.

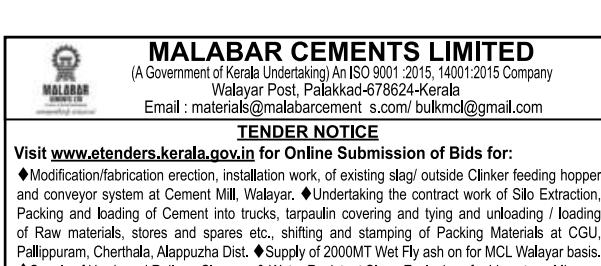
Row between Mamata, Governor intensifies

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

were "far from facts and plain and simple untruth".

"He is a corrupted man; I am sorry to say or corruption-oriented man. How can the Centre allow such a Governor... This Governor's name also figured in Jain Hawala diaries which was cleared by courts, but a PIL is pending," Ms. Banerjee said.

In a quick reaction, Mr. Dhanikha said the remarks



दूर भाषा संस्थाय / Ph No.: +91-8623-22-5009 फेक्स संस्थाय / Fax No. +91-8623-22-5157

SANGKSHIT INNIVIDYA SUCHANA / BRIEF e-TENDER NOTICE Date: 23.06.2021

भारत के राष्ट्रीयीकृती की ओर से, समाज प्रकृति एवं परिवर्तन के कार्य का अनुभव रखने वाले पात्र निविदाकारों / लेंडर्सों से निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए हैं-टैंडरिंग मार्ग से पूर्व बैद्य द्वारा निविदा आमंत्रित है। On behalf of President of India, sealed Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for the following works from eligible contractors/agencies having experience in works of similar nature and magnitude.

प्रतिक्रिया आई संस्कृती के अनुभवित लागत/Estimated cost put to tender - ₹ 60.00 लाख / Lakhs

कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि/Period of completion - 01 साल / 01 Year

वायरल मॉनी डेपोजिट (EMD): संलग्नक-1 के रूप में अनुलग्नित प्रतिक्रिया द्वारा दिया जाया योग्यता प्राप्त प्रस्तुत करो। / EMD Declaration shall be submitted in prescribed format enclosed as Annexure-1

निविदा दस्तावेज का अंतिम तिथि एवं समय/Last date and time for uploading of tenders:

29.06.2021, 10:30 बजे से 08.07.2021 को 14:30 बजे तक / From 10:30 Hrs 29.06.2021 To 14:30 Hrs 08.07.2021

निविदा दस्तावेज का अंतिम तिथि एवं समय/Last date and time of opening of tenders:

12.07.2021 के अपराह्न 15:00 बजे तक / 15:00 Hrs on 12.07.2021

प्रतिक्रिया दस्तावेजों तथा निविदाओं में सहायता हेतु इस्कु निविदाकारों को कार्यालय द्वारा 08623-226431, 226370 पर संपर्क करें। www.isro.gov.in

निविदा दस्तावेजों को अंतिम तिथि एवं समय पर उपलोड करने के लिए इस्का उपयोग करें। Interested tenders may please log on to www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO for eligibility, Terms & Conditions and participating in tenders. For further details please contact this office of Group Head, CMG SDSC SHAR, Sriharikota over Phone No.: 08623-226431, 226370 (or) visit our website www.isro.gov.in

Sd/- Group Head, CMG, SDSC SHAR

SOUTHERN RAILWAY</

IN BRIEF



Dr. Reddy's announces launch of oral drug

HYDERABAD Drugmaker Dr. Reddy's Laboratories has announced the commercial launch of 2-deoxy-D-glucose (2-DG), an oral drug for use as an adjunct therapy for hospitalised COVID-19 patients. The maximum retail price is ₹990 per sachet. It will be made available at a subsidised rate to government institutions, the company said, adding that its 2-DG has a purity of 99.5%. Dr. Reddy's said it will be supplying the product to major government as well as private hospitals across the country.

M.P. schools not to reopen on July 1: CM

BHOPAL Schools in Madhya Pradesh that were scheduled to open on July 1 will now open at a later date after consultation with the Centre, other States and experts, CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan said. Chairing a meeting on the recommendations of Ministers to prepare a strategy to fight COVID-19, he said studies will continue through online mode and TV broadcasts. He also said the Class XII results should on the basis of 'best of five marks' obtained in Class X, and those wanting to improve can appear for an exam that will be organised sometime later.

Bengal extends COVID-19 restrictions till July 15

KOLKATA The West Bengal government on Monday extended the restrictions placed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic till July 15, but allowed certain relaxations for the operation of public transport. "Government and private buses, autorickshaws and e-rickshaws will be allowed to operate with 50% passengers," Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said. Local trains and Metro services would remain suspended in the State till July 15. "All bazaars and markets can open from 6 a.m. to 12 p.m. All other shops can stay open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.," Ms. Banerjee said.

'Maharashtra ready to give 15 lakh doses daily'

MUMBAI Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Monday said the State had set up the infrastructure to deliver 15 lakh COVID-19 vaccine doses daily. "Even if the number of patients are decreasing, the new Delta Plus variant of the virus is spreading across the world... Maharashtra has set up the infrastructure to deliver 15 lakh vaccine doses in a day," he said. The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority handed over a jumbo COVID-19 centre in Malad to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC).

India has reported 40,845 cases of mucormycosis so far: Minister

Active COVID-19 cases mostly in Maharashtra, Kerala, T.N., Bengal and Odisha

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

India has so far reported 40,845 cases of mucormycosis during the second wave of the pandemic, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said on Monday while chairing the 29th meeting of the Group of Ministers (GoM) on COVID-19 by videoconference.

A total of 31,344 of the cases were rhinocerebral in nature, Mr. Vardhan said.

Fatalities due to the infection stood at 3,129. While 34,940 patients had COVID-19 (85.5%), 26,187 (about 64.11%) had diabetes as a comorbidity and 21,523 (52.69%) of those infected were on steroids.

Also, 13,083 (32%) patients were in the 18 to 45 age group, 17,464 (42%) were



Comforting the sick: A ward allotted for mucormycosis patients at a hospital in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. ■ VIJAY SONEJI

between 45 and 60, and 10,082 (24%) patients were above the age of 60.

During the meeting, Balram Bhargava, Secretary (Health Research) and Director-General, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR),

said the second wave had still not subsided as 80 districts had a high positivity rate. He advised against any laxity at this stage.

The vaccines were effective against the Alpha, Beta, Gamma and Delta variants,

he added.

The GoM reiterated the importance of COVID-appropriate behaviour, the Health Ministry said, adding that Sujeev K. Singh, Director, National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), presented a detailed report on the trajectory of the virus.

Active cases

Active cases continued to be mainly concentrated in Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Odisha, which were also reporting a growth rate more than the national COVID-19 growth rate, Mr. Singh said. "While 19 States are reporting fatality figures in the single digit [less than 10], Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu are reporting more than 100 deaths daily."

Hope to resolve Green Pass issue soon, says SII CEO

Covishield has not been approved by EU's drug regulator

STAFF REPORTER

PUNE

Amid concerns that Indian travellers who have taken Covishield may not be eligible for the Green Pass issued by the European Union (EU) for travel, Adar Poonawalla, CEO, Serum Institute of India (SII), on Monday said he had already taken up the matter "at the highest levels" and hoped for an early resolution of the issue.

The SII CEO, in a tweet, said: "I realise that a lot of Indians who have taken COVISHIELD are facing issues with travel to the EU. I assure everyone, I have taken this up at the highest levels and hope to resolve this matter soon, both with regulators and at a diplomatic level with countries."

The SII manufactures the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine



Adar Poonawalla

(with a licence from AstraZeneca) under the brand name Covishield in India. While the EU's drug regulator, the European Medicines Agency (EMA), has approved Vaxzevria – as AstraZeneca's shot is known outside India – Covishield has not figured in its approval list despite being approved by the World Health Organization.

In an e-mail response to media outlets, the EMA's

press officer said it had received a submission for marketing authorisation only for Vaxzevria. This was evaluated by the EMA, which lead to its authorisation in the EU.

Stating that vaccines were biological products, the EMA's statement further said: "Even tiny differences in the manufacturing conditions can result in differences in the final product, and EU law, therefore, requires the manufacturing sites and production processes to be assessed and approved as part of the authorisation process."

Along with Vaxzevria, three other vaccines have been approved by the EMA – Comirnaty (manufactured by Pfizer-BioNTech), Moderna and Janssen (by Johnson & Johnson).

'CoWIN's open-source version to be provided to 50 nations'

Technology to be presented on July 5 at conclave: NHA CEO

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

India will soon provide an open-source version of its CoWIN application to nearly 50 countries from Central Asia, Africa and Latin America that have indicated an interest in the technology, R.S. Sharma, CEO, National Health Authority (NHA) and Chairman of the technical committee that oversees the CoWin platform, said on Monday at the second Public Health Summit 2021 – "Emerging imperative in strengthening public health for India" – organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

India was getting ready to share its information globally, he said, adding that on July 5, it would participate in an international conclave where the technology would be presented.

'Best way forward'

While India continued to grapple with the devastating second wave of the pandemic, vaccines seemed to be the best way forward, Mr. Sharma added.

CoWIN is an extension of an electronic vaccine intelligence network, eVIN, which is used to collect real-time feedback of the vaccination programmes. It is a cloud-based IT solution for planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating COVID-19 vaccination in the country.

According to the operational guidelines for COVID-19 vaccination prepared



CoWIN is used to collect real-time feedback of the vaccination programmes.

stressed the healthcare system and disrupted the medical care eco-system.

"But what this has also taught us is that we have to be prepared for outbreaks. We have seen bird flu, swine flu, Ebola and Zika outbreaks in the past and now it is time that we understand the importance of prevention," he said.

The country had to work at getting health a greater share in the GDP and ensure that human resources were available and trained. "The challenges we face include underinvestment in the healthcare sector, lack of the public health system being driven by technology and data, and the slow-paced development of infrastructure. COVID-19 has taught us that the way forward is partnership and we have to undertake this in a big way," Dr. Guleria added.

Doses for States

The Union Health Ministry on Monday said more than 31.69 crore (31,69,40,160) vaccine doses had been provided to the States through the free-of-cost channel and through the direct State procurement category.

Of this, the total consumption, including wastage, was 30,54,17,617 doses (as per data available at 8 a.m. on Monday).

More than 1.15 crore (1,15,22,543) balance and unutilised vaccine doses were still available with the States and Union Territories, it added.

'Prepare for outbreaks'

Speaking at the summit, Deepak Guleria, Director, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), pointed out that the pandemic had

CoronaVac safe for children: study

Higher dose induced neutralising antibody responses in trials of 3 to 17 year olds

RAMYA KANNAN

CHENNAI

A higher dose of the Chinese vaccine CoronaVac was "well tolerated and safe, and induced neutralising antibody responses in children and adolescents aged 3-17 years", a study in the recent edition of the peer-reviewed journal *Lancet Infectious Diseases*

has stated.

The seroconversion rates of neutralising antibodies in children and adolescents with two different doses were over 96% after a double-dose vaccination, the paper reported.

The double-blind randomised, controlled, phase 1/2

clinical trial of CoronaVac (inactivated SARS-CoV-2), in healthy children and adolescents aged 3-17 years was conducted at the Hebei Provincial Center for Disease Control and Prevention in Zanhuang (Hebei, China).

On the basis of the results of previous trials and considering the relative low weight of this population, two different doses – 1.5 mcg (micrograms) and 3.0 mcg – were adopted in this study. Two doses were delivered via injection, 28 days apart.

The paper claimed: "Most adverse reactions were mild and moderate in severity. Injection site pain was the most frequently reported event (73 [13%] of 550 participants), occurring in 36 (16%) of 219 participants in the 1.5 mcg group, 35 (16%) of 217 in the 3.0 mcg group, and two (2%) in the placebo group. Most of these reactions occurred within seven

days after vaccination and participants recovered within 48 hours

In phase 2, seroconversion was seen in 180 of 186 participants in the 1.5 mcg group and 180 of 180 participants in the 3.0 mcg group.

The paper claimed: "Most adverse reactions were mild and moderate in severity. Injection site pain was the most frequently reported event (73 [13%] of 550 participants), occurring in 36 (16%) of 219 participants in the 1.5 mcg group, 35 (16%) of 217 in the 3.0 mcg group, and two (2%) in the placebo group. Most of these reactions occurred within seven

days after vaccination and participants recovered within 48 hours

In phase 2, seroconversion was seen in 180 of 186 participants in the 1.5 mcg group and 180 of 180 participants in the 3.0 mcg group.

The paper claimed: "Most adverse reactions were mild and moderate in severity. Injection site pain was the most frequently reported event (73 [13%] of 550 participants), occurring in 36 (16%) of 219 participants in the 1.5 mcg group, 35 (16%) of 217 in the 3.0 mcg group, and two (2%) in the placebo group. Most of these reactions occurred within seven

days after vaccination and participants recovered within 48 hours

In phase 2, seroconversion was seen in 180 of 186 participants in the 1.5 mcg group and 180 of 180 participants in the 3.0 mcg group.

The paper claimed: "Most adverse reactions were mild and moderate in severity. Injection site pain was the most frequently reported event (73 [13%] of 550 participants), occurring in 36 (16%) of 219 participants in the 1.5 mcg group, 35 (16%) of 217 in the 3.0 mcg group, and two (2%) in the placebo group. Most of these reactions occurred within seven

days after vaccination and participants recovered within 48 hours

In phase 2, seroconversion was seen in 180 of 186 participants in the 1.5 mcg group and 180 of 180 participants in the 3.0 mcg group.

The paper claimed: "Most adverse reactions were mild and moderate in severity. Injection site pain was the most frequently reported event (73 [13%] of 550 participants), occurring in 36 (16%) of 219 participants in the 1.5 mcg group, 35 (16%) of 217 in the 3.0 mcg group, and two (2%) in the placebo group. Most of these reactions occurred within seven

days after vaccination and participants recovered within 48 hours

In phase 2, seroconversion was seen in 180 of 186 participants in the 1.5 mcg group and 180 of 180 participants in the 3.0 mcg group.

The paper claimed: "Most adverse reactions were mild and moderate in severity. Injection site pain was the most frequently reported event (73 [13%] of 550 participants), occurring in 36 (16%) of 219 participants in the 1.5 mcg group, 35 (16%) of 217 in the 3.0 mcg group, and two (2%) in the placebo group. Most of these reactions occurred within seven

days after vaccination and participants recovered within 48 hours

In phase 2, seroconversion was seen in 180 of 186 participants in the 1.5 mcg group and 180 of 180 participants in the 3.0 mcg group.

The paper claimed: "Most adverse reactions were mild and moderate in severity. Injection site pain was the most frequently reported event (73 [13%] of 550 participants), occurring in 36 (16%) of 219 participants in the 1.5 mcg group, 35 (16%) of 217 in the 3.0 mcg group, and two (2%) in the placebo group. Most of these reactions occurred within seven

days after vaccination and participants recovered within 48 hours

In phase 2, seroconversion was seen in 180 of 186 participants in the 1.5 mcg group and 180 of 180 participants in the 3.0 mcg group.

The paper claimed: "Most adverse reactions were mild and moderate in severity. Injection site pain was the most frequently reported event (73 [13%] of 550 participants), occurring in 36 (16%) of 219 participants in the 1.5 mcg group, 35 (16%) of 217 in the 3.0 mcg group, and two (2%) in the placebo group. Most of these reactions occurred within seven

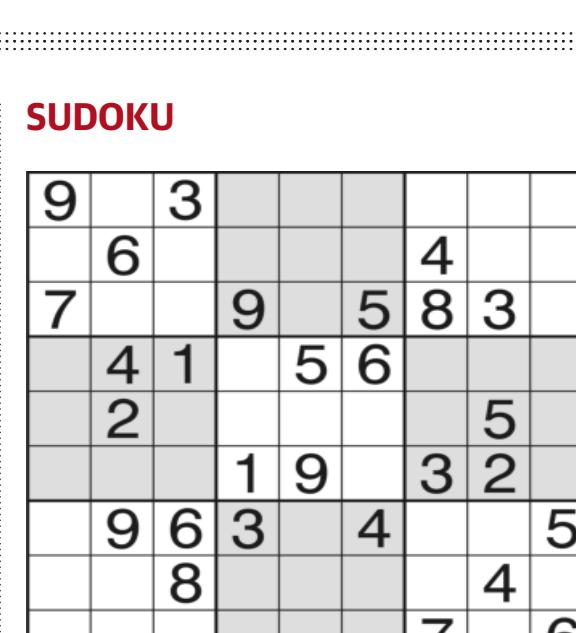
days after vaccination and participants recovered within 48 hours

In phase 2, seroconversion was seen in 180 of 186 participants in the 1.5 mcg group and 180 of 180 participants in the 3.0 mcg group.

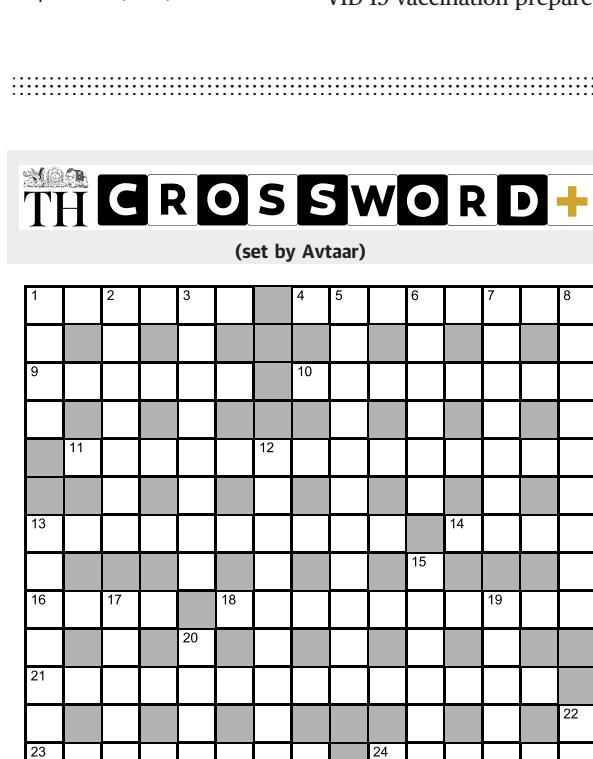
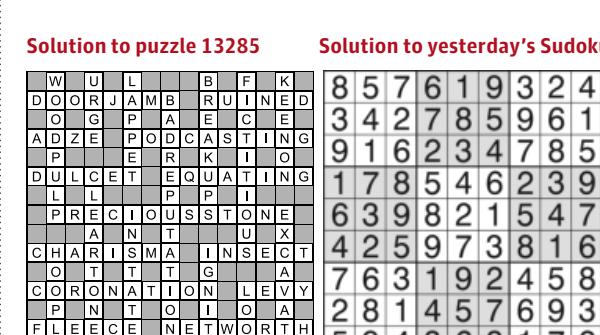
The paper claimed: "Most adverse reactions were mild and moderate in severity. Injection site pain was the most frequently reported event (73 [13%] of 550 participants), occurring in 36 (16%) of 219 participants in the 1.5 mcg group, 35 (16%) of 217 in the 3.0 mcg group, and two (2%) in the placebo group. Most of these reactions occurred within seven

days after vaccination and participants recovered within 48 hours

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 13285 Solution to yesterday's Sudoku



ACROSS
1 Do well by leaders of community, integrating all locals (6)
4 Persian script used in talags (8)
9 Rare infection of the lung? Pressure is controlled with drug (6)
10 Sold off abandoned junk – lie detectors and similar things (8)
11 Cricket administrator adapted this incentive system with merit increases, to start with (6,3,5)
13 Spooner sauteed tapioca, say and raisins (10)

CM YK

FAITH

Desika's masterstroke

In a sloka in Vedanta Desika's Yadavabhyudaya, Yoga Maya says to Kamsa, "I am the maya of the One who killed Madhu and Kaitabha here, by Desika, is a masterstroke, said V.S. Karunakarachariar, in a discourse. It reminds us of the Lord's Hayagriva avatara and Durga's role during

MARKET WATCH

	PRICE	CHANGE
Sensex	52,735	-0.36
US Dollar	74.19	0.01
Gold	46337	0.06
Brent oil	75.3	-0.42

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	716.25	+0.05
Asian Paints	2982.95	-20.95
Axist Bank	762.40	+1.05
Bajaj Auto	4183.45	-12.70
Bajaj Finance	12377.90	-108.70
Bajaj Finance	6037.05	-38.75
Bharti Airtel	531.20	-3.90
BPCL	467.15	-2.90
Britannia Ind	3667.25	-2.80
Cipla	963.05	+5.95
Coal India	147.20	-1.55
Divis Lab	4314.40	+65.65
Dr Reddy's Lab	5404.25	+94.95
Eicher Motors	2740.45	+19.65
Gasim Ind	1520.60	+13.75
HCL Tech	985.30	-10.35
HDFC	2494.95	-14.25
HDFC Bank	1508.35	-6.75
HDFC Life	696.20	-29.75
Hero MotoCorp	2943.65	+4.45
Hindalco	382.30	+6.40
Hind Unilever	2460.20	+11.55
ICICI Bank	650.30	+1.30
IndusInd Bank	1008.90	-4.00
Infosys	1571.80	-2.40
Indian Oil Corp	110.85	-0.55
ITC	203.60	-1.45
JSW Steel	695.35	+5.85
Kotak Bank	1733.05	-1.95
L&T	1514.45	-9.40
M&M	793.50	-0.75
Maruti Suzuki	7596.25	-52.75
Nestle India Ltd.	17506.15	-0.55
NTPC	116.15	0.10
ONGC	122.35	1.45
PowerGrid Corp	231.85	1.00
Reliance Ind	2086.00	-18.45
SBI Life	1002.10	-5.05
State Bank	426.75	-2.05
Shree Cement	28390.20	-338.90
Sun Pharma	676.30	+4.05
Tata Consumer Products Ltd.	765.65	+8.05
Tata Motors	342.80	3.15
Tata Steel	1184.00	+18.75
TCS	3336.75	-44.05
Tech Mahindra	1105.10	+15.60
Titan	1728.05	-25.80
UltraTech Cement	6869.45	-53.55
UPL	809.10	-3.95
Wipro	547.40	-0.10

EXCHANGE RATES

	TT BUY	TT SELL
CURRENCY		
US Dollar	73.99	74.31
Euro	88.32	88.73
British Pound	102.97	103.42
Japanese Yen (100)	66.81	67.13
Chinese Yuan	11.46	11.51
Swiss Franc	80.59	80.95
Singapore Dollar	55.11	55.35
Canadian Dollar	60.08	60.35
Malaysian Ringgit	17.84	17.93

Source: Indian Bank

Skoda SUV Kushaq prices start from ₹10.49 lakh

MUMBAI Skoda Auto India on Monday said its new SUV Kushaq will be offered at an ex-showroom price starting at ₹10.49 lakh nationwide.

Confident divestment target of ₹1.75-lakh crore will be met: CEA

Bolstering capital expenditure is the best way to spur the economy, he says

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD

Chief Economic Adviser Krishnamurthy Subramanian has expressed confidence that the ₹1.75-lakh crore disinvestment target of this fiscal will be achieved, with a good part coming from the proposed IPO of insurance behemoth LIC and privatisation of Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL).

"This year there is actually lot of emphasis on achieving these targets. Lot of work is going on," he said.

While LIC's public issue and BPCL privatisation are expected to contribute a chunk of the target, from a signalling perspective, Air India's privatisation is also



Star candidate: Air India's privatisation is also very important from a signalling perspective, says the CEA. ■ AP

very important, on which too work is happening, the CEA said. "I think this year very likely will be remembered for privatisation that has been achieved," Mr. Subramanian said in a virtual in-

teraction with members of the Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI) on Monday. Earlier, delivering a lecture on 'India's Economy: Recovery and Way forward',

ICRA trims tractor sales growth outlook for FY22

Estimate at 1-4% due to second wave'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Ratings agency ICRA on Monday revised downwards the growth forecast for domestic tractor volumes to 1-4% in 2021-22 due to the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic impeding the industry momentum in the first quarter.

The agency had earlier projected a 4-6% growth in domestic tractor volumes for FY22. "In view of the impact of the second wave, the same has been revised downwards to 1-4%," ICRA said in a statement.

"Downside risks to these estimates emanate from spells of unfavourable rainfall leading to crop damage and a resurgence in COVID



cases," the ratings agency.

However, ICRA said given the high base of the previous fiscal, even stagnant volume growth in the current fiscal would still represent very strong volumes for the industry participants.

Even as there is uncertainty with regard to the evolution of the pandemic, the underlying demand drivers for the industry remain intact, ICRA said.

SpiceJet mulls fundraising options

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Low-cost carrier SpiceJet will discuss options to raise funds at a board meeting scheduled to be held on June 30, it told the BSE.

"The board of directors of the company, in its meeting scheduled on Wednesday, the 30th day of June, 2021 will discuss and consider, inter-alia, options for raising fresh capital through issue of equity shares/debt instrument on preferential/qualified institutions placement basis," the airline said in the BSE filing late on Sunday evening.

The airline posted a combined loss of ₹762 crore for the first three quarters of FY21.

SAT stays SEBI order on Franklin Templeton

It halves fee refund amount to ₹250 cr.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

The Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) on Monday stayed a SEBI order that had barred Franklin Templeton Asset Management (India) from unveiling new debt schemes for two years and had asked the fund house to refund a little over ₹512 crore.

In its order, the SAT noted that 21 debt schemes were still being managed by Franklin Templeton and no complaint on these schemes had come to the fore. "The mere fact that the appellant (Franklin Templeton) [has] chosen to wind up six schemes does not mean that they should be debarred from launching any new debt schemes," the SAT added.

The appeal was filed against an order passed by SEBI on June 7, which said Franklin Templeton violated certain provisions of mutual funds norms in relation to the management of the

Sensex slides as stimulus fails to cheer

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI

The equity benchmark BSE Sensex reversed early gains to close 189 points lower as investors gave a lukewarm response to the government's fresh stimulus for COVID-hit sectors.

Stating that enhancing capital expenditure was the best way to grow the economy as it had a multiplier effect, he said the Centre's impetus to growth driven by infrastructure, and ramp-up in spending since October had accelerated the growth of the construction sector as also created jobs. A spillover effect was growth in consumption, he said, adding that the impact of the second wave was shorter in duration and likely to be muted on the economy as evident from the GST collection figures.

Titan was the top loser in the Sensex pack, shedding 1.56%, followed by TCS, HCL Tech, Bajaj Finserv, Reliance Industries and UltraTech Cement.

"The extension of ECLGS's scope and coverage are expected to provide significant support to the cash flow of the stressed sectors," he added. Stating that tourism had been one of the most impacted sectors, he said the package would usher in much-needed liquidity and help revive the employment-intensive sector.

Healthcare, travel sectors welcome stimulus

'Scale up medical infra manifold'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Industry and analysts welcomed the targeted interventions – with a special focus on health and tourism – announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

"The measures to keep enterprises afloat in the aftermath of COVID-2.0 in the form of extending loan guarantees to the healthcare, tourism sectors and small borrowers, in addition to increasing the scope of ECLGS by ₹1.5 lakh crore are very welcome steps," CII president TV. Narendran said.

"The extension of ECLGS's scope and coverage are expected to provide significant support to the cash flow of the stressed sectors," he added. Stating that tourism had been one of the most impacted sectors, he said the package would usher in much-needed liquidity and help revive the employment-intensive sector.

₹23,220 crore towards public health for COVID-care and future preparedness with a special emphasis on pediatric emergency preparedness will bolster efforts for any such healthcare challenges in the future," said Dr. Prathap C. Reddy, chairman, Apollo Hospitals.

Healthcare industry body NATHEALTH president Harsh Mahajan said, "The pinpoint focus on augmenting manpower and infrastructural resources for pediatric care is a welcome step and a new beginning".

He, however, added an increased outlay of ₹50,000 crore on scaling up medical infrastructure would be useful in the short term but has to be increased manifold to make up for the neglect of the healthcare sector over the past several decades.

"There can be no better time than the present to fulfil the long-pending demand of the healthcare sector to be accorded infrastructure status to enable the nation leapfrog to the next level of healthcare, he added.

Rikant Pitti, co-founder, EaseMyTrip, said credit relief will play a crucial role in reviving the tourism sector.

"Tourist guides and other travel stakeholders are the backbone of the industry and we believe that the special fund outlay will enable them to rise from the challenges they had faced over the past year and a half."

(With PTI inputs)



Visit: publications.thehindugroup.com/bookstore/

For bulk booking, e-mail: bookstore@thehindu.co.in | For enquiries call: 1800 102 1878

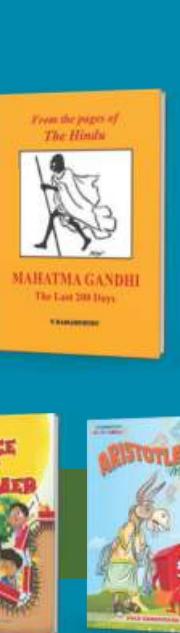


*Offer only for Select Books | Shipping charges extra | Terms and Conditions apply

BOOK YOUR COPY ONLINE



THE HINDU GROUP



KIDS Series



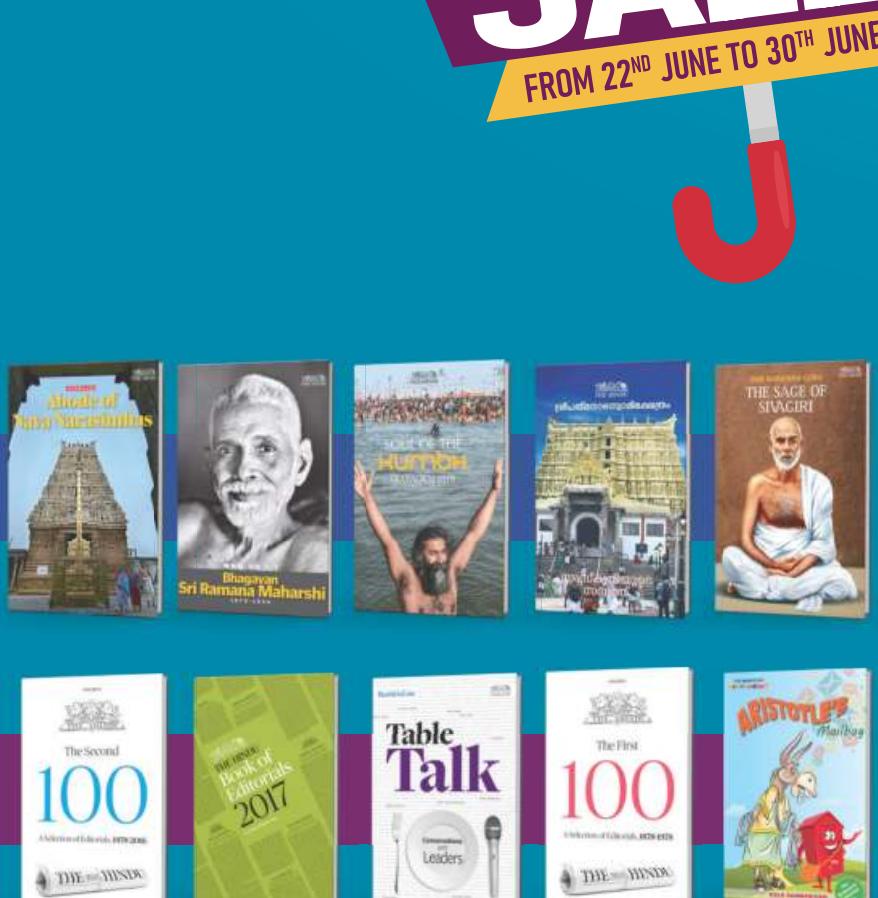
KIDS Series



HISTORY Series



HISTORY Series



PREMIUM Series

SHRINE Series



U.S. air strikes hit Iran-backed militias in Syria, Iraq: Pentagon

Attack on facilities on Iraq-Syria border in response to 'drone assaults by militants'

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON

The U.S. has, on President Joe Biden's direction, conducted air strikes at two locations in Syria and one in Iraq, the Pentagon announced. The early morning "defensive precision air strikes" were carried out on facilities along the Iraq-Syria border used by Iran-backed militias to conduct drone attacks against American personnel and facilities in Iraq, according to the Pentagon. U.K.-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said seven militia members were killed in the air strikes.

"Several Iran-backed militia groups, including Kata'ib Hezbollah (KH) and Kata'ib Sayyid al-Shuhada (KSS), used these facilities," a statement from Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said.

Mr. Biden had directed further action to deter the attacks alleged by the U.S., Mr. Kirby said. The Biden administration already conducted air strikes against facilities used by Iran-backed



Iran-backed Shia militias marching in Diyala, Iraq. Two Shia militia groups were targeted by the U.S. on Sunday. ■ AP

groups on the Syrian side of the Iraq-Syria border.

"Given the ongoing series of attacks by Iran-backed groups targeting U.S. interests in Iraq, the President directed further military action to disrupt and deter such attacks. We are in Iraq at the invitation of the Government of Iraq for the sole purpose of assisting the Iraqi Security Forces in their efforts to defeat ISIS. The United States took necessary, appropriate, and deliberate action designed to limit the risk of escalation – but also

to send a clear and unambiguous deterrent message," Mr. Kirby said.

In self-defence

"As a matter of international law, the U.S. acted pursuant to its right of self-defence. The strikes were both necessary to address the threat and appropriately limited in scope," he said.

While the Syrian Observatory said seven militia members were killed, the BBC reported that Sana, Syrian state media, saying three civilians and a child were

Pro-Tehran fighters call for retaliation

BAGHDAD

The Hashid, an Iraqi paramilitary alliance that includes Iranian proxies, said the strikes killed four of its fighters in the Qaim region. The fighters were tasked to prevent jihadists from infiltrating Iraq, the group said. "We reserve the legal right to respond to these attacks and hold the perpetrators accountable," it said. ■ AFP

killed in the strikes.

The strikes come at a significant time in Iran and in Iran-U.S. relations. Last week, Iran elected a hardliner, Ebrahim Raisi, as President. On Monday, Mr. Biden will welcome President Reuven Rivlin of Israel – a close ally of the U.S. and a major rival of Iran. The two are expected to discuss negotiations for the U.S. and Iran to re-engage in the Iran nuclear deal or the JCPOA (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action), a move opposed by Israel.

Iraq, Egypt and Jordan hold summit

In Baghdad, they discussed ways to bolster ties on security, energy and trade

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BAGHDAD

Egypt, Jordan and Iraq agreed to bolster security and economic cooperation at a tripartite summit on Sunday that saw an Egyptian head of state visit Iraq for the first time in three decades.

The visits by Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and Jordan's King Abdullah II came as Iraq seeks to move

closer to Arab allies of the United States in the Middle East.

Iraq is also seeking to establish itself as a mediator between Arab countries and Iran, after reportedly hosting talks in April between Tehran and Riyadh.

Mr. Sisi and Abdullah met Iraqi President Barham Salih and Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi, with Mr. Sa-

leh saying the encounter was "an eloquent message amid enormous regional challenges".

"Iraq's recovery paves the way to an integrated system for our region built on the fight against extremism, respect for sovereignty and economic partnership," Mr. Saleh said on Twitter.

The summit held between Mr. Kadhemi and his

guests broached regional issues, as well as ways of bolstering cooperation between them in the fields of security, energy and trade, according to a joint statement.

The leaders discussed a "political solution" to Syria's civil war based on UN resolutions "that would preserve its security and stability and provide adequate conditions for the return of refugees".

The country reported 119 deaths on Sunday, its highest-ever daily death toll from the pandemic, while new infections have been averaging around 5,000 for the past few days.

Officials blame the recent spike in cases on the highly contagious coronavirus Delta variant first identified in neighbouring India.

The majority of the South Asian nation's 168 million

territorial waters.

Britain said it was making "an innocent passage through Ukrainian territorial waters in accordance with international law."

Russia annexed Crimea from Ukraine in 2014 and claims the waters around the peninsula as part of its territory. Most countries do not recognise the takeover and stand behind Ukraine's claims to the waters.

Washington is a key ally of Kiev in its conflict with Moscow over Crimea and pro-Moscow separatist regions in eastern Ukraine.

In 2018 Russian forces boarded and took control of three Ukrainian Naval ships off the Black Sea peninsula.



On its way: Last week, Russia said it fired warning shots at HMS Defender for violation of its territorial waters. ■ AFP

weeks and involve around 30 ships, including the missile destroyer USS Ross.

The exercises will last two

days and involve around 30 ships, including the missile destroyer USS Ross.

Russia said it fired warning shots last Wednesday at the HMS Defender after what it said was a violation of its

Bangladesh shuts amid virus surge; migrants' exodus begins

The country recorded its highest death toll of 119 on Sunday

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DHAKA

Thousands of people were stranded in Bangladesh's capital on Monday as authorities halted almost all public transport ahead of a sweeping lockdown imposed to combat a deadly resurgence of COVID-19 infections.

The country reported 119 deaths on Sunday, its highest-ever daily death toll from the pandemic, while new infections have been averaging around 5,000 for the past few days.

Officials blame the recent spike in cases on the highly contagious coronavirus Delta variant first identified in neighbouring India.

The lockdown announcement sparked an exodus of migrant workers from the capital Dhaka to home villages on Sunday, with tens of thousands of people cram-

ming into ferries to cross a major river.

The staggered implementation of the lockdown rules left thousands of workers in Dhaka forced to walk to their offices on Monday, sometimes for hours, in the sweltering summer heat.

Large columns of people were seen walking on the main roads early Monday. Workplaces will be shut from Wednesday.

Bicycle rickshaws were allowed to operate in a last-minute government concession on Sunday, but prices had soared to unaffordable levels, commuters said. "I started walking at 7 a.m. I can't afford a rickshaw ride," Shefali Begum, 60, who was going to her daughter's home in central Dhaka, said.

Two injured in knife attack in Germany

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BERLIN

Two men were injured in an apparent knife attack in the German city of Erfurt on Monday morning, police said, just three days after a deadly knife rampage in the Bavarian city of Wuerzburg.

The two injured victims, aged 45 and 68, were taken to nearby hospitals for treatment and their injuries were not life-threatening, a police spokeswoman said.

A 32-year-old suspect was later found injured at his apartment and arrested, police in the central German city said on Twitter.

The suspect, named by local media as Johannes L., had apparently harmed himself and was taken to hospital.

+ U.S. presses allies to bring back citizens who joined IS

About 10,000 suspected IS fighters are being held in Syria

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ROME

Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Monday pressed U.S. allies to bring back citizens arrested overseas for joining the Islamic State group, warning they could not be held indefinitely in Syria.

Mr. Blinken made the appeal in Rome at a meeting of an 83-member coalition on defeating the extremist network, where he and host Italy called for greater attention to the threat in Africa.

About 10,000 suspected Islamic State fighters are being held in northern Syria by Western-allied Kurdish fighters, according to U.S. estimates.

"This situation is simply untenable. It just can't persist indefinitely," Mr. Blinken said.



Antony Blinken

The United States continues to urge countries – including coalition partners – to repatriate, rehabilitate and, where applicable, prosecute its citizens," he said.

France, U.K. opposed
France and Britain, two of the closest U.S. allies, have been major holdouts against calls to bring back their citizens, which were also made by former President Donald

2nd-biggest dam starts making power

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BEIJING

The first two generating units of the world's second-biggest hydroelectric dam were officially turned on Monday in southwestern China, the government announced.

The Baihetan Dam on Jinsha river, a tributary of the Yangtze, is part of China's efforts to curb surging fossil fuel demand by building more hydropower capacity at a time when dams have fallen out of favour in other countries due to environmental complaints.

The announcement comes ahead of the ruling Communist Party's celebration this week of the official 100th anniversary of its 1921 founding.

Plans call for the 289-m tall Baihetan Dam to have 16 generating units with a capacity of 1 million kilowatts each.



One English course to help you sail through the 3 stages of UPSC

STEP for Competitive Exams
is a tailor-made course that
trains you for all 3 stages of
UPSC exam.

Objective Test

- Practice sets on reading comprehension
- Video lessons on para jumbles and word reordering
- Lessons on idioms, phrases, antonyms/synonyms
- Fill in the blanks (Cloze Test) - Lessons focusing on all aspects of such questions
- Grammar lessons on active/passive voice, direct/reported speech, etc.
- Vocabulary - Words in the Indian Constitution, words relevant for exam preparation, etc.

Written Exam

- Precis Writing
- Essay Writing
- Advanced Grammar

Interview

- How to answer the most common interview questions?
- How to express opinions like advantages/disadvantages, negatives/positives, etc.
- How to speak clearly - highlighting significant points, emphasising on relevant supporting details, etc.

N. Koreans 'heartbroken' over Kim's 'emaciated looks'



National concern: A combination of file photos of Kim Jong-un on February 8, left, and June 15, 2021. ■ AP

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SEOUL

Heartbroken North Koreans have been worrying tearfully about leader Kim Jong-un's "emaciated looks," state media quoted a local resident as saying.

The comments were seen as an effort to boost support for Mr. Kim as he grapples with deepening economic

hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, economic sanctions and natural disasters, some experts said.

In recent state media photos, Mr. Kim has appeared to have lost a considerable amount of weight.

Some North Korea watchers said Mr. Kim, who is about 170 cm tall, may have lost 10-20 kg.

Reparations needed for people facing racism'

UN rights chief calls for 'making amends'

ASSOCIATED PRESS
GENEVA

The UN human rights chief, in a landmark report launched after the killing of George Floyd in the U.S., is urging countries worldwide to do more to help end discrimination, violence and systemic racism against people of African descent and "make amends" to them – including through reparations.

The report from Michelle Bachelet, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, offers a sweeping look at the roots of centuries of mistreatment faced by Africans and people of African descent, notably from the transatlantic slave trade. The report, a year in the

making, hopes to build on momentum around the recent, intensified scrutiny worldwide about the blight of racism and its impact on people of African descent as epitomised by the high-profile killings of unarmed Black people in the U.S. and elsewhere.

The report aims to speed up action by countries to end racial injustice; end impunity for rights violations by police; ensure that people of African descent and those who speak out against racism are heard; and face up to past wrongs through accountability and redress.

"I am calling on all states to stop denying – and start dismantling – racism," Ms. Bachelet said.

Scan the QR code



To know more

Visit BIT.LY/UPSCEXAM1

STEP
FOR COMPETITIVE
EXAMS

Belgium dumps lacklustre Portugal

Thorgan Hazard's thunderbolt in the first-half the difference between the two teams

EURO 2020

REUTERS

Defending champion Portugal was knocked out after suffering a 0-1 loss against Belgium in their round of 16 clash on Sunday. The Belgians will face Italy in the quarterfinals.

A 43rd-minute strike from Thorgan Hazard secured the win for Roberto Martinez's team, which survived plenty of pressure from the Portuguese in the second half.

But with the finishing touch missing, it was the end of the road for Cristiano Ronaldo and a Portugal team which had triumphed in Paris five years ago.

Portugal began brightly and Diogo Jota wasted a great chance in the sixth mi-



Knockout punch: Belgium's Thorgan Hazard lets fly a swerving strike that beat Portugal's defence and goalkeeper. ■ REUTERS

nute, dragging his shot wide after Renato Sanches had broken from midfield and found him in a promising po-

sition on the left.

Ronaldo then tested Belgian keeper Thibaut Courtois with a low-struck free kick as

Fernando Santos's team continued to apply pressure.

But Belgium grew into the game with Kevin De Bruyne

increasingly influential and three minutes before the interval it grabbed the lead.

A smart passing move ended with Thomas Meunier feeding Thorgan Hazard, whose wickedly swerving shot flew past the wrong-footed Portugal 'keeper Rui Patricio.

Belgium suffered a blow when De Bruyne limped off with an injury three minutes after the break.

The result: Belgium 1 (Thorgan 43) bt Portugal 0.

TODAY'S MATCHES

ROUND OF 16

England vs Germany 9.30 p.m.

Sweden vs Ukraine 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

Live on Sony Ten 2, 3 & Sony Six (SD & HD)



Clawing back: Mario Pasalic heads home Croatia's equaliser against Spain deep into injury time. ■ GETTY IMAGES

Gaya's shot to the feet of Pablo Sarabia who fired home.

The three-time European champion continued to create chances and Cesar Azpilicueta notched a well-timed header after connecting with a cross from Ferran Torres in the 57th minute.

Torres got Spain's third in the 77th minute. In a remarkable comeback, Mislav Orsic clawed a goal back for the World Cup semifinalist in the 85th minute after a goal-mouth scramble before Mario Pasalic headed Croatia's equaliser in stoppage time.

'We need to groom pace bowling department'

Mithali wants improved show from batters

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

Mithali Raj wants the seamers to deliver as India tries to bounce back after losing comprehensively to England in the first ODI at Bristol on Sunday.

"If seamers don't get wickets, that puts a lot of pressure on the spinners," she said at a virtual press conference.

"We need to groom the pace bowling department. (Besides) Jhulan Goswami, the others in the team should be able to step up when they get an opportunity. These conditions assist seamers and they should make use of them."

She admitted India's batters, who played 181 dot balls at Bristol, should also come up with a better display. Her 72 (108 balls) was the only half-century in the disappointing Indian innings, which laboured to 201 for eight after being put in.

"We have to work on rotating the strike," she said. "We need another top-order batter to get us the runs. But we also need to understand that the England bowlers, especially the seamers, are very experienced. And they know how to bowl in their



Jhulan. ■ GETTY IMAGES

Island safari



White-ball challenge: The Indian squad, snapped prior to its departure from Mumbai, landed in Colombo on Monday. The Shikhar Dhawan-led side will play three ODIs (July 13, 16 and 18) and three T20Is (July 21, 23 and 25). All matches will be held in Colombo. ■ TWITTER/BCCI

Sensational display by Arjun

Makes history by becoming first Indian to reach last eight

CHESS

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

With a stupendous display of grit and focus, Arjun Erigaisi made history in the Meltwater Champions Chess Tour by becoming the first Indian to gatecrash into the quarterfinals of the Goldmoney Asian Rapid online chess tournament on Monday.

Arjun, the lowest-rated player, came up with a terrific display on the final day of the preliminaries by proving equal to Wesley So, Peter Svidler, Saleh Salem, Magnus Carlsen and Anish Giri.

Reshuffle possible

She indicated the team could be shuffled for the next game, at Taunton on Wednesday.

"We will definitely look into the composition of the team," she said. "Maybe we would shuffle the batting a little."

D. Gukesh, who came up with a series of impressive performances, missed out on a chance to finish higher than the tied 11th spot after he let Jan-Krzysztof Duda off the hook and lost.

The results (involving Indians):

15th round: Magnus Carlsen (Nor) bt Vidit Gujrathi; Anish Giri (Ned) drew with Arjun Erigaisi; Jan-Krzysztof Duda (Pol) bt D. Gukesh; Vladislav Artemiev (Rus) bt Adhiban; **14th:** Arjun drew with Carlsen; Vidit drew with Saleh Salem (UAE); Gukesh drew with Anish; Adhiban drew with Daniil Dubov (Rus); **13th:** Carlsen drew with Gukesh; Salem drew with Arjun; Peter Svidler (Rus) lost to

Vidit; Duda lost to Adhiban.

12th: Adhiban bt Giri; Gukesh bt Salem; Vidit drew with So; Arjun drew with Svidler; **11th:** Carlsen drew with Adhiban; Hou Yifan (Chn) lost to Vidit; Svidler drew with Gukesh; So drew with Arjun.

Standings: 1. Aronian (Arm, 10.5); 2. Artemiev (Rus, 10); 3. Liren (Chn, 9.5); 4-5. Carlsen (Nor), So (USA) (9 each); 7-9. Giri (Ned), Arjun, Firouzja (FIDE) (8 each); 10. Vidit (7); 11-12. Svidler, Gukesh (6.5 each); 13. Dubov (Rus, 6); 14. Salem (UAE, 5.5), 15. Adhiban (5), 16. Yifan (3.5).

Quarterfinal line-up: Aronian-Artemiev-Anish-Ding-Duda; Carlsen-So.

Chess

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

With a stupendous display of grit and focus, Arjun Erigaisi made history in the Meltwater Champions Chess Tour by becoming the first Indian to gatecrash into the quarterfinals of the Goldmoney Asian Rapid online chess tournament on Monday.

Arjun, the lowest-rated player, came up with a terrific

display on the final day of the preliminaries by proving equal to Wesley So, Peter Svidler, Saleh Salem, Magnus Carlsen and Anish Giri.

Reshuffle possible

She indicated the team could be shuffled for the next game, at Taunton on Wednesday.

"We will definitely look into the composition of the team," she said. "Maybe we would shuffle the batting a little."

Conditions:

Mithali said the Indian team was more comfortable chasing a target than setting up one. "When it comes to posting a target, I guess there is something we need to work on, how to get to 250," she said. "We can't be going bang bang and then lose wickets."

Reshuffle possible

She indicated the team could be shuffled for the next game, at Taunton on Wednesday.

"We will definitely look into the composition of the team," she said. "Maybe we would shuffle the batting a little."

Reshuffle possible

She indicated the team could be shuffled for the next game, at Taunton on Wednesday.

"We will definitely look into the composition of the team," she said. "Maybe we would shuffle the batting a little."

Reshuffle possible

She indicated the team could be shuffled for the next game, at Taunton on Wednesday.

"We will definitely look into the composition of the team," she said. "Maybe we would shuffle the batting a little."

Reshuffle possible

She indicated the team could be shuffled for the next game, at Taunton on Wednesday.

"We will definitely look into the composition of the team," she said. "Maybe we would shuffle the batting a little."

Reshuffle possible

She indicated the team could be shuffled for the next game, at Taunton on Wednesday.

"We will definitely look into the composition of the team," she said. "Maybe we would shuffle the batting a little."

Reshuffle possible

She indicated the team could be shuffled for the next game, at Taunton on Wednesday.

"We will definitely look into the composition of the team," she said. "Maybe we would shuffle the batting a little."

Reshuffle possible

She indicated the team could be shuffled for the next game, at Taunton on Wednesday.

"We will definitely look into the composition of the team," she said. "Maybe we would shuffle the batting a little."

Reshuffle possible

She indicated the team could be shuffled for the next game, at Taunton on Wednesday.

"We will definitely look into the composition of the team," she said. "Maybe we would shuffle the batting a little."

Reshuffle possible

She indicated the team could be shuffled for the next game, at Taunton on Wednesday.

"We will definitely look into the composition of the team," she said. "Maybe we would shuffle the batting a little."

Reshuffle possible

She indicated the team could be shuffled for the next game, at Taunton on Wednesday.

"We will definitely look into the composition of the team," she said. "Maybe we would shuffle the batting a little."

Reshuffle possible

She indicated the team could be shuffled for the next game, at Taunton on Wednesday.

"We will definitely look into the composition of the team," she said. "Maybe we would shuffle the batting a little."

Reshuffle possible

She indicated the team could be shuffled for the next game, at Taunton on Wednesday.

"We will definitely look into the composition of the team," she said. "Maybe we would shuffle the batting a little."

Reshuffle possible

She indicated the team could be shuffled for the next game, at Taunton on Wednesday.

"We will definitely look into the composition of the team," she said. "Maybe we would shuffle the batting a little."

Reshuffle possible

She indicated the team could be shuffled for the next game, at Taunton on Wednesday.

"We will definitely look into the composition of the team," she said. "Maybe we would shuffle the batting a little."

Reshuffle possible

She indicated the team could be shuffled for the next game, at Taunton on Wednesday.

"We will definitely look into the composition of the team," she said. "Maybe we would shuffle the batting a little."

Reshuffle possible

She indicated the team could be shuffled for the next game, at Taunton on Wednesday.

"We will definitely look into the composition of the team," she said. "Maybe we would shuffle the batting a little."

Reshuffle possible

She indicated the team could be shuffled for the next game, at Taunton on Wednesday.

"We will definitely look into the composition of the team," she said. "Maybe we would shuffle the batting a little."

Reshuffle possible

She indicated the team could be shuffled for the next game, at Taunton on Wednesday.

"We will definitely look into the composition of the team," she said. "Maybe we would shuffle the batting a little."

Reshuffle possible

She indicated the team could be shuffled for the next game, at Taunton on Wednesday.

"We will definitely look into the composition of the team," she said. "Maybe we would shuffle the batting a little."

Reshuffle possible

She indicated the team could be shuffled for the next game, at Taunton on Wednesday.

"We will definitely look into the composition of the team," she said. "Maybe we would shuffle the batting a little."

Reshuffle possible

She indicated the team could be shuffled for the next game, at Taunton on Wednesday.

"We will definitely look into the composition of the team," she said. "Maybe we would shuffle the batting a little."

Reshuffle possible

She indicated the team could be shuffled for the next game, at Taunton on Wednesday.

"We will definitely look into the composition of the team," she said. "Maybe we would shuffle the batting a little."

Reshuffle possible

TV PICKS

Wimbledon 2021: SS Select 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m.
England vs Sri Lanka: 1st ODI: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m.
Tour de France: Eurosport (SD & HD), 5 p.m.
Euro 2020: Sony Ten 1, 2, 3 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 9.30 p.m.; Sony Ten 2, 3 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday)
NBA: SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 6 a.m. (Wednesday)

IN BRIEF



Nelly Korda wins WPGA title, rises to World No. 1

WASHINGTON
Nelly Korda won the Women's PGA Championship on Sunday to capture her first Major title and become the first American since 2014 to be World No. 1. The 22-year-old returned a 19-under 269 to beat compatriot Lizette Salas by three strokes. AFP



English claims Travelers title in 8-hole play-off
NEW YORK
Harris English rolled in a 20-foot birdie putt on the eighth play-off hole on Sunday to defeat fellow American Kramer Hickok and win the US PGA Travelers Championship. This was the second-longest play-off in US PGA history. AFP

88 share lead in Natl. under-10 rapid chess
NEW DELHI
Eighty-eight players shared the lead with three points after three rounds of the National (under-10) open online rapid chess championship on Monday. A record 929 players have entered the 11-round competition.

Middleton on a roll as Bucks go ahead

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

LOS ANGELES

Khris Middleton and Giannis Antetokounmpo combined for 71 points as Milwaukee Bucks rallied to beat Atlanta Hawks 113-102 in game three of the Eastern Conference finals on Sunday.

Middleton scored 20 of his 38 points in a blistering fourth-quarter performance and Antetokounmpo finished with 33 points and 11 rebounds as the Bucks grabbed a 2-1 series lead.

The Bucks were down by 15 points in the first quarter, went ahead in the third, and finished with a 25-7 scoring surge.

Trae Young led the Hawks with 35 points.

The result: Eastern Conference finals: Milwaukee Bucks 113 bt Atlanta Hawks 102 (Bucks lead series 2-1).

Rahi strikes gold with a superb display

Unleashes a series of perfect scores in women's 25m sports pistol to win by a big margin

SHOOTING WC

SPORTS BUREAU
OSIJEK (CROATIA)

Asian Games gold medallist Rahi Sarnobat unleashed her best performance to outclass a strong field and win the 25-metre sports pistol gold with a thumping margin in the shooting World Cup here on Monday.

The 30-year-old, who had won World Cup gold earlier in Changwon (2013) and Munich (2019), shot 39 in the final, one short of the world record, to beat Mathilde Lamolle of France by eight points for the gold. In fact, Rahi had sealed the gold even before the last series, as she had an unbeatable six-point lead.

"This give me the assurance that I am on the right track. I have to keep working on this," said Rahi.

Shooting five rounds of perfect-5s in the first six series, Rahi intimidated a world class field, which saw



Top shot: Rahi Sarnobat, flanked by Mathilde Lamolle, left, and Vitalina Batsarashkina after getting her reward for her stupendous show. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

the reigning Olympic champion Anna Korakaki being pushed to the fifth place.

In sports pistol final, only a score of 10.2 or more is taken as a hit for one point.

Seven other shooters put together could muster only

two perfect-5s between them in 52 rounds!

Bhaker finishes seventh

Rahi had qualified with a majestic 591, following 296 in the rapid fire section. Manu Bhaker also shot 296 in

rapid fire to qualify for the final with 588, but ended up seventh.

It was the second World Cup medal this season for Rahi, who had lost the shoot-off for the gold to Chinki Yadav in the World Cup in Del-

hi in March. In the women's 50-metre rifle 3-position event, Tejaswini Sawant (1168) and Anjum Moudgil (1162) returned modest scores.

Tejaswini looked set to make the final midway through the standing series, but dropped 14 points in the last two series and slipped to the 20th place.

Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, the gold medallist in the Delhi World Chp, had made the men's 50-metre rifle 3-position event on Sunday, but ended up sixth.

The results:

Men: 50m rifle 3-position: 1. Serhiy Kulish (Ukr) 460.0 (1182); 2. Sergey Kamenskiy (Rus) 458.6 (1179); 3. Patrik Janý (Svk) 447.6 (1179); 6. Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar 416.4 (1176); 17. Sanjeev Rajput 1173.

Women: 25m sports pistol: 1. Rahi Sarnobat 39 (591); 2. Mathilde Lamolle (Fra) 31 (584); 3. Vitalina Batsarashkina (Rus) 28 (584); 7. Manu Bhaker 11 (588).

Take a bow, Deepika!

Amul
Always on target

daCunha/AB/748

S. Africa levels series

Spinners Linde and Shamsi star



Overjoyed: George Linde celebrates the dismissal of Nicholas Pooran. ■ AFP

It leaves the series locked 1-1 going into the third match at the same venue on Tuesday.

A late assault by Fabian Allen, who smashed five sixes in 34 off just 19 balls, caused the only anxiety for Temba Bavuma's team.

The scores:

South Africa 166.7 (Reza Hendricks 42, Q. de Kock 26, Temba Bavuma 46, Kevin Sinclair 23/23 Obad McCoy 3/25) bt West Indies 150/9 (Andre Fletcher 35, Fabian Allen 34, Kagiso Rabada 3/37, George Linde 21).

Toss: West Indies; **MoM:** Linde; **South Africa won by 16 runs to level five-match series 1-1.**

Deepika ranked No.1 after Paris exploits

ARCHERY

Y.B.SARANGI
KOLKATA



Deepika. ■ WORLD ARCHERY FEDERATION

Ace archer Deepika Kumari, who won three gold medals in the World Cup Stage-3 in Paris, jumped to the number one spot in recurve women's individual world rankings on Monday.

In the latest rankings issued by World Archery, the Tokyo Olympic-bound Deepika gathered 90 points from the Paris event to total 263.7 and climbed two places to the top position. Deepika was nearly 38 points clear of second-placed Frenchwoman Lisa Barbeau.

Her husband Atanu Das (163.5) leaped four slots to be ranked ninth in the re-

curve men's individual category. Abhishek Verma, who won the compound men's individual gold in Paris, rose 14 places to be slotted eighth with 146.725. V. Jyothi Surekha (122.375) was placed 18th in the compound women's individual category.

COPA AMERICA

REUTERS
GOIANIA

Brazil failed to win for the first time in 11 games but still qualified top in Group B for the Copa America quarterfinals with a 1-1 draw against Ecuador on Sunday.

The hosts went in 1-0 up at half time thanks to an accomplished header from defender Eder Militao.

Brazil was surprisingly pegged back for the first 15 minutes of the second period and substitute Angel Mena equalised for Ecuador.

With Peru defeating Venezuela 1-0 in the other Group

The equaliser: Angel Mena, left, put Ecuador through to the next stage with this strike. ■ AP

The results: Group B: Brazil 1 (Militao 37) drew with Ecuador 1 (Mena 53); Venezuela O lost to Peru 1 (Carrillo 47).

Simranjit and Solanki nominated for Arjuna

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

OLYMPICS CALLING



Injured Roehler not to defend javelin gold

BERLIN

Defending men's javelin champion Thomas Roehler has pulled out of the Tokyo Olympics due to a back injury, he confirmed on Monday. Roehler, also the reigning European champion, claimed gold at Rio with a winning throw of 90.30m. AFP

World champ Lyles runs world-leading 200m

EUGENE

World champion Noah Lyles scorched to victory in the 200m at the US Olympic trials here on Sunday in a world-leading 19.74s. Lyles had struggled to show his best form in the early rounds. Kenny Bednarek was second in 19.78s while 17-year-old prodigy

Erriyon Knighton third in 19.84s. AFP

Aussie TT veteran Jian set for sixth Olympics

SYDNEY

Australian table tennis veteran Jian Fang Lay (48) was on Monday selected for a sixth Olympics. Born in China, Jian moved to Australia in 1994 and will now join equestrian Mary Hanna, who will also be in Tokyo, as the only Australian women to compete at six Games. AFP

Fraser-Pryce goes for Games double

KINGSTON

Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce clocked a personal-best 21.79s to win the 200m and complete a sprint double at the Jamaica Olympic trials on Sunday. The 34-year-old two-time Olympic 100m champion had never dipped below 22s before Sunday. AFP



McLaughlin sets 400m hurdles World record

EUGENE

Sydney McLaughlin scorched to a World-record breaking 400m hurdles victory (51.90s) at the US Olympic track and field trials here on Sunday. The 21-year-old McLaughlin became the first woman to duck below the 52-second barrier after a superb tactical race against reigning Olympic and World champion Dalilah Muhammad. AFP



Fraser-Pryce goes for Games double

KINGSTON

Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce clocked a personal-best 21.79s to win the 200m and complete a sprint double at the Jamaica Olympic trials on Sunday. The 34-year-old two-time Olympic 100m champion had never dipped below 22s before Sunday. AFP

Cash reward for Sajan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Swimming Federation of India president R.N. Jayaprakash on Monday announced a cash reward of ₹5 lakh for Sajan Prakash who became the first Indian swimmer to earn a direct qualification for the Olympics.

"SFI president Shri R.N. Jayaprakash announced a personal cash award of ₹5 lac to Sajan Prakash, who is the first Indian to achieve the Olympic 'A' qualification time in 200m butterfly event at the Sette Colli Trophy in Rome," SFI said in a statement.

The Tokyo Games will be the Kerala swimmer's second Olympics, having competed in 2016 through a Universality quota.

A day after Prakash's feat, Srihari Nataraj breached the 'A' standard time by clocking 53.77s in the men's 100m backstroke at the same meet. Since his effort came at a time trial, his participation in Tokyo will be confirmed only if FINA approves the timing.

Main objective – avoid early setbacks: Mukesh

Singhs out the experienced Sreejesh as the player to watch out for

HOCKEY

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

India needs to play fearless hockey even while displaying the typical Asian skills to be in with a chance of winning a medal in the Tokyo Olympics, N. Mukesh Kumar, who holds the Games record of scoring the fastest goal – 32 seconds against Australia in the 2000 Sydney edition – said. "India is in a tough group. The main objective should be to avoid early setbacks or else it would have a demoralising effect," he said in a chat with *The Hindu* on Monday. "Olympics is a diffe-



FILE PHOTO

cause of his experience, class and confidence. "He is such an inspirational figure in the team," he added.

"Most of the teams are short of match-practice. It will be interesting to see how the players come up with the required endurance and match-fitness levels. Generally, the preparations include playing in a three-nation event or even Test matches. So, the onus will be on the seniors to raise the bar," said Mukesh, who featured in the 1992, 1996 and 2000 Games.

Demanding task

"The coaches, too, have a demanding task of relying a

lot on video analysis and their success in translating the boardroom strategies into on-field execution will play a big role in any team's chances."

Mukesh hoped that the tradition of Olympics throwing up unexpected heroes will continue and India too can have a share of this.

"The emphasis of this Indian team seems to be to send players with the specific direction of going flat out in 10 minutes in any position. "If we are good in this and combine our traditional mastery in skills too, India should be a formidable force," Mukesh said.

Snehit to play in the Polish League

TABLE TENNIS

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

Former youth national table tennis champion S. Fidel R. Snehit signed to play for one year with the Polish First League Club UKS Villa Verde Olesno in the next season.

The city-based paddler, who also picked a bronze in the last senior nationals, met club owner Marek Tatarczuch and signed a contract on Sunday.

Excited

Snehit, who happens to be the only table tennis player from the state to play in the European league, said he was really excited to play in the league which would start in September this year.



Snehit met with UKS Villa Verde Olesno owner Marek Tatarczuch to sign the contract. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"It is a new journey that would give me a great opportunity in terms of international match exposure," said Snehit, a final year Mass Communication and Jour-