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Delimitation exercise politically motivated, say Kashmir parties  
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'Revenge tourism' at hill stations dangerous trend, says Centre  
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Postponed JEE-Main sessions to be conducted from July 20  
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Sabalenka, Pliskova, Kerber and Barty move into semifinals  
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## NEARBY



CM unveils relief scheme for kin of COVID victims

NEW DELHI  
Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday launched a scheme and an online portal to provide financial assistance to families who lost their loved ones to COVID-19. Ex gratia of ₹50,000 will be given to every grieving family and an additional ₹2,500 per month will be given if the deceased was the sole breadwinner.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

Bengal passes resolution to set up Council

KOLKATA  
The West Bengal Assembly on Tuesday passed a resolution to set up a Legislative Council with a two-thirds majority. While 196 favoured, 69 opposed the resolution moved under Article 169. Leader of the Opposition Suvedu Adhikari said the passage of the resolution does not mean that the Council has come into existence.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 8

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OPPORTUNITIES ▶ BACK PAGE

# Amid Cabinet reshuffle buzz, eight States get new Governors

Union Minister Thawarchand Gehlot appointed Karnataka Governor

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Ahead of a much-anticipated Cabinet reshuffle, the Rashtrapati Bhawan on Tuesday announced a slew of gubernatorial appointments, including that of Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thawarchand Gehlot as the Governor of Karnataka, replacing Vajubhai Vala.

This was the surest sign that a Cabinet reshuffle, regularly postponed since the COVID-19 outbreak in 2020, will finally take place as early as Wednesday evening.

Former MP and former BJP president of the erstwhile combined State of Andhra Pradesh K. Hari Babu was appointed the Governor of Mizoram, while senior BJP leader and former Tribal Affairs Minister in Gujarat Mangubhai Patel was named the Governor of Madhya Pradesh. Former Speaker of the Goa Assembly Rajendra Arlekar will be the Governor of Himachal Pradesh.

Several Governors saw a change in States. Former Union Minister Bandaru Dattatreya has been transferred from Himachal Pradesh to Haryana, senior BJP leader from Chhattisgarh Ramesh Bais from Tripura to Jharkhand, Satyadev Arya from Haryana to Tripura, and BJP

## New roles

A look at the changes/new appointments announced on Tuesday



Off to Raj Bhavan: Union Minister Pralhad Joshi greeting Thawarchand Gehlot, right, after he was appointed Governor of Karnataka, in New Delhi on Tuesday. ■ PTI

leader from Kerala P.S. Sreedharan Pillai from Mizoram to Goa.

While it was a fairly extensive rejig in terms of Raj Bhavans, informed sources said the Cabinet rejig would be extensive as well. The Council of Ministers has around 28 vacancies, with only 53 of the 81 slots allowed under the Constitution occupied.

Government sources said that as many as 20 new faces would be included, and in total, around 24 Ministers belonging to the Other Backward Classes would find representation in the Council

of Ministers at the end of this exercise. "Among these new faces will be very young MPs, bringing down the average age of the Council of Ministers to probably its lowest since Independence," said a senior government source.

Sources said equal focus would be on the professional qualifications of Ministers as well as community representation issues.

New Ministry  
The government has also decided to create a separate 'Ministry of Cooperation'

■ **Thawarchand Gehlot**, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, will be Governor of Karnataka

■ **Hari Babu Kambampati**, BJP veteran from Andhra Pradesh, will be Governor of Mizoram

■ **P.S. Sreedharan Pillai**, Governor of Mizoram, transferred and appointed Governor of Goa

■ **Satyadev Narayan Arya**, Governor of Haryana, transferred and appointed Tripura Governor

■ **Mangubhai Chhangabhai Patel** will be Governor of Madhya Pradesh

■ **Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar** will be Governor of Himachal Pradesh

Will accept any decision taken by Cong. chief: Punjab CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh on Tuesday said he will accept any decision taken by Congress president Sonia Gandhi with regard to changes in the party in Punjab and the State government.

He was speaking after meeting Ms. Gandhi in an effort to end the factionalism in the State unit.

The meeting, which lasted for nearly 90 minutes, comes after a month-long exercise to put an end to the public war of words between the Chief Minister and cricketer-turned politician Navjot Singh Sidhu.

Mr. Sidhu had resigned from the Cabinet over several differences, including handling of the 2015 sacerdotal issue.

Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, who headed the All India Congress Committee panel to resolve the issue, was present at the meeting that is said to have discussed the political situation as well as the governance issues in the State. Mr. Sidhu had met former party chief Rahul Gandhi and party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra last week.

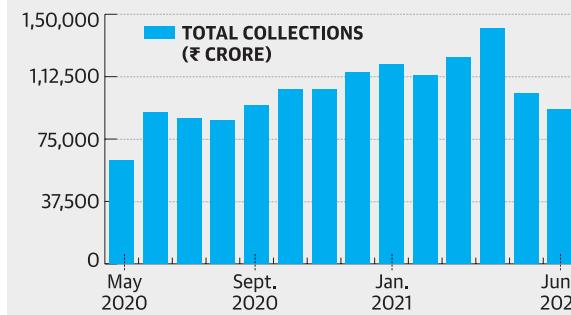
It will, said government sources, "work to streamline the processes for ease of doing business for cooperatives and enable development of multi-State cooperative societies."

SCINDIA, PARAS LIKELY TO BE INDUCTED ▶ PAGE 8

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

## Rapid fall

GST collections for June 2021 fell to a nine-month low of ₹92,849 crore



GST mop-up in June falls below ₹1 lakh cr.

It will see an uptick from July: Ministry

VIKAS DHOTI

NEW DELHI

Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections in June fell to ₹92,849 crore from ₹1.02 lakh crore in May, marking the first time after eight months that indirect tax collections fell below the ₹1 lakh crore mark.

While lockdowns aimed at curbing the second wave of COVID-19 hit economic activity and moderated GST revenues in June, the Union Finance Ministry said the collections were 2% higher than a year ago and would improve from this month.

"During May 2021, most of the States/UTs were under either complete or partial lockdown due to COVID," the Ministry said, citing a 30% fall in e-way bill generation in May from April's numbers.

"However, with reduction in caseload and easing of lockdowns, the e-way

bills generated during June 2021 is 5.5 crore (from 3.99 crore in May) which indicates recovery of trade and business... It is expected that while the GST revenues have dipped during the month of June, the revenues will see an increase again from July onwards," it added.

The June GST figures are related to business transactions made during May and also include taxes on domestic transactions between June 5 and July 5, due to extended compliance deadlines for taxpayers.

Tax experts said the decline in GST revenues was expected. "With significant relaxations in lockdown and business supplies picking up the collections should see a definite uptick in the coming months," said Abhishek Jain, tax partner at EY.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

# Mathura court rejects bail plea of Kappan

Kerala journalist in jail for nine months

ANUJ KUMAR

GAZIABAD

A Mathura court on Tuesday rejected the bail plea of Kerala journalist Siddique Kappan, who has been in jail for nine months for various offences under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act or UAPA.

In his bail order, Additional Sessions Judge Anil Kumar Pandey said considering the seriousness of evidence, the court didn't deem it fit to release the accused on bail.

He noted that the charge against Mr. Kappan was that he, along with the co-accused, promoted enmity in society and affected communal harmony. The court also said that during the investigation, incriminating material was recovered from him and that he received foreign funding for damaging the interest of the country.

On June 15, a local court in Mathura discharged Mr. Kappan and others of charges under sections 151, 107 and 116 of the CrPC as the police failed to complete the investigation in six months.

Describing the prosecution version as "highly improbable", defence lawyer Wills Mathews reminded the court the petitioner was discharged of the offences that formed the basis of his arrest on October 5, 2020. Describing it as a fit case for bail, he said they would approach the Allahabad High Court.

The statement from the Office of the High Commiss-

ioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) said Ms. Bachelet was "disturbed" and "condemned" by the news of the death of the activist, and called on the Indian government "to ensure that no one is detained for exercising their fundamental rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and of association".

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8



People holding a banner outside a Mumbai church, where a prayer meeting was held for Father Swamy. ■ EMMANUEL YOGINI

# Release Bhima Koregaon case accused: UN body

SUHASINI HAIDAR

NEW DELHI

All 15 co-accused in the Bhima Koregaon case should be released pending trial, said the United Nations Human Rights chief Michelle Bachelet on Tuesday, as she expressed concern over the death of 84-year-old Jesuit priest and tribal rights activist Stan Swamy in custody.

The statement from the Office of the High Commiss-

ioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) said Ms. Bachelet was "disturbed" and "condemned" by the news of the death of the activist, and called on the Indian government "to ensure that no one is detained for exercising their fundamental rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and of association".

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Maharashtra tables Bills to amend Centre's farm laws

STAFF REPORTER

MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government on Tuesday introduced amendment Bills in the State legislature to the three farm Acts passed by the Centre last August.

The Bill to amend the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Service Act, 2020, stated that farming agreement shall not be valid unless the price paid to the farmer is equal to or greater than the minimum support price (MSP). It also proposed that the farmer and sponsor can make farming agreement below MSP with mutual consent for maximum period of two years.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

+ Delhi HC raps Twitter over officer posting

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday gave two days to microblogging platform Twitter to come up with a specific timeline for appointing a grievance officer in compliance with the new IT rules.

"It's been more than two weeks... If the interim grievance officer ran away on June 21, the least Twitter was expected to do was to appoint a fresh officer in these 14 days before the matter came up today," Justice Rekha Palli remarked.

Twitter admitted that it was currently not in compliance with the new IT rules as it was in the process of appointing a grievance officer and a nodal officer.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

# Helmets make way for wrap-around safety

Made of strong yet tensile material, the Tough Turban offers Sikh riders protection

RUTH DHANARAJ

BENGALURU

Vic Bath and colleague Dan Cummings at Zulu Alpha Kilo, an advertising agency in Canada, have partnered with Pfaff Harley Davidson to create a protective material for turbans that Sikh riders can use instead of helmets.

"My father always dreamed of owning a Harley – it was his ultimate idea of freedom," says Mr. Bath, who is from a Sikh background.

"Years later, when he finally got one I was able to see how much it meant to him. That got me thinking – it surely meant as much to other members of the community in Canada and abroad."

While certain provinces



Riders sporting the new safety gear. ■ THE MOTO FOTO | DAN LIM

for the turban hardens on impact. The result was a material which was tough and tensile, possessing the dexterity of fabric: the Tough Turban. It can be wound in any way to suit the personal style of the wearer.

Keeping in mind the interest of the riding community worldwide, the team from Zulu felt it best to open source the prototype of the Tough Turban and release it online. "We have received a lot of interest in the product from India and Thailand," says Mr. Bath.

Currently, the Tough Turban is a proof of concept/prototype that is pending approval for use on the road, and the team at Zulu is working with manufacturing partners towards this next step.

Inspired by Sikh warriors of old who set out for battle wearing chain mail under their turbans, the team sought to replicate similar headgear. Roping in Spark Innovations, a product design firm, they began to research various impact-resistant materials. They finalised a composite of bullet-proof fabric, non-Newtonian foam and 3D-printed chain mail. Non-Newtonian substances do not follow Newton's Law of Viscosity; the foam used

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

# Leaders urge Kovind to act on Fr. Swamy death

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Maliwal and her team get another term for three years

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday approved another term for Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) Chairperson Swati Maliwal and her team.

This is the second extension granted to the team and it will be for a period of three years, said officials.

Mr. Kejriwal tweeted: "Delhi Commission for Women has been doing excellent work. Their term comes to an end. I approved another one term for the present Commission today. Best wishes to Swati and the team. Keep doing good work."

Thanking Mr. Kejriwal for his support, Ms. Maliwal said: "We have revolutionised the functioning of the Commission. Today the Commission is known for its good work across the country. We have successfully rescued thousands of girls from trafficking and prostitution rackets. We have strengthened the 181 helpline to an extent that no call goes unheard."

The first term of the newly constituted DCW was between 2015 and 2018. In July 2018, Ms. Maliwal was given the first extension for three years.

## Crimes against women saw over 63% rise in 2021 so far

Rape cases rose to 833 this year from 580 in same period in 2020

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

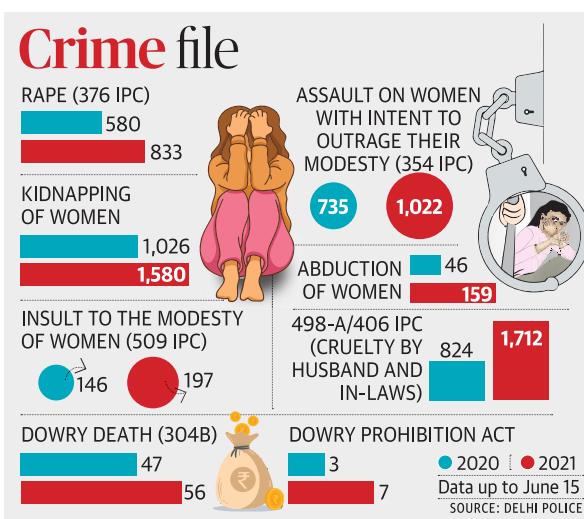
Crime against women in the Capital increased by 63.3% in the first six months of 2021 as compared to 2020, data shared by Delhi Police showed.

The data states that rape cases saw an increase of 43% from 580 till June 15 last year to 833 this year, molestation jumped by 39% from 733 to 1,022, kidnapping of women from 1,026 to 1,580, abduction of women from 46 to 159, and dowry deaths from 47 to 56.

**Heinous crimes**

Heinous crime figure, till June 15, has come down marginally from 2,436 to 2,315. In the first six months this year, the city recorded seven cases of dacoity, 196 murder, 295 attempt to murder, 942 robbery, 35 riot cases, and seven kidnapping for ransom.

In the corresponding period last year, Delhi witnessed four cases of dacoity, 226 murder, 236 attempt to murder, 701 robbery, 681 riot cases and eight kidnapping for ransom, the data stated.



It's pertinent to note that the number of riot cases came down significantly this year as communal riots broke out in north-east Delhi in February last year following anti-Citizenship Amendment Act protests.

According to the data, the number of non-heinous crimes has increased by 8.5%. Till June 15 this year, a total of 1,20,980 cases of non-heinous crime have been reported while the number stood at 1,11,419 last year.

The data showed there were 1,217 more cases of snatching reported in 2021 as compared to 2020 with 3,829 cases of snatching this time and 2,612 in last year. The total number of cases of hurt, burglary, motor vehicle theft and house theft stood at 493, 1,173, 15,667 and 938 respectively as compared to 421, 839, 13130, and 875 last year.

The data showed that fatal and non-fatal accidents rose from 392 and 1,260 cases in 2020 to 449 and 1,497 cases this year, respectively.

The data showed there

## 42-year-old held for duping 7 persons of over ₹10 cr. by posing as IAS officer

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A 42-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly cheating people on the pretext of getting them jobs in gulf countries by posing himself as an IAS officer posted in the UAE Embassy, the police said on Tuesday.

DCP (Shahdara) R. Sathi-

yasundaram said the accused has been identified as Shine Jyothi Sathy alias Siddik Abdul Rehman from Utam Nagar.

He belongs to Kerala's Alappettty district. The accused has cheated at least seven people of more than ₹10 crore and mostly targeted people from Kerala.

**IN BRIEF****AAP wins North civic body's Narela post**

NEW DELHI

AAP councillor Ram Narayan won by one vote on Tuesday in the election to the post of chairperson of the Narela Zone wards' committee of the North body, said the officials.

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

1. The Executive Engineer, Una Division HPPWD Una H.P. on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in 2 Cover System for the under mentioned works from the eligible and approved contractors / Firms registered with HPPWD Department.

District	RIDF	Name of the Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. Lakh)		Total Cost (Rs Lakh)	Period of Completion	Bid Security (Rs. Lakh) <i>The bid security is two percent of the total cost, rounded to the nearest thousand</i>
			Construction	Maintenance			
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Una	XXVI	Improvement and widening of Badehar, Sasan, Udaipur and Lamlehra Pekhabela Road from km. 0/0 to 6/540 (SH - Formation Cutting 5/7mtr, wide including Retaining wall, Breast wall and Toe wall, Cross drainage work and Cement Concrete Pavement Providing and Laying GSB, WMM and 20mm thick premix carpet with seal coat, U and V-shape drain, C/O Parapet and kilometre stone and sign board in km. 0/0 to 0/990 including five years maintenance) <b>UNDER NABARD RIDF-XXVI</b>	91,54,370/-	5,75,918/-	97,30,288/-	12 months	1,94,600/-
Una	XXVI	Improvement and widening of Badehar, Sasan, Udaipur and Lamlehra Pekhabela Road from km. 0/0 to 6/540 (SH - Formation Cutting 5/7mtr, wide including Retaining wall, Breast wall and Toe wall, Cross drainage work and Cement Concrete Pavement Providing and Laying GSB, WMM and 20mm thick premix carpet with seal coat, U and V-shape drain, C/O Parapet and kilometre stone and sign board in km. 0/990 to 3/735 including five years maintenance) <b>UNDER NABARD RIDF-XXVI</b>	1,85,64,129/-	15,96,865/-	2,01,60,994/-	12 months	4,03,200/-
Una	XXVI	Improvement and widening of Badehar, Sasan, Udaipur and Lamlehra Pekhabela Road from km. 0/0 to 6/540 (SH - Formation Cutting 5/7mtr, wide including Retaining wall, Breast wall and Toe wall, Cross drainage work and Cement Concrete Pavement Providing and Laying GSB, WMM and 20mm thick premix carpet with seal coat, U and V-shape drain, C/O Parapet and kilometre stone and sign board in km. 3/735 to 6/540 including five years maintenance) <b>UNDER NABARD RIDF-XXVI</b>	2,02,93,545/-	16,31,769/-	2,19,25,314/-	12 months	4,38,500/-

2. Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: **26.07.2021**.

3. Cost of Bid Form:: As per detail in column No. 6 in form of demand draft in favour of Executive Engineer, Una Division HPPWD, Una payable at Una.

4. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website <http://hp-tenders.gov.in>. Bidder would be required to register on the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWD may obtain the same from the website: <http://hp-tenders.gov.in>. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CA can use the same in this tender.

5. Key Dates:

1.	Date of Online Publication	26.07.2021 (10.00 HRS)
2.	Document Download Start and End Date	26.07.2021 (10.30 HRS upto 03.08.2021 (09.00 HRS)
3.	Bid Submission Start and End Date	26.07.2021 (10.30 HRS upto 03.08.2021 (09.00 HRS)
4.	Physical Submission of EMD and Cost of Tender Document	03.08.2021 upto 10.30 HRS
5.	Date of Technical Bid opening, Evaluation of Technical Bid followed by Opening of Financial Bid	03.08.2021 (11.00 HRS).

6. TENDER DETAILS: The Tender Documents shall be uploaded online in 2 Cover:

a. Cover 1: shall contain scanned copies of all "Technical Documents/Eligibility Information."

b. Cover 2: shall contain "BOQ/Financial Bid", where contractor will quote his offer for each item.

7. Submission of Original Documents: The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security/ Earnest Money (EMD) duly pledged in favour of undersigned and other Technical Documents in Executive Engineer, Una Division, HPPWD, Una H.P. as specified in Key dates Sr. 4 on Tender Opening Date, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.

8. BID OPENING DETAILS: The bids shall be opened on **03.08.2021 at 11.00 HRS** in the office of Executive Engineer, Una Division, HP: PWD, Una by the authorised officer. In their interest the tenderer is advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of tenders. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. The date for opening of financial bids will be intimated separately after evaluation of technical bids.

9. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 120 days after the deadline date for bid submission.

10. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

Executive Engineer  
Una Division, HP: PWD, Una.  
On behalf of Governor of H.P.

DIP/Shabdarth/0139/21-22

HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

## Kashmere Gate metro gets India's first FASTag-based parking facility

It can accommodate 55 four-wheelers and 174 two-wheelers

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation on Tuesday said the country's first FASTag/UPI-based cashless parking facility was launched at the Kashmere Gate metro station.

As a part of a Multi-Modal Integration (MMI) initiative, lanes for autos, taxis and e-rickshaws were also inaugurated at the station by DMRC Managing Director Mangu Singh.

The exclusively cashless parking facility located at the metro station can accommodate 55 four-wheelers and 174 two-wheelers, said officials.



DMRC Managing Director Mangu Singh inaugurates the parking facility along with other officials at Kashmere Gate metro station on Tuesday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

plans will be explored at other stations after following the response to the pilot project.

"This will not only help us in modernising the facilities but will also help the commuters by saving their time and ease the process," Mr. Singh said.

**Last-mile connectivity**

DMRC spokesperson Anuj Dayal said the Intermediate Public Transport (IPT) lanes for autos, taxis and e-rickshaws will enable smooth movement of vehicles and enhance last-mile connectivity at the station.

"In the second phase of MMI, which is under con-

struction, there will be a food court and also a bus-terminal...after completion of the second phase, Kashmere Gate will be a transportation hub, integrating metro connectivity on the Yellow, Red and Violet Lines with parking facility, ISBT Kashmere Gate, city bus services and taxi, auto and e-rickshaw services," said Mr. Dayal.

Stating that the facilities were set to provide a major relief to commuters, Mr. Dayal added: "The Kashmere Gate station is the only triple-interchange station of DMRC and is among the busiest stations of the network."

## DU gets over 1K applications from foreign students

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi University on Tuesday said it has received 1,324 applications from foreign students for the 2021-22 academic year.

Rajeev Gupta, Chairperson of DU Admissions, said overseas applicants from around 61 countries had applied for the upcoming academic session. The highest number of applications was from Afghanistan – 320 – followed by 185 from Nepal and 156 from Tibet.

The university also saw 10 applications from Vietnam, seven from Thailand, five from Sri Lanka, four from Mauritius and three each from Angola, Gambia and Lesotho apart from other countries. The admission process for foreign students to various courses had begun in April. While the last date for applications to undergraduate programmes was May 31, for postgraduate programmes it was June 29.

In a notification issued earlier, DU had said: "Foreign Students' Registry of DU is inviting applications from foreign national for its various programmes of study for the academic session 2021-22..."

## Two arrested for killing friend in Sarita Vihar

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A 23-year-old man was killed allegedly by his friends in south-east Delhi's Sarita Vihar following a quarrel over a girl, the police said on Tuesday.

DCP (South-East) R.P. Meena said the victim has been identified as Owais from Jamia Nagar. The accused have been identified as Altaf (19) and Farhan Abbas (19). On July 4, the police received a call stating that a body is lying in Okhla tank jungle. On reaching the spot, they found that a person, who looked about 23-24 years old, was lying dead near a boundary wall. The body had injury marks and had started to decompose, an officer said.

The victim was then identified, and his call detail records were analysed. During probe, the CCTV footage was obtained and examined. Altaf and Farhan were with the victim on the day of the incident and they were picked up from Jasola.



During interrogation, they confessed to the crime," Mr. Meena said.

The accused allegedly told police the three of them were friends and used to drink and do drugs. On July 2, they were all at Farhan's terrace along with a woman. An argument broke out between the three of them over dropping her home as Farhan wanted her to leave his house and the victim did not.

Subsequently, the argument turned into a quarrel after which the two accused allegedly stabbed Owais, the police added.

Timings

DELHI

WEDNESDAY, JUL. 07	
RISE 05:30	SET 19:23
RISE 03:05	SET 17:16
THURSDAY, JUL. 08	
RISE 05:31	SET 19:23
RISE 03:47	SET 18:10
FRIDAY, JUL. 09	
RISE 05:31	SET 19:23
RISE 04:34	SET 19:04

Delhi Weather max min  
Delhi City 41 29  
Safdarjung 41 29  
Palam 41 29

Delhi Palam Today  
41°C Day remain hot with partly cloudy sky and light winds. Thunderclouds development at some places likely.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow  
40°C Duststorm & thunderstorm with light rain may occur at some places towards evening. Day would remain hot with partly cloudy sky.

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IN BRIEF

Bidhuri criticises govt.  
for new excise policy

NEW DELHI Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri on Tuesday lashed out at the Delhi government for the new excise policy. Mr. Bidhuri alleged that the policy was aimed at encouraging the consumption of liquor and could lead to a new law and order problem in the Capital. "The announcements made under the new policy are shocking and shameful," Mr. Bidhuri said.

Left for FIR against hate speeches at Pataudi meet

GURUGRAM The Haryana unit of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) has condemned the alleged provocative speeches by several speakers at a Hindu mahapanchayat in Pataudi here and demanded registration of case for creating communal disharmony. Condemning the provocative speeches at the mahapanchayat, CPI(M) zonal secretary S.L. Prajapati said communal panchayats should be banned.

Probe actual number of COVID deaths'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI The Delhi Congress on Tuesday demanded probe by a retired High Court judge to find out the actual COVID death toll in the Capital, alleging that many deaths, including those in home isolation, were not included in the official COVID-19 death category. The party alleged that the Delhi government was manipulating the numbers to skirt paying compensation.

Delhi Congress chief Ch. Anil Kumar said that Delhi Congress has been demanding that the families of those who died of COVID-19 be paid an ex gratia amount of ₹4 lakh under the Disaster Management Act and said that the sum of ₹50,000 announced by the Delhi government was meagre.

He said that in the fourth wave of the pandemic between April and May, municipal bodies issued 34,450 COVID death certificates, while the Delhi government put the death toll at 13,201.

# Relief scheme for COVID victims' kin launched

Families can either register on portal or 'empathetic' Delhi govt. representative will visit their homes

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday urged government officials appointed as surveyors to establish a relationship with families who had lost near and dear ones to COVID-19 in the process of providing financial relief to them.

₹50,000 to each family

Mr. Kejriwal said this while launching the 'Mukhyamantri COVID-19 Pariwar Aarthik Sahayata Yojna', a social security scheme for COVID-19-affected families here on Tuesday.

Under the scheme, Delhi government will disburse an ex gratia payment of



was very lethal; we lost a lot of lives, a lot of children became orphans, a lot of families lost their breadwinners. There's no one to look after them now," he said.

"As a responsible and sensitive government, it is our duty to stand with these grieving families and provide them all the assistance we can. After a lot of discussions with our officers and the people of Delhi, we are launching the 'Mukhyamantri COVID-19 Pariwar Aarthik Sahayata Yojna,'" the CM said, while launching the scheme.

No questions would be asked, Mr. Kejriwal assured, if the person died because of COVID-19 and the affected fa-

mily would receive ₹50,000.

Additionally, he said, ₹2,500 would be disbursed monthly to those families who had lost their breadwinners to the pandemic; children who were orphaned would be provided ₹2,500 monthly till they turn 25, Mr. Kejriwal said.

Two options to register

"There are two options. First, families can register on the portal themselves. Second, a Delhi government representative will visit their homes. As a responsible and sensitive government, we will not wait for people to apply, we will approach them on our own as well," he said.

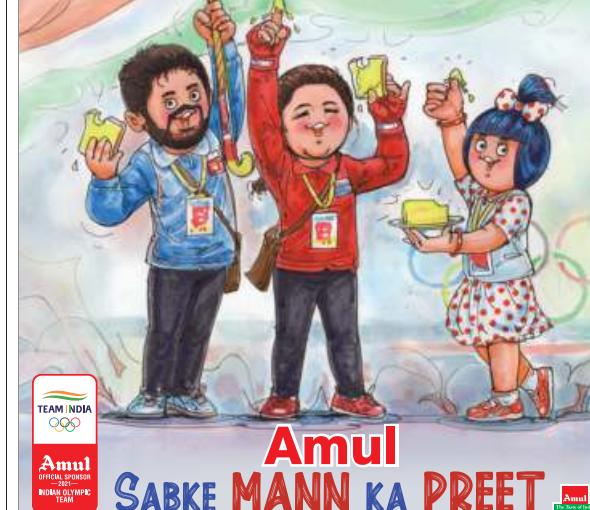
There would not be any

scrutiny.

"The representatives are not going to these homes to scrutinise the documents of these grieving families. If any documents are missing, it is the responsibility of the representatives and the government to make them available without putting pressure on the grieving families," he said.

Referring to government representatives who will be collecting applications, the Chief Minister asked them to be empathetic and understanding towards these families. He also requested them not to put them under stress because of any missing papers as they were already going through a lot.

## TOKYO HERE WE KOM



dacunha/Ab/7/49

## Police get more time to probe chargesheet leak

HC wants the report before August 5

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday gave the city police two more weeks' to do a comprehensive inquiry into the leakage of content of chargesheet, filed in case related to Delhi riots case, to the media even before cognisance was taken by the court concerned.

Justice Mukta Gupta ordered the Delhi police to submit its report on the inquiry before the next date of hearing on August 5.

The High Court's direction came on Jamia Millia Islamia University student and riots accused Asif Iqbal Tanha's plea alleging misconduct by police officers in leaking his alleged disclosure statement in the main chargesheet to the media.

The Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) said that although notice was issued to parties concerned for the purposes of the inquiry, the same could not be concluded on account of COVID-19-induced lockdown.

Vigilance report

The court also reminded the SPP that the police's earlier vigilance report on the issue "had nothing in it" and that the court was not satisfied with the report.

Mr. Tanha, in his plea, had said he was aggrieved by various news reports ap-



pearing in electronic media that alleged he had confessed to organising and inciting communal riots that occurred in north-east Delhi.

He had contended that the action of the media houses in placing such documents in the public violated the programme code.

Mr. Tanha had alleged that he was coerced by police officers to sign certain papers and make statements while in their custody.

He had contended that the alleged disclosure statements, which have become a subject matter of news reports, were not given voluntarily and are inadmissible as evidence in court.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) in an affidavit had stated that Delhi Police was also "aggrieved" by the news report in which the alleged confessional statement of Mr. Tanha was leaked.

## 1,500 farmers at Tikri border get the jab

Punjab govt. assists NGO in drive

SHINJINI GHOSH

NEW DELHI

A vaccination drive for agitating farmers, organised by an NGO, began at the Tikri border on Tuesday. Volunteers said that around 1,500 doses were administered, adding that the Punjab government had assisted in procuring the vaccines.

According to members of the "5 Rivers Hearts Association" NGO, the inoculation process will continue over the next few months.

Stating that several other measures had been taken at the protest site earlier, Swami Singh of the NGO said: "What remained was a vaccine drive at the protest site. Letters were sent out to all governments and international organisations and finally the Punjab government helped kickstart the vaccination campaign. They have promised to continue as long as there is a requirement from the farmers."

Dr. Singh added that over 10 lakh surgical masks, 1 lakh N95 masks and 1 lakh small sanitisers had been distributed at the protest sites earlier.



The vaccine drive will be expanded to other protest sites as well. ■ FILE PHOTO

"Around 1,500 shots were administered on the first day and they were all free of cost. Doctors across the world have fought bravely against the pandemic. Whenever there has been a need for medicines and oxygen concentrators we have provided free of cost. But there were restrictions on procuring vaccines even from across the borders," said Dr. Singh.

In the future, the drive will be expanded to other protest sites as well, he said.

## Number of COVID-19 deaths breaches 25K mark in Capital

79 fresh infections reported; 80,841 beneficiaries vaccinated

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Capital recorded 79 new COVID-19 cases on Tuesday along with four deaths, taking the total number of deaths to 25,001, according to a health bulletin released by the Delhi government.

The government said that 69,866 tests have been conducted, of which 46,110 were RT-PCR tests. The positivity rate was 0.11%. Since the pandemic began, Delhi has recorded a total of 14,34,687 COVID-19 cases.

The bulletin added that there are 833 active COVID-19 cases in the city, of which 269 are under home isolation. The total number of beds reserved for COVID-19 patients stands at 14,548, out of which 14,072 are vacant.

Virus graph

The first 5,000 deaths due to COVID-19 took 161 days since the first death was reported on March 13 and took 83 days to reach 10,000 deaths on September 21 last year. The

next 5,000 deaths took 135 days and was recorded on April 27 this year. On May 11,

the deaths crossed the 20,000 mark and took 14 days to go from 15,000-20,000. It has taken 56 days for the number of deaths to go from 20,000-25,000.

The Capital on Monday had recorded 54 fresh COVID-19 cases, the lowest since April 15 last year, and two more deaths. On Sunday, Delhi had recorded 94 cases of COVID-19, the first time active cases in the city dropped below 1,000 since

April last year.

Meanwhile, the health bulletin said that 80,841 beneficiaries have been vaccinated with 51,728 receiving their first dose. The Capital has vaccinated 84,70,002 beneficiaries out of which 19,40,805 have received both doses.

The bulletin also mentioned that less than a day of vaccine stock was left with the Delhi government. Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia urged the Centre to send more doses for the inoculation exercise.

## Save us from demolition: Khoribasti residents

Protesters march to PMO to submit memorandum, appeal to repeal SC order

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GURUGRAM

A large number of residents of Faridabad's Khoribasti marched towards the Prime Minister's office in New Delhi and submitted a memorandum with an appeal to save the colony from the Supreme Court-ordered demolition.

Led by former Lok Sabha MP and Congress national spokesperson Udit Raj, the residents, including women, carried out a march towards the Prime Minister's Office under the aegis of All India Confederation of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes organisations.

Carrying placards that read, "Save Khoribasti, Save Migrants" and "Please Save Khoribasti", the demonstrators started the march from Atul Grover Road. However, they were stopped by the police at Jantar Mantar. The protesters appealed to the govern-

ment to get the Supreme Court order repealed so that millions of lives can be saved during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Raj attacked the Haryana government saying that the State government should have made rehabilitation arrangements before displacement, but unfortunately it did not happen. The people have built their homes with blood and

sweat, which were being demolished in front of their own eyes, said Dr. Raj, adding that this would not be tolerated at any cost.

The Supreme Court had last month directed Faridabad municipal corporation to demolish the houses in 170-acre Khoribasti on the forest land within six weeks. The residents have been demanding that the government should rehabilitate

them or revoke the SC order to provide them relief.

Forcing to vacate Sanjay Raj, national treasurer of the confederation, said that power and water supply to the houses in the colony was snapped to force them to vacate their houses. Social activist Meenu Verma, also part of the demonstration, said: "The third wave of COVID-19 has arrived and in this situation it was inhumane to make thousands of children homeless. If electricity and water supply is not restored in the colony, thousands of lives will be put to danger during the pandemic".

The State Secretariat of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) in Haryana has strongly condemned the illegal and inhumane actions of the State government for en masse eviction of thousands of Khoribasti residents.

## Cooling off



Homeless people rest near the banks of the Yamuna on a hot Tuesday afternoon in New Delhi. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

the SC order to provide them relief.

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The State Secretariat of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) in Haryana has strongly condemned the illegal and inhumane actions of the State government for en masse eviction of thousands of Khoribasti residents.

## Form joint action panel to check crowd: traders

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Several traders in the national capital on Tuesday demanded the formation of a joint action committee comprising police personnel, civic body officials and market associations to manage the crowd at markets after a number of them were sealed over COVID norm violation.

The Chamber of Trade and Industry (CTI) convened a 'mahapanchayat' of

## E-waste disposal: L-G seeks means to integrate unorganised sector

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal on Tuesday chaired a review meeting related to e-waste management in the Capital.

The strategy for setting up an e-waste processing park was discussed in detail to ensure scientific, efficient and environmentally safe disposal of all types of electronic waste, according to an official present in the meeting.

According to the officer, it

was emphasised that an institutional mechanism should be devised to suitably integrate the unorganised sector that includes traditional kabaadi walas, ragpickers and NGOs in e-waste collection and processing.

Similar initiatives

Give financial aid to COVID-19 victims' kin: AAP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Assembly Harpal Singh Cheema of the Aam Aadmi Party on Tuesday urged the State government to provide financial assistance to the families of COVID-19 victims on the lines of the AAP's Delhi government.

Mr. Cheema said AAP national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has implemented a scheme to provide financial assistance to the family of the person who died of COVID-19. He said the family will be given ₹50,000 in cash and ₹2,500 pension per month. "Due to COVID-19 second wave, many in Punjab had lost their livelihood. Therefore, the State government should provide cash assistance."

## Rajasthan Cabinet expansion a 'work in progress', says Maken

'Difference of opinion among members is found in every political party'

MOHAMMED IQBAL  
JAIPUR



AICC general secretary Ajay Maken at a meeting with PCC office-bearers in Jaipur on Tuesday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Cabinet expansion and political appointments in Rajasthan were a "work in progress" and a decision on these subjects would be taken soon, AICC general secretary Ajay Maken said here on Tuesday during his two-day visit to the State Capital.

Mr. Maken said talks were being held with all Congress leaders on these issues.

He told reporters at the Pradesh Congress Committee headquarters here that there were vacancies in the State Cabinet, while the political appointments, along with the appointment of district and block presidents, were also to be made. "We will take everyone along in

who met the party leaders from the rival factions, was likely to meet Mr. Gehlot as well. While the legislators were staking their claims to key posts, Mr. Maken said the difference of opinion among the members is found in every political party, Congress being no exception.

### PCC meeting

He also attended a meeting with the PCC office-bearers to deliberate on the ruling party's outreach programme to provide succour to the covid-affected families and an 11-day-long agitation, beginning on Wednesday, against price rise and the constant increase in the prices of petroleum products.

this exercise," the Congress leader said.

**Infighting between MLAs**  
Mr. Maken's visit assumed significance amid the infighting between the Congress MLAs from the rival camps of Chief Minister Ashok Geh-

lot and his former deputy Sachin Pilot. The Pilot loyalists have expressed resentment over being ignored even a year after the political crisis caused by their rebellion.

The AICC general secretary in charge of Rajasthan,

## Panel on Naga issue to meet on July 9

Core committee headed by CM seeks to find a way forward

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

The core committee of a panel set up by the Nagaland government to pursue the Naga political issue has scheduled its meeting in Dimapur, the State's commercial hub, on July 9.

The issue pertains to the peace agreement between the Centre and the Naga extremist groups. These groups are the Isak-Muivah faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) and the Naga National Political Groups comprising at least six armed outfits.

"All the members of the core committee of the Parliamentary Committee on Naga

Political Issue have been asked to meet at 11 a.m. at the Chumukedima Police Complex in Dimapur on July 9," a Nagaland government spokesperson said. "We hope to arrive at a solution or find the way forward to resolve the Naga political issue hanging fire for 23 years now," he added.

### Committee members

Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio is the convener of the parliamentary committee formed on June 10. Deputy Chief Minister Y. Patton and former Chief Minister T.R. Zeliang are co-conveners while Land Revenue Minister Neiba Kruunu is the member-secretary.

All the 60 MLAs of the State are members of the committee.

Mr. Rio and Mr. Kronu represent the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) and Mr. Patton the BJP. The NDPP rules Nagaland in alliance with the BJP. Mr. Zeliang represents the Opposition Naga People's Front (NPF).

The core committee of the parliamentary panel has 15 MLAs as members. Five each are from the BJP and the NPF, four from the NDPP and one is an independent legislator. The peace process had begun in mid-1997 when the NSCN (I-M) declared a ceasefire with New Delhi.

State govt. urges Centre to replenish stock immediately

SATYASUNDAR BARIK  
BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha government on Tuesday urged the Centre to make COVID-19 doses available immediately to the State as it would have no stock of vaccine left for a week after its current stock runs out.

Pradip Mohapatra, Additional Chief Secretary (Health) wrote to Union Health Secretary: "Since late June, the State is vaccinating over three lakh citizens daily subject to availability of vaccines. On Monday, we had administered 4.02 lakh doses successfully – highest ever single day vaccination for the State."

"However, as on today

Secretary to supply the required vaccines within the next two days.

"The Covishield allocation for July is 25.31 lakh doses, which is lower than the 28.31 lakh second dose due requirement for the month of July," Mr. Mohapatra said, requesting additional allocation of 15 lakh doses of Covishield to Odisha to manage COVID-19 vaccination smoothly.

Odisha has been witnessing queues in front of all vaccination centres from the early hours. Tension runs high and physical distancing is not maintained. Police had to disperse crowds at vaccination centres in many places.

## Rising agri demand forces power curbs on industrial units in Punjab

Manufacturers slam three-day closure amid slowdown

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

mills, arc and induction furnaces consumers from July 7.

but also imposing penalties," he told *The Hindu*.

**'Unfortunate situation'**

"Every year the demand for power rises during the paddy sowing season, which is not something new. Even credible weather forecast mechanism is available, yet we are facing such situation, which is unfortunate," said Mr. Jindal.

Punjab's average electricity demand during the ongoing paddy season has been more than 14,500 MW, against average supply of 13,500 MW. The PSPCL on July 5 in a statement stated that on an average 10.3 hours of electricity across the State was supplied for paddy operations.

'Spurt in chain-snatching a matter of grave concern'

It has created a fear psychosis, says HC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
LUCKNOW

the city with repeated incidents of them targeting women, a sense of fear has been instilled in women who have now stopped wearing gold ornaments or at the most wear a very thin one that is not even visible," the court said.

**'Take them seriously'**  
Such incidents needed to be taken seriously and the offenders must be instilled with a sense of fear so that women felt safe and free as such incidents not only caused terror but also restricted their mobility, Justice Sanjay Kumar Singh said.

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### ENTERPRISE CONNECT

BHEL Supplies Medical Oxygen Plant in record time



In response to the critical situation arising out of shortage of medical oxygen in the second half of April '21, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has once again risen to the occasion by venturing into the manufacture of medical oxygen plants. BHEL's first Medical Oxygen plant developed and manufactured using CSIR-IIP technology was formally handed over to SLG Hospitals – Hyderabad, in a flagging off ceremony in the presence of CMD and senior officials of BHEL as well as SLG Hospitals at BHEL's Hyderabad unit, in a record time of less than 35 days from receipt of order. BHEL has signed an agreement with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Indian Institute of Petroleum (CSIR-IIP) on 03.05.21 for transfer of technology for Medical Oxygen Plants of 500 LPM and higher using Pressure Vacuum Swing Adsorption (PVSA) technology. The agreement entails development and deployment of 500 LPM medical oxygen plants and design upscaling to 1000 LPM and more. Work for development of a prototype was initiated on war footing in three of BHEL's biggest manufacturing units (Hyderabad, Bhopal and Haridwar). In parallel, work on design upscaling of 1000 LPM was also taken up. BHEL has already received commercial orders for supply of both 500 LPM and 1000 LPM PVSA plants to state hospitals. The other two units of BHEL are also manufacturing this equipment on a fast track basis, and a total of 10 units are to be supplied in the month of July. Deployment of these plants will further supplement the efforts initiated by the company during the second wave of Covid-19 towards supply of medical oxygen, wherein BHEL's units located at Bhopal and Haridwar supplied over 5,75,000 cubic meters (~ 80,000 cylinders) of medical oxygen to hospitals in their vicinity. BHEL being the responsible corporate citizen it is, stands firm in its resolve to contribute wholeheartedly in meeting the nation's requirement to combat COVID-19.

### UHBVN celebrates 22nd Foundation Day

Uttar Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam celebrated its 22nd Foundation Day on 01 July, 2021. On this occasion ACS Power P.K. Das graced the occasion as the chief guest. In 1999, UHBVN separated from HVNP and started its growth journey independently. For the first time, the foundation day was celebrated as a mass festival by the corporation. Giving this information, a spokesperson of the Electricity Corporation said that on the occasion of Foundation Day, UHBVN has included 22 more new villages in the Mhara Gaon Jagmag Yojana. On this occasion 5 best employees of the Corporation were felicitated for their outstanding performance

### A Business Initiative

and highest bill paying consumers of 4 different categories were also felicitated. Along with this, artificial limbs were provided to the employees who were injured while working on the lines and appointment letters were given under ex gratia amount and ex gratia to the families of the employees who lost their lives due to covid epidemic and various accidents. The Managing Director of Uttar Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam, Mr. Shashank Anand encouraged the officers and employees present in the program and motivated them to perform excellently in future. On this occasion the Chief Guest Shri P.K. Das, UHBVN Managing Director Shri Shashank Anand, ADGP Vigilance Shri Kuldeep Siyah, Director Operations Shri SK. Apart from Bansal, Director Finance Shri Amit Divan, Director Project Shri Rajesh Gupta, Chief Engineer, Superintendent Engineer, Company Secretary and other officers were present.

### NE Railway, Gorakhpur to complete electrification of rail network by 2023.

North Eastern Railway is ushering in a new era of modernization that has opened many channels to provide better services to the customers with an ecological balance. A landmark decision to complete electrification of the entire rail network by December '2023 has been taken by the Railway Board. As a result, more than 70 percent of the rail network of NER covering all the main lines have already been electrified which facilitates the running of electric trains on these routes. While executing electrification works it is kept in mind that it should be done in a contiguous manner to avoid any non-electrified patch between two electrified territories so that electric trains could be operated as soon as electrification works commission. There are many direct benefits of electrification such as reduced consumption of imported diesel thereby saving precious foreign currency, reduced operating cost, increased sectional capacity by eliminating detention on account of traction change, reduced operating and maintenance cost of the electric locomotives and the indirect benefit is being the more environment friendly mode of transportation. Furthermore, as a new initiative Railways have started to run electric trains with Head on Generation (HOG) which enables electricity in the coaches from Over Head Equipments (OHE) through HOG compliant locomotives and LHB coaches thereby curtailed the use of power cars resulted in saving of diesel in a tune of Rs. 21 crores approximately in the FY 2020-21. In non-HOG trains, electricity in the coaches for lights, fans, air-conditioners and adaptor/charger are supplied through power cars. To facilitate uninterrupted electricity supply in the coaches two power cars are utilized in non-HOG trains.

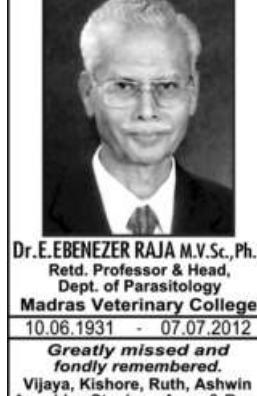
### Indian Railway Finance Corporation Ltd. posts all-time high revenue and profit numbers for FY21

Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited ("IRFC" or the "Company") the dedicated market borrowing arm of the Indian Railways posted profit growth of 126% on YoY basis for Q4 FY 2020-21 to stand at Rs. 1,482.55 crore vs. Rs. 654.63 crore reported in Q4FY2020. The net profit for FY2020-21 grew by 38.34% to Rs. 4,416.13 Crore as against Rs. 3,192.06 Crore for the corresponding financial year

### OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

#### DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

#### NINTH ANNIVERSARY



Dr. E. EBENEZER RAJA M.V.Sc., Ph.D

Retd. Professor & Head,

Dept. of Parasitology

Madras Veterinary College

10.06.1931 - 07.07.2012

Greatly missed and fondly remembered.

Vijaya, Kishore, Ruth, Ashwin

Anushka, Stephen, Anna & Ryan

#### REMEMBRANCE

#### OBITUARY



Mrs. RAMANI

தகன நினைவு

07-07-2010

நினைவில் நிட்சி

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### APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male. Name: Unknown S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown Age: 50/55 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Thin, Face: Long, Hair: Black & White, ID: white long beard and mustache, Injury Mark: Head injury, left leg & left Arms broken and scratch marks on body, Wearing: Orange coloured Kurta, Lungi, white coloured Vest, was found dead by train accident on 29.06.2021 at 8:43 AM from KM Pole No.3/9-10 Railway Track, Near Shamshain Ghat, Mandi, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved in GTB Hospital Mortuary for identification. In this regard a DD No.7A dated 29.06.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi. If any one having any clue about deceased male may kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers.

SHO

P.S. Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi

Ph.: 011-23961522, 23941522

Mob.: 9968318499

DP/173/RLY/2021

### Punjab Ghar Rozgar & Karobar Mission

Ground Floor, Punjab Mandi Board Building, Sec-65-A,

SAS Nagar Mohali, 160062

Short Term Tender Notice

IN BRIEF



HC adjourns hearing on Swapna's bail to July 16

A Division Bench of the Kerala High Court on Tuesday adjourned the hearing on an appeal filed by Swapna Suresh, an accused in the gold smuggling case, seeking bail in a case registered by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) against her, to July 16. The Bench adjourned the hearing as the counsel for the NIA sought time to file an affidavit in response to the bail plea.

Gold smuggling attempt at Calicut airport

KOZHIKODE  
The Air Intelligence unit of the Customs foiled yet another attempt to smuggle gold in compound form at the Calicut international airport. Sleuths seized 2.198 kg of gold from a passenger, Rasheed Kadungolath of Kuttikattoor, Kozhikode, who arrived from Bahrain on a Gulf Air flight on Monday night. The market value of the gold would approximately be ₹90 lakh. The gold compounds in plastic packets were concealed by tightly taping them on the legs of the passenger, officials said.

Customs to question Shafi in smuggling case

KOCHI  
The Customs Department (Preventive), Kochi, has asked Mohammed Shafi, convict in the murder of Revolutionary Marxist Party leader T.P. Chandrasekharan, to appear before it on Wednesday in connection with the agency's probe in the Karipur gold smuggling case. Shafi is on parole. Meanwhile, the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate (Economic Offences) here rejected a request by the Customs to extend the custody of Arjun Ayanki, an accused in the case, by one more week.

# Kerala retains curbs in some districts

State classifies 362 local bodies as Zone C and 175 as Zone D due to high positivity; TPR in A.P. rises

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The steady rise in new COVID-19 cases in Kerala's northern districts has given rise to apprehensions that the graph might rise again.

After reporting 10,000-12,000 new cases a day over the past two or three weeks, the State reported 14,373 on Tuesday from 1,31,820 tests. The test positivity rate (TPR) rose, touching 10.9%.

The rise was yet to reflect on active cases or COVID hospitalisations, compared to the last two weeks. Active cases stood at 1,04,105 on Tuesday. Cumulative case fatality was at 13,960 with 142 recent deaths added to the official list.

Malappuram district reported the highest number of new cases with 2,110, Kollam 1,508, Ernakulam 1,468,

Kozhikode 1,425, Thrissur 1,363, Palakkad 1,221, Thiruvananthapuram 1,115, Kannur 947, Alappuzha 793, Kottayam 662, Kasaragod 613, Pathanamthitta 511, Wayanad 362 and Idukki 275 cases.

The State government on Tuesday amended the COVID-19 pandemic zone classification based on average

COVID-19

test positivity rate.

Under the grouping, localities with less than 5% TPR were in Zone A, between 5% and 10% under Zone B and between 10% and 15% under Zone C. Localities with above 15% TPR were in the restricted D Zone. The new zonation would be effective Wednesday. Government of-



A shot in the arm: People waiting at a COVID-19 vaccination centre in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, on Tuesday. ■ RAJU V.

fices in the A and B zones could open with full attendance, and those in Zone C with 50%. In A and B zones, hotels and restaurants were allowed to provide home deliveries or takeaways till 9.30 p.m. Gyms could admit restricted members but

not use air-conditioning.

Tourism centres in the A and B zones were allowed to open for those fully vaccinated. As on Tuesday, 82 local self-government institutions (LSGIs) fell under Zone A, 415 in Zone B, 362 in Zone C and 175 in Zone D.

(With inputs from Bengaluru, Vijayawada, Hyderabad and Chennai bureaus)

## Car owned by Minister's son hits and kills farmer

Driver was behind the wheels: Savadi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BELAGAVI/MYSURU

went back and helped admit the person to a hospital. Unfortunately, he passed away," he said in a release.

Lokesh Jagalasari, Bagalkot Superintendent of Police, told presspersons that as of now, the police did not know if Mr. Chidanand was in the same car. "A case has been registered against Hanuman Singh, driver of the vehicle," he said.

The incident occurred when Mr. Chidanand and his friends were returning from Anjanadri hills in Koppal district, and were going to Athani, the native town of the Deputy Chief Minister.

Meanwhile, the Minister, too, claimed that the car was driven by the driver at the time of the accident.

"I was travelling in another car with my friend. My driver was driving the car that was involved in the accident. Soon after the accident, I got a call about it. I

was behind the wheels: Savadi

## 'Have you seen if Twitter can control posts?'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday asked the Uttar Pradesh Police whether they had inquired if Twitter Communications India Pvt. Ltd. was "capable of controlling" the content of a video related to the assault of an elderly Muslim man in Ghaziabad before issuing notice to the company's managing director, Manish Maheshwari.

The court posed the question during the hearing of a petition filed by Mr. Maheshwari challenging a notice issued by the police asking him to join the probe. Fifteen children were rescued at the Vijayawada railway station in the early hours of Tuesday.

In another raid on the

STAFF REPORTER  
VIJAYAWADA

Yeshwanthpur Special, the officials rescued 13 more children bound for Bengaluru.

"We have taken in four persons allegedly trafficking the children to Bengaluru. The victims were all from Bihar," said District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) Ch. Vijay Kumar, of the WD&CW Department.

BBA State coordinator G. Tirupati Rao said the children, aged between 14 and 17 years, were being taken to work as bonded labourers in the construction sector.

A case has been registered under Section 370 (Child Trafficking) and Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986.

## Trafficking bid foiled, 28 children rescued

They were being taken to Bengaluru

STAFF REPORTER

VISHAKHAPATNAM

In a joint operation, the Railway Protection Force (RPF), the Women Development and Child Welfare (WD&CW) Department and the Government Railway Police (GRP) rescued 28 children, allegedly being trafficked from Bihar to Karnataka.

On information provided by NGO Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA) that minor boys were being shifted on the Sanghamitra Express, officials and the Railway Childline swung into action. Fifteen children were rescued at the Vijayawada railway station in the early hours of Tuesday.

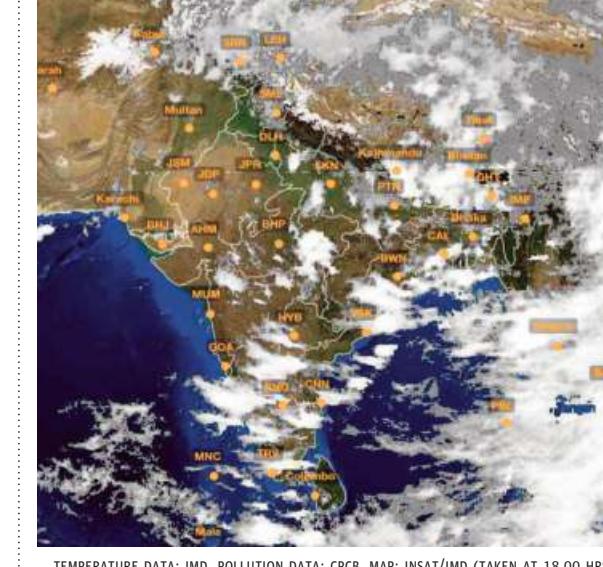
In another raid on the

Yeshwanthpur Special, the officials rescued 13 more children bound for Bengaluru.

"We have taken in four

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



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

**Forecast for Wednesday:** Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Sikkim, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorms with lightning likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, central Maharashtra, Telangana, Yanam and Karaikal.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.8...	35.5...	26.9	Kozhikode	...	32.8...	25.1
Ahmedabad	...	38.4...	28.0	Kurnool	2...	36...	26.4
Aizawl	1.9...	20.5...	19.0	Lucknow	...	39...	28.4
Altanabazar	...	39.7...	27.2	Madurai	...	37.5...	25.0
Bengaluru	1.3...	30.0...	20.2	Mangaluru	1.4...	30.2...	23.7
Bhopal	...	37.7...	25.5	Mumbai	...	32.7...	27.0
Bhubaneswar	...	33.8...	26.4	Mysuru	...	31.0...	21.0
Chandigarh	...	41.0...	29.2	New Delhi	...	40.6...	28.7
Chennai	...	35.5...	27.7	Patna	...	36.8...	26.7
Coimbatore	...	34.8...	23.8	Port Blair	1...	31.3...	25.4
Dehradoon	6.2...	35.6...	24.5	Puducherry	...	34.2...	25.2
Gangtok	0.2...	22.4...	18.3	Pune	77.2...	31.2...	22.7
Goa	23...	31.8...	24.6	Raipur	...	34.4...	23.0
Guwahati	...	35.2...	26.6	Ranchi	87...	31.8...	22.0
Hubballi	...	29.0...	22.0	Shillong	...	5...	18.0...
Hyderabad	...	35.0...	24.4	Shimla	...	29.5...	21.2
Imphal	...	30.2...	22.6	Srinagar	...	30.9...	16.4
Jaipur	...	39.6...	28.2	Thiruvananthapuram	...	33.8...	24.9
Kochi	0.2...	30.6...	25.4	Tiruchi	...	36.5...	26.0
Kohima	1...	27.0...	17.8	Vijayawada	...	36.8...	26.2
Kolkata	...	33.8...	28.2	Visakhapatnam	...	32.2...	25.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Yesterday

CITIES	SO. NO.	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.5	17	107	.123	.120
Bengaluru	11	.37	.58	.50	.57
Chennai	64	.9	.35	.46	.55
Delhi	101	.83	.216	.191	■
Hyderabad	31	.33	.19	.52	.92
Kolkata	10	.26	.27	.154	.112
Lucknow	7	.47	.65	.129	.137
Mumbai	7	.33	.3	.107	.78
Pune	7	.24	.76	.114	.154
Visakhapatnam	11	.60	.50	.52	.90

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)  
SO<sub>2</sub>: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

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

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

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

## Maharashtra tables amendments to Centre's farm laws

Fadnavis calls this an eyewash, says State govt. is taking forward policies of Centre

STAFF REPORTER  
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government on Tuesday introduced amendment bills in the State legislature to the three farm Acts passed by the Union government last August.

The bill to amend the Farmers' Empowerment and Protection Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Service Act, 2020, presented by Maharashtra's Agriculture Minister Dadaji Bhuse, stated that farming agreement shall not be valid unless the price paid to farmer is equal to or greater than the minimum support price (MSP).

It also proposed that the farmer and sponsor can make farming agreement below MSP with mutual consent for maximum period of two years. "For crops where MSP is not declared then they may enter into a farming agreement with a mutually agreed

price," it said. It has also made the provision for punishment of imprisonment of minimum three years for harassment to the farmer.

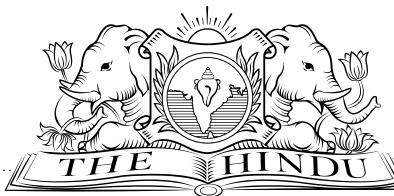
Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar said the draft will be open for suggestions and objections for next two months and will be finalised in the winter session of the Assembly. The draft bill has, however,

clarified that 'no licence or permission is required for marketing of agricultural produce such as fruits, vegetables, condiments, spices'.

Chhagan Bhujbal, State's Minister for Food, Civil Supply and Consumer Protection, introduced an amendment to the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020, making provision for the State government to regulate or prohibit the production, supply, distribution, imposing stock limits under circumstances such as famine, price rise, natural calamity etc.

Leader of Opposition Devendra Fadnavis claimed that the amendments are nothing but an eyewash and the State government is taking forward the policies of the Central government. "There was no need to delay the implementation of these Acts in the State," he said.

## Probe ordered into alleged phone tapping in 2016-17



## A death foretold

There is a pattern of institutional oppression behind the demise of Father Stan Swamy

**I**t was a death his well-wishers feared would happen and one he had anticipated. Father Stan Swamy, an 84-year-old Jesuit priest, known for his service and activism in the cause of Adivasis, died nine months into his unjust imprisonment on tenuous charges. A death that was simply allowed to happen despite being foretold by his deteriorating health in prison will weigh on the country's collective conscience for long. His age and frailty drew no sympathy from either the prosecuting agency or the trial court, which clung to the state narrative of there being grounds to believe that he was part of a Maoist plot to overthrow the government. Despite being a fit case for bail, he was denied bail, mainly due to the statutory bar on bail under the anti-terrorism law invoked against him. The best the diffident judiciary could do for him was a spell of hospitalisation, even as the octogenarian pleaded that he be given interim bail to be with his friends or allowed to die in prison. The Bombay High Court did issue notice on his bail petition, observing that he was entitled to bail, but his end came in a hospital even before the matter could be taken up for final disposal. Much of the blame and accountability for his death should be on the NIA, which perversely opposed his release, and the court which could have granted interim bail weeks earlier.

It was fairly obvious that his prison stay, especially during the pandemic, was detrimental to his well-being. A good two months elapsed between the High Court seeking the NIA's response to his bail plea on medical grounds and his death. The same court had intervened to grant interim bail to Varavara Rao, another elderly co-accused, holding that bail can be granted "purely on the grounds of sickness, advanced age, infirmity and health conditions", especially if incarceration amounted to endangering life. It is systemic and institutional failure that another undertrial placed in similar circumstances did not get the benefit of this humane approach. A pattern of institutional oppression can be seen in the events, from the denial of a sipper in jail to his death while in custody. Two larger issues here are the questionable legality of the bail-denying feature of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the validity of the Bhima-Koregaon case itself. It is time the higher judiciary examined these; especially the attempt to link a simple case arising out of violence a day after the Elgar Parishad, a commemorative event held in Pune, and an alleged Maoist plot involving lawyers, activists and human rights defenders. To make matters worse, credible reports that some of the electronic evidence gathered in this case could have been planted remotely by malware were never investigated. The call for accountability for Fr. Swamy's death rings painfully true.

## Cultural genocide

Canada should ensure justice for indigenous community who suffered systemic violence

**T**he recent discovery of hundreds of graves in Canada has put the spotlight back on its dark past, when indigenous people faced systemic discrimination and violence. In June, the Cowessess First Nation, an indigenous organisation, found 751 unmarked graves at the site of a former residential school in Saskatchewan. This came a month after another indigenous organisation discovered the remains of 215 children at a closed residential school in British Columbia. Canada's residential school system was a telling example of how indigenous people were treated. Between 1882 and 1996, an estimated 150,000 children were sent to residential schools, that were funded by the federal government and run mostly by the Catholic Church. Most of these students were forcefully taken away from their families. And thousands never returned. In 1883, Canada's first Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald, defended in Parliament the system of residential schools, saying indigenous students should be kept away from their parents, "who are savages". The children were not allowed to speak their languages or practise their culture. Many were abused. An estimated 4,000 children died, mainly due to TB, malnutrition and other illnesses resulting from the squalid conditions in the schools. Despite these horrors, the residential school system continued for over a century.

In 2008, Prime Minister Stephen Harper issued a formal apology. The Government also set up a Truth and Reconciliation Commission to document the history and the lasting impact of the school system on the indigenous communities. In 2015, the commission called the violence against the indigenous students a "cultural genocide". It has made 94 "calls to action" to different levels of the government and communities that included independent investigations and steps to protect Aboriginal rights and culture. It also asked the Catholic Church to apologise and take steps toward reconciliation. The Vatican is yet to formally apologise for the schools. Justin Trudeau, who came to power in 2015, had promised that addressing the grievances of the indigenous communities was a core agenda. But six years later, indigenous organisations say the authorities are half-hearted. The back-to-back discoveries of unmarked graves strengthen indigenous organisations' claims that the actual number of the dead is way above the estimates of the commission. Mr. Trudeau has expressed "guilt" over the abuses. But that is not enough. His government should assist indigenous organisations to find unmarked graves. He should order investigations into the residential schools with graves to get to the bottom of the matter. Mr. Trudeau should also accelerate steps to implement all the recommendations of the Reconciliation Commission to ensure reparations are done to the country's indigenous community.

# Fresh stirrings on federalism as a new politics

There are factors, which if harnessed well, that can create a political moment for a principled politics of federalism



YAMINI AIYAR & RAHUL VERMA

challenge is, ironically, even greater.

### Nationalism on strong wicket

First, the rhetoric of nationalism has greater political purchase. Ideologically, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has had relatively little patience with federalism as a device to accommodate India's multiple linguistic, religious, and ethnic identities. Post-2014, the BJP has couched its discomfiture with federalism in the grammar of development and nationalism, which has mass electoral appeal. To accelerate progress, India must become 'one nation, one market', 'one nation, one ration card', 'one nation, one grid'. In this framing, federalism as a principle necessary for negotiating diverse political contexts and identity claims risks being equated with regionalism and a narrow parochialism that is anti-development and anti-national.

Thus, a politics for deepening federalism will need to overcome a nationalist rhetoric that pits federalism against nationalism and development. This is a hard ask, especially because most regional parties have failed to uphold principles of decentralisation in their own backyard.

Second, and relatedly, despite a rhetorical commitment to federalism, the politics of federalism has remained contingent rather than principled. As Pratap Bhanu Mehta has pointed out over the decades, federal principles have been bent in all kinds of ways to co-produce a political culture of flexible federalism – "federalism for me, but not for thee".

Federalism in this rendition is reduced to a game of political upmanship and remains restricted to a partisan tussle rather than a regions' genuine demand for accom-



modation. Especially, when claimants of greater federalism often maintain silence on unilateral decisions that affect other States.

Take for instance, the downgrading of a full-fledged State in Jammu and Kashmir into a Union Territory in 2019, or more recently, the notification of the NCT of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2021. This blatant undermining of State's rights hardly witnessed protest by parties that were not directly affected by these. Upholding federalism requires political maturity and a commitment to the federal principle. This is lacking in our politics.

### Divide among States

Third, the increased economic and governance divergence between States. Economic growth trajectories since liberalisation have been characterised by growing spatial divergence. Across all key indicators, southern (and western) States have outperformed much of northern and eastern India resulting in a greater divergence rather than expected convergence with growth. This has created a context where collective action amongst States becomes difficult as poorer regions of India contribute far less to the economy but require greater fiscal resources to overcome their economic fragilities. Glimpses of these emerging tensions were

visible in the debates around the 15th Finance Commission (FC) when the Government of India mandated the commission to use the 2011 Census rather than the established practice of using the 1971 Census to determine revenue share across States.

This, Southern states feared, risked penalising States that had successfully controlled population growth by reducing their share in the overall resource pool. The 15th Finance Commission, through its recommendations, deftly avoided a political crisis but the growing divergence between richer and poorer States, remains an important source of tension in inter-State relations that can become a real impediment to collective action amongst States. With the impending delimitation exercise due in 2026, these tensions will only increase.

These challenges notwithstanding, the BJP's impatience with federalism affords an opportunity for regional parties to craft a new federal bargain. At one level, the BJP's homogenising ideological project risks creating new forms of cultural alienation and associated regional tensions as occurred during the Citizenship (Amendment) Act protests in Assam. There is a very real possibility of the emergence of new forms of regional sub-nationalism, glimpses of which were visible during the recent Assembly elections particularly in West Bengal.

### Fiscal management

Moreover, the realities of India's macro-fiscal position risk increasing the fragility of State finances. Weak fiscal management has brought the Union government on the brink of what economist Rathin Roy has called a silent fiscal crisis. The Union's response has been

to squeeze revenue from States by increasing cesses. Its insistence on giving GST compensation to States as loans (after long delays) and increasing State shares in central schemes. The pandemic-induced economic crisis has only exaggerated this.

Against this backdrop, if harnessed well, both sub-nationalist sentiments and the need to reclaim fiscal federalism create a political moment for a principled politics of federalism. However, there are risks along the way. As Suhas Palshikar has argued, the politics of regional identity is isolationist by its very nature. An effort at collective political action for federalism based on identity concerns will have to overcome this risk. On the fiscal side, richer States must find a way of sharing the burden with the poorer States. States will have to show political maturity to make necessary compromises if they are to negotiate existing tensions and win the collective battle with the Union. An inter-State platform that brings States together in a routine dialogue on matters of fiscal federalism could be the starting point for building trust and a common agenda. The seeds of this were planted in the debates over the 15th Finance Commission and the GST.

Finally, beyond principles, a renewed politics of federalism is also an electoral necessity. No coalition has succeeded, in the long term, without a glue that binds it. Forging a political consensus on federalism can be that glue. But this would require immense patience and maturity from regional parties. Are they up to the task?

*Yamini Aiyar and Rahul Verma are with the Centre for Policy Research (CPR), New Delhi. The views expressed are personal*

## Venezuela's reflections on the Carabobo

Two hundred years after a 'geopolitical campaign', South American States still struggle to be independent



VIJAY PRASHAD

**O**n June 24, 1821, Simón Bolívar, the great Liberator, led his forces against the Spanish Army at the Battle of Carabobo. Five days later, Bolívar entered Caracas in triumph. The Spanish had not yet been defeated across South America, but the Spanish monarchy no longer had the will to fight back. The rest of the battles – including the Battle of Pichincha on May 24, 1822 – merely finished up what Carabobo had established, namely that South America's many republics wanted to be sovereign. Bolívar's comrades assembled in Cúcuta to write a new constitution and to elect him as the president. But Bolívar would not rest. He mounted his horse, went southwards to ensure that the sovereignty of South America would be permanent.

The story of Bolívar and Carabobo is deeply felt among Venezuelans of all classes. When I asked Venezuela's Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza about the meaning of this battle, he dug deep into the history books to explain that

the Carabobo "was more than a battle. It was a geopolitical campaign". After Bolívar's armies defeated the Spanish on those battlefields west of Caracas, the new States that emerged from Gran Colombia (Colombia and Venezuela) down to Bolivia (1825) produced a dynamic sense of their own sovereignty. Carabobo was "an important step towards the whole independence of South America".

A decade ago, I remember hearing Hugo Chávez on Carabobo, his voice emotional, his sense of the possibilities opened up by Bolívar total. No wonder that Chávez named the process opened up by his election in 1998 as the Bolivarian Revolution and that he named the regional process, the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA). Venezuela has also celebrated the battle with a Bicentennial Congress of the Peoples of the World. The theme is not the independence of South America alone. It is sovereignty for the world.

### The woes of States

Two hundred years after Carabobo, the South American States struggle to be independent. Venezuela itself remains locked in a dangerous conflict with the United States, whose government continues to tighten the sanctions regime that inflicts harm against the



Venezuelan people. Recently, the U.S. government's secondary sanctions pushed UBS to refuse to complete transactions by the Venezuelan government to the COVAX alliance so as to ensure delivery of vaccines for COVID-19. Increasingly, U.S. sanctions block the ability of Venezuela to conduct normal commercial relations with other countries. The U.S. has been able to exercise this overwhelming power over Venezuela – and several other countries under unilateral U.S. sanctions – because of U.S. dominance over trade and investment, international financial systems, and global information flows.

### Monroe Doctrine

Just when Bolívar's armies defeated the Spanish, the U.S. President James Monroe on December 2, 1823, crafted the Monroe Doctrine. This policy suggested that now that European powers had lost their grip on the Americas, the United States of America will be the

guardian of continental stability. At that time, the U.S. did not have the technological or military means to subordinate all of the hemisphere. In 1898, when the U.S. intervened to remove the last vestiges of Spanish colonialism in Cuba and Puerto Rico, it took over both islands. Subsequently, U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt in his corollary to Monroe's doctrine in 1904 said that the U.S. would exercise its influence over the Americas. Military invasions from Nicaragua to Panama (1909) and coups from Guatemala (1954) to Bolivia (2019) brought Monroe's speech into the world.

### The U.S. stand

It meant little that U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said in 2013, "The era of the Monroe Doctrine is over." This statement came four years after the U.S.-backed coup in Honduras, and also before the U.S. coup in Bolivia. Mr. Kerry made that remark while he served under President Barack Obama and Vice-President Joe Biden. Mr. Biden, now U.S. President, has no intention of renouncing the Monroe Doctrine. His Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, has interfered in the legal processes in Bolivia, put in place a former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) agent, Lisa Kenna, as Ambassador to Peru, and deepened U.S. sanctions

against Venezuela. For these men, there is no evidence of a policy shift.

In February 2021, UN Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures, Alena Douhan, wrote that due to the U.S. unilateral sanctions, the Venezuelan government revenue shrank by 99% and the country is living on 1% of its pre-sanctions income. Venezuela, she wrote, "faces a lack of necessary machinery, spare parts, electricity, water, fuel, gas, food, and medicine". Over the past six years, 2.5 million Venezuelans have slipped into food insecurity, while electricity generation levels have fallen to 20%. Venezuelan assets frozen in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Portuguese banks amount to U.S.\$6 billion.

But Venezuelans remain defiant. "We stand firm," says Mr. Arreaza, who has just returned to Caracas from Moscow. Monroe is another name for unipolarity. Despite the residual power of the U.S., Monroe is of the past. Carabobo, for the Venezuelans, signals multipolarity. It is, they believe, the way forward.

*Vijay Prashad is the Director of Tricontinental Institute for Social Research, Chief Correspondent for Globetrotter, and Chief Editor of LeftWord Books*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

### Father Stan Swamy

There cannot be anything more frustrating than the court hearing the bail application of Father Stan Swamy when he was on a ventilator. The entire system seems to be on a ventilator. Nobody can express their grief beyond that. The narratives show that all this was because of his continued incarceration in jail, and not granting him bail. When it was pointed out to the court that it took 10 days for him to be transferred from the jail to the hospital, the court expressed its shock. In ordinary parlance, this is called passing the buck. However, what was actually shocking was the court's refusal to grant him bail. When Gandhiji was confined to the Aga Khan Palace and was seriously ill, the colonial rulers had the presence of mind to release him lest take the ignominy of him dying in their custody. They were

prepared to give him the best of treatment. Yet, from jail to a hospital does not make much of a difference. It is still custody. The jurisprudence seems to be not custodial rights but custodian's rights. Where are we heading?

N.G.R. PRASAD,  
Chennai

■ A certain rivalry has always existed between the state and activists at all times. But the incarceration of a veteran social worker, on vague charges, and which must be read as an attempt by the Government to capture and monopolise the nationalistic narrative, and his death, has ended up creating a martyr in Father Stan Swamy, and has tarnished the image of the state machinery.

PREETHA SALLI,  
Mumbai

■ Democracy is also about the quintessential premise that every individual has certain basic rights which

includes the right to live and die with dignity. But this right has not been served many a time in the largest democracy of the world, and Father Stan Swamy's death has brought out this ghastly truth of our system. It is disturbing that a man who fought for the most marginalised sections of the society, had to appeal in court to get a straw and a sipper. His death is not just the death of an individual but it is also the death of a belief in democracy and justice.

ADITYA JHINGAN,  
Kirkiya, Harda, Madhya Pradesh

■ It is a sad reflection of the growing insensitivity and dehumanisation of our criminal justice system which is bent at will by the rulers of the day to suit their partisan ends. The sky would not have fallen had he been granted bail and the law allowed to take its own course. His words from jail, "We will still sing in chorus. A caged bird can still sing."

SUKUMARAN C.V.,  
Palakkad, Kerala

should inspire those who care for human rights in the country to raise their voice in a chorus to turn the spotlight on disturbing aberrations in the country.

MANOHAR ALEMBATH,  
Kannur, Kerala

■ The antagonism of the Indian state towards human rights activists who speak for the Adivasis stems from its commitment to corporate interests. Whether it is the UPA or the NDA, people who fight against the human-rights violations of tribal people and their continuous displacement are hunted out. It was in colonial India that people struggling for the rights of fellow citizens were imprisoned without trial. To see the same situation continue in independent India is really harrowing.

SUKUMARAN C.V.,  
Palakkad, Kerala

■ The Government should not be so insensitive to the

extent that it is left to the media to highlight the pathetic plight of such (elderly and unwell) prisoners, which results in collective anger and anguish. The judiciary should perhaps be given more freedom to coordinate with human rights commissions to decide the issue of release on bail on a case-to-case basis for all prisoners who are elderly.

D. NAGARJUNA,  
Hyderabad

■ His passing is a black letter day. Even the judiciary that failed to grant timely bail to Father Stan Swamy on medical grounds cannot escape. He was subject to inhuman treatment including denying him a very humane request for a sipper with straw to drink water. One cannot help but contrast his plight with political figures released on bail on medical grounds and then

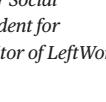
CM

making it big in political circles.

THARICUS S. FERNANDO,  
Chennai

**Warfare today**  
The CoDs, for whatever reason, has kindled a debate as old as the Second World War. In later day warfare, air superiority became vital; it is hard to win a battle on the basis of the army alone. This era increasingly uses new technologies to engage in any conflict zone with a minimal military footprint – through remote warfare. This also strategically creates a political distance between the nation and the sites of its military interventions that stand enhanced by powerful armed drones and meticulous special operations. It is surprising that we should engage in debates that are far less relevant today.

R. NARAYANAN,  
Navi Mumbai



M ND-NDE

# Seeking a paradigm shift in mental health care

WHO's guidance on community mental health services balances care and support with rights and participation



VANDANA GOPIKUMAR & KESHAV DESIRAJU

Recently, a High Court suggested that homeless persons with health conditions be branded with a permanent tattoo, when vaccinated against COVID-19, since tracking a 'floating population' may be cumbersome. Earlier judgments have also suggested 'round ups' of such persons to facilitate pathways into care. These are possibly well-intentioned directives, but what follows is that bewildered persons are huddled in a vehicle and admitted into shelters or mental hospitals that are usually crowded, yet lonely. What does this tell us about the way homelessness and mental illness are regarded in 'polite' society?

#### A responsive care system

Persons with mental health conditions need a responsive care system that inspires hope and participation without which their lives are empty. In many countries, persons with severe mental health conditions live in shackles in their homes, in over-crowded hospitals, and even in prison. On the other hand, many persons with mental health issues live and even die alone on the streets.

Three losses dominate the mental health systems narrative: dignity, agency and personhood. Far-sighted changes in policy and laws have often not taken root and many laws fail to meet international human rights standards. Many also do not account for cultural, social and political contexts resulting in moral rhetoric that doesn't change the scenario of inadequate care. Society's responses are often based on conditioning and perceptions, often verging on visceral forms of prejudice. This results in an "othering" of persons who seem different from dominant groups. Hence, even well-intentioned judgments could set off unintended negative, even grave, consequences. There is also the social legacy of the asylum, and of psychiatry and mental illness itself, that guides our imagination in how care is organised.

Historian Sarah Ann Pinto, in her account of the lunatic asylums in co-



ISTOCK PHOTO

lonial Bombay, wrote that "doctors interpreted a patient's refusal to wear clothing as a sign of morbidity, and clothing became a way of civilising the savage – the violent Indian man and the promiscuous Indian woman". Individual preference and indigenous culture were substituted with what the coloniser thought was appropriate. Similarly, medieval London boasted of a hospital for the care of persons with mental illness, St. Mary of Bethlehem, which soon turned into a 'bedlam', a poorhouse and a site of shocking atrocities.

We must understand mental health conditions for what they are and for how they are associated with disadvantage. These situations are linked, but not always so. Therefore, not all distress can be medicalised. It is against this complex background of distress arising out of medical conditions and from inequitable social systems, of good intentions and calamitous consequences, that we welcome the Guidance on Community Mental Health Services recently launched by the World Health Organization. The Guidance, which includes three models from India, addresses the issue from 'the same side' as the mental health service user and focuses on the co-production of knowledge and on good practices built around the key themes of crisis services, peer support, supported living, community outreach, hospital-based services and comprehensive mental health service networks. Drawn from 22 countries, these models balance care and support with rights and participation.

Afya House in the U.S. is driven by peers and offers respite to persons who have significant emotional or mental distress. People can stay for up to seven nights when they are connected to networks that support

recovery. Services are non-coercive and persons can opt to stay or leave based on discussions with peer supporters. Tupu Ake, a New Zealand-based recovery house service, welcomes 'guests' from various ethnicities. Atmiyata in Gujarat employs a stepped-care approach using community-based volunteers who identify persons in distress, offer counselling support and enable access to social care benefits. Evaluation of the service indicates better general health, better quality of life and social functioning. Naya Daur in West Bengal works with local networks and volunteers who support homeless persons through their outreach programme and enable access to food, clothing, counselling, shelter and housing. Home Again, a programme of The Banyan in Tamil Nadu, facilitates residence options in regular neighbourhoods while also offering graded levels of supportive services for persons with severe disabilities. It emphasises socio-cultural conditions. Peer leaders provide wisdom from their lived experience to support others in distress.

The practice of open dialogue, a therapeutic practice that originated in Finland, runs through many programmes in the Guidance. This practice, conducted in homes or in service settings, combines individual and systemic family therapy with a focus on the centrality of relationships and promotion of connectedness through family and support networks. This approach trains the therapist in de-escalation of distress and breaks power differentials that allow for free expression.

Aimed at providing newer perspectives to governments and policymakers, approaches in the new WHO

Guidance are designed to make community inclusion and dialogic practice a way of life. With emphasis on social care components such as work force participation, pensions and housing, increased investments in health and social care seem imperative.

#### A network of services

Recently, the Supreme Court and the Madras High Court have advised vaccinations for those in mental health care homes and for those homeless and living with a mental illness. While those in institutions should access this support at the earliest, for those homeless and who opt not to enter mental health establishments en masse from where exit pathways may be laborious, there are two paths. In the first, drives will be conducted and persons with mental illness will be housed in overcrowded institutions, with scant regard for agency or for social determinants of ill health. The other would aim to provide a network of services ranging from soup kitchens at vantage points to mobile mental health and social care clinics, non-intimidating guest homes at village panchayats with access to toilets and the comfort of a welcoming team, and well-being kiosks that offer a basic income and/or facilitate livelihoods. Small emergency care and recovery centres for those who need crisis support instead of larger hospitals, and long-term inclusive living options in an environment that values diversity and celebrates social mixing, will reframe the archaic narrative of how mental health care is to be provided.

With a strong health system, Tamil Nadu is well placed to demonstrate through pilots, and an exclusive policy for homeless persons with mental illness, that political intent, good governance and creative thinking can solve complex problems and cater to the needs of the ultra-vulnerable.

Meanwhile, a mental health service user whom we met interpreted her tattoo as 'we are all one'. If we can learn to 'be on the same side' as the mental health service user, it seems possible that we can learn to respect human diversity.

*Vandana Gopikumar is Co-Founder, The Banyan and The Banyan Academy; Keshav Desiraju serves on the board of The Banyan Academy and was Union Health Secretary, Government of India*

# Unpacking China's game plan

It is upgrading defence infrastructure in the Tibetan plateau to nullify the disadvantages that its airpower has vis-à-vis India



MANMOHAN BAHADUR

Aviation websites are abuzz with reports of a rapid upgradation of aviation infrastructure in Tibet. While the expansion of the road and railway network there has been subject to much debate, it is the speed of upgradation of airfields, construction of hardened aircraft shelters, new runways, aprons, underground storage and tunnelling into mountainsides, all visible in high-resolution satellite photos, that should have alarm bells ringing in New Delhi. This needs an analysis for two reasons. First, is there any link between these constructions and the procrastination by China in the talks for reducing tensions in Eastern Ladakh? What is the tactical aim of the Chinese with these upgradations? Second, how would these changes affect the balance of air power between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) in the medium to long term?

#### On a weak wicket in the air

While the larger strategic aim of the Chinese in upping the ante by violating decades-old understandings in 2020 is still matter of debate, what Beijing discovered to its discomfiture was that India did not yield any ground, and actually occupied vantage points in the south Pangong Tso area to balance out some sectoral disadvantages. This firmness was backed by deterrent IAF firepower and it was clear to the Chinese that they were on a weak wicket in the air due to three reasons. First, the IAF's high strike potential, with its aircraft having the advantage of a string of airfields all along the foothills of the Himalayas; that they are at low altitudes permit a full armament load to be carried. Second, Chinese airfields in Tibet were few, widely spaced out and hence not mutually supportive; there were gaps in the air defence structure too that the IAF would utilise to interdict targets in the rear. Third, most Tibetan airfields are at altitudes above 10,000 ft, severely restricting the payload of PLAAF aircraft. Additional infrastructure was required to make up these deficiencies since the positive asymmetry of IAF would be detrimental to China's plans to gain any territorial advantage; 'time' had to be made an ally in this endeavour.

The balancing out of IAF's asymmetry was only possible through a rapid upgradation of airfield and air defence infrastructure – this would need two years at least. The Chinese plan has been cleverly implemented through what can only be called a tactical pause, ob-

tained via talks that were commenced but have meandered since. A 'breakthrough' in the eyeball-to-eyeball posture came in February when a simultaneous withdrawal in certain areas was agreed on, including a pulling back of Indian troops from their vantage points in areas south of Pangong Tso. With the threat to the PLA Moldo garrison removed, the Chinese re-adopted their procrastination position in subsequent talks regarding restoring status quo ante in Depsang/Daulat Beg Oldi and Hot Springs, which are of vital interest to India. This is the classic buying-time-through-talks technique and is still ongoing. In the tactical pause won surreptitiously, the Chinese have gone on the upgradation drive to nullify the disadvantages that Chinese airpower has vis-à-vis India; gaps in their air defence scheme are being plugged through the new infrastructure and positioning of new air defence radars and missile systems that would afford them a layered air defence setting and affect the balance of power in the medium to long term.

#### Trying to turn the tables

The IAF is equipped and trained for offensive action. In all the previous conflicts the IAF conducted aggressive strikes, besides providing active close support to ground forces. The odd exception was the 1962 India-China conflict where the IAF's substantial strike potential was nullified by a political decision to not use it. The equipment accretion profile is a pointer to the offensive role as seen by the acquisition of Jaguars, Mirage-2000, Sukhois and now the Rafale. Seen from the prism of air power doctrine, this points to India's strategy of deterrence by punishment: 'don't mess with us as we have the means and power to hurt you'. By strengthening their air defence architecture, the Chinese are trying to turn the tables and deter India through a strategy of denial, i.e., to dissuade the IAF by signalling that it would be costly in terms of aircraft and aircrew losses. For this turnaround to take effect would take China about two years. If China succeeds in its endeavour, India may lose the trump card of positive air power asymmetry that it now holds.

What should India do? The air defence upgradation drive is surely being monitored, but that is not enough. If status quo ante on ground is not obtained soon, it may be too late a year or two from now. The façade of talks should be acknowledged for its devious aim. India's posture and demands at the talks (which one supposes has an IAF representative too) must reflect its understanding of China's game plan. There is no other way out.

*Manmohan Bahadur is a retired Air Vice Marshal*

## Vacancies send a wrong signal

Leaving top posts in the government unoccupied affects governance and is demoralising for officers

M.P. NATHANAEL

The vacancies in the Central government and the States in recent years have had a deleterious effect on governance. For months on end, top slots in important government agencies remain vacant. Delays in promotions and appointments not only affect the organisations but also tend to demoralise the officials who await promotions after vacancies arise.

#### Posts waiting to be filled

The post of the Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission was kept vacant until June this year even though the previous Chairman, H. L. Dattu, retired in December 2020. The post of the Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) too was kept vacant until the recent appointment of Subodh Kumar Jaiswal. The post had been vacant since February after Rishi Kumar Shukla retired.

The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), Sunil Arora, retired on April 12 amidst an aggressive election campaign and polling in West Bengal and four other States this year leaving just two members in the Commission. One of them became CEC by virtue of his seniority in the Election Commission. In case of a disagreement on any issue between the two of them, a solution would have become difficult. The Centre appointed Anup Chandra Pandey as the new Election Commissioner in June. Meanwhile, the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) has filed a public interest litigation in the Supreme Court demanding the appointment of Election Commissioners by a committee, as is done in the case of appointment of the Director of the CBI, and not by the Centre as is the case now. ADR has referred to the 255th Report of Law Commission that had recommended that Election Commissioners be appointed by a high-powered committee. Though the high-powered committee headed by the Prime Minister has two members – the Chief Justice of India and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha – the Opposition leader has little say in the selection process. If the Prime Minister decides on a candi-

date and the CJI consents, the Opposition leader's dissenting note carries no weight. There is a need, therefore, to expand the high-powered committee to include at least two more members of eminence with proven integrity for the selection process – preferably a retired police officer and a Chief Minister of a State governed by a party other than that of the party of the Prime Minister.

After Hrushikesh Senapati's retirement in November last, the National Council of Educational Research and Training, which is largely responsible for chalkling out the education policy of the country, is headless. Of the 40 Central universities across the country, nearly half are without regular Vice-Chancellors.

Rakesh Asthana assumed additional charge of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) from December 2019. After his appointment as Director-General (DG) of the Border Security Force in August last, he continues to hold charge of the NCB as DG. Kuldip Singh, DG of the Central Reserve Police Force, now also heads the National Investigation Agency after the previous incumbent, Y.C. Modi, retired on May 31 last.

#### Impact of vacancies

Similar vacancies or examples of officers holding additional charge exist in other ministries, commissions and departments, but the government appears to turn a blind eye to the malefic effect it has on governance. Vacancies for such long periods tend to paralyse the backbone of these organisations. Appointments to higher echelons can be announced well in time. Delays in important appointments send a wrong signal to the nation. If the government can announce its chiefs and vice chiefs months in advance, there is no reason why this cannot be done in all other ministries and departments. A time frame needs to be worked out to announce top appointments at least a month in advance. Political considerations need to be pushed to the back seat for a clean and honest administration.

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

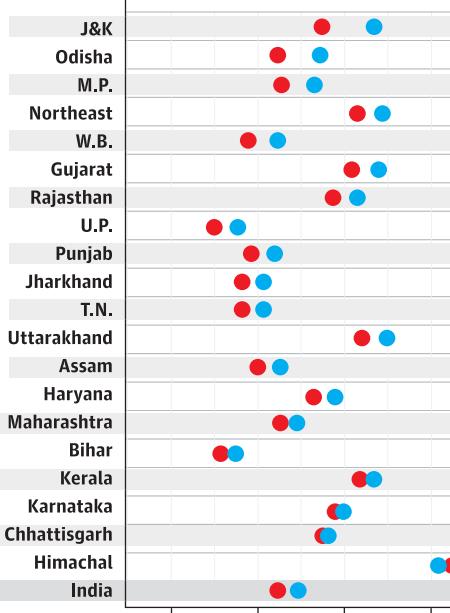
#### DATA POINT

### Jab gap

As the vaccination drive picks up pace in India, the gender gap in vaccination rate (people vaccinated per 1,000 individuals) continues to widen. The gap varies among the States. Except in Himachal Pradesh, there was a gap in all the 19 other States analysed. In India, as of July 4, 349 per every 1,000 women aged above 18 years and 390 per every 1,000 men aged above 18 have received at least one dose. According to the NFHS-5, in many States, more women said that they would let their husbands decide about their health care than those who said they will take decisions themselves.

*By Vignesh Radhakrishnan, Suman Sen and Jasmin Nihalani*

**STATE-WISE** | The graph shows the State-wise vaccination rate among adult men (●) and women (○). The gap was widest in J&K (men: 579; women: 435). H.P. was the only State where the vaccination rate was higher among adult women (men: 715; women: 727). The analysis is limited to 20 States for which relevant data are available. The population figures are govt. estimates for 2021. A.P. and Telangana's estimates were ignored as they were unreliable



**GAP WIDENS** | The graph shows the difference between India's vaccination rate among adult men and women. The difference increased rapidly after the new vaccination policy kicked in. On May 1, 138 out of every 1,000 adult men had received at least one dose, while the figure was 131 for adult women (the difference of seven is plotted in the graph). On June 1, the difference increased to 19 (men: 191 out of 1,000; women: 172 out of 1,000). By July 4, it further worsened to 41 (men: 390 of 1,000; women: 349 out of 1,000)

**DECISION-MAKERS** | Interestingly, in J&K, where the gender gap in the vaccination rate was the widest, the lowest share of women said that they themselves make decisions about their healthcare (5.2%). About 26% of women in the UT said their husbands mainly make decisions about their health. In H.P., where the gender gap is the narrowest, the highest share of women said they themselves take decisions related to their health care. The table lists the States for which NFHS-5 has data and those which have reliable population estimates

State	% of women who said they usually make decisions about their health care	% of women who said mainly their husbands make decisions about their health care	% of men who said they usually make decisions about their health care	% of men who said mainly their wives make decisions about their health care
J&K	5.2	26	28.1	3.3
Tripura	5.4	14.4	36.1	4.7
Manipur	6.7	11.1	27.6	3.9
Assam	7.8	13.3	21.9	4.4
Meghalaya	9.1	10.6	14.9	4.6
Bihar	9.4	15.4	28.7	7.9
Karnataka	10.6	24.1	44.5	15.3
Mizoram	10.7	5.5	24	6.2
West Bengal	11	17.1	40.7	9.6
Maharashtra	11.8	16.2	33.7	8.4
Sikkim	13.3	15.1	8.3	9.9
Gujarat	14.2	11.7	37.3	4.7
Nagaland	16.3	3.2	6.6	24
Kerala	17.3	16.9	29.8	9.6
Himachal	17.6	11.1	30.8	8.2

*In 1*

FROM PAGE ONE

## Release Bhima Koregaon case accused: UN body

This follows similar concerns from the U.N. Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders and the European Union (E.U.) Human Rights Chief on Monday.

"High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet and the U.N.'s independent experts have repeatedly raised the cases of Father Stan and 15 other human rights defenders associated with the same events with the government of India over the past three years and urged their release from pre-trial detention," said the statement issued by the OHCHR spokesperson.

In written responses to queries from *The Hindu*, OHCHR spokesperson Liz Throssel said Ms. Bachelet had raised the cases both privately and publicly on "numerous occasions" including in a statement on "shrinking of civic space in India" last November.

The U.N. Special Rapporteurs have also raised the issue of human rights defenders in a couple of

communications to the Indian government, and are expected to release another update on the issue next month.

"The High Commissioner has also raised concerns over the use of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) in relation to human rights defenders, a law Father Stan was challenging before Indian courts days before he died," the rights agency said, making a particular mention of the UAPA, that allows authorities to detain suspects without charging them, and allows courts to hold them without bail.

"In light of the continued, severe impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is even more urgent that States, including India, release every person detained without a sufficient legal basis, including those detained simply for expressing critical or dissenting views. This would be in line with the Indian judiciary's calls to decongest the prisons," the OHCHR statement said.

## Will accept any decision by Cong. chief: Amarinder

While Ms. Vadra is said to have visited Ms. Gandhi before her meeting with Capt. Amarinder, Mr. Gandhi is said to have been part of the meeting. There was, however, no official word about it.

"Whatever decision the Congress president takes, we will implement it in Punjab. The decisions taken by Congress chief on anything – the party and the government – will be acceptable," Captain Amarinder told reporters. The Chief Minister said the party was geared up for the 2022 Assembly polls and maintained that he meets the Congress president whenever he is in Delhi and Tuesday's meet was one such meet.

The meeting, however, assumes significance as the party high command is all set to revamp of the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) as well as carry out a reshuffle.

## GST mop-up in June falls below ₹1 lakh crore

The Central government said that the daily average generation of e-way bills for the first two weeks of April was 20 lakh, which came down to 16 lakh by the last week of that month, and further to 12 lakh in two weeks of May.

Since May 23, the average generation of e-way bills has been increasing and has reached again to 20 lakh level since the week begin-

ning June 20, an official statement said.

Of the nearly ₹93,000 crore collected, Central GST accounted for ₹16,424 crore, State GST ₹20,397 crore, and Integrated GST of ₹49,079 crore (which included ₹25,762 crore collected on import of goods). Compensation cess collections were ₹6,949 crore, and included ₹809 crore levied on goods imports.

## Delhi HC raps Twitter over officer posting

"How long does the process of appointing a grievance officer take? If Twitter thinks it can take as much time as it wants in our country, I will not permit that," Justice Palli cautioned.

Justice Palli directed Twitter's counsel to come up with a clear picture of the compliance timeline by July 8, the next date of hearing. "Otherwise you [Twitter] are in trouble," the judge warned. Senior advocate Sajan Poovayya, representing Twitter, sought time to seek instructions on the specific timeline to complete the grievance officer appointment.

Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Chetan Sharma, representing the Centre, said there had been a non-compliance of the IT Rules by Twitter for over 42 days. "Facebook has removed 3 crore contents, Instagram has removed 18 lakh, Google

has removed 3 lakh, Twitter can certainly do better," the ASG said.

The High Court also took strong objection to Twitter's counsel informing it on the last date of hearing that the micro-blogging site has already appointed a resident grievance officer on May 28, 2021. In view of the statement, the court had granted time to Twitter to submit a counter-affidavit.

The said reply has been filed. A perusal shows that Twitter had as on May 31, 2021 appointed only an interim resident grievance officer, which was not brought to the notice of the court, the court noted.

Twitter had failed to comply with India's law regulating tech companies rendering their services as 'intermediaries', an affidavit by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology stated.

## Bengal passes resolution to set up Council

SHIV SAHAY SINGH  
KOLKATA

The West Bengal Assembly on Tuesday passed a resolution to set up Legislative Council with a two-thirds majority.

While 196 favoured, 69 opposed the resolution moved by Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Partha Chatterjee under Article 169. Senior Minister Subrata Mukherjee and Deputy Chief Whip Tapas Roy spoke in favour of it. The BJP legislators voted against it.

Leader of the Opposition Suvenu Adhikari said the passage of the resolution does not mean that the Council has come into existence.

"Under Article 169, Parliament will have to provide for creation of the Council. This means that it has not been created," Mr. Adhikari said.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had announced the setting up of the Council during the run-up to the Assembly polls.

## Tender for 10 counter-drone systems floated

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

file in the State government to go into the election with a new look government and party organisation.

### 18 suggestions

After talking to a cross-section of party leaders, the three member AICC panel had given 18 suggestions to the party chief including "suitably accommodating" Mr. Sidhu. The Chief Minister is said to be opposed to Mr. Sidhu becoming the PCC chief and wants the PCC to be headed by Hindu community leader and not by another Jat Sikh since the government is headed by one.

There is also talk about appointing two Deputy Chief Ministers including one from the Dalit community to send a strong political signal to the community that make up a sizeable part of the electorate in the State.

All the ten CUAS are required in mobile configuration mounted on indigenous vehicles with cross-country capability and powered by indigenous electrical power supply.

The slot became vacant after the passing away of LJP founder Ram Vilas Paswan, which also plunged the party into a split.

"Making him [Pashupati Paras] a Union Minister on LJP quota isn't possible as the party's executive board expelled him. I have informed the Prime Minister through a letter. If he is appointed, then I shall go to

# 'Super censorship': MPs' panel grills Ministry

Bill will allow government to order recertification of films

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Standing Committee on Information and Technology headed by Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, at a meeting on Tuesday, grilled the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on the "super censorship" clause introduced in the draft Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill 2021.

The committee members, according to sources, asked the Ministry to explain the "reasons" and "motivation" for introducing the provision which allows the government to order recertification for a film already certified by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). This was the first meeting of the Parliamentary Panel on the Bill.

The Ministry officials, sources said, were at pains to explain. "They claimed that the Bill has been misun-



Shashi Tharoor

derstood and that the Ministry itself will have no powers to censor any film. The Bill only allows the Ministry to return the film for recertification," one of the members said on condition of anonymity. Ministry officials also said that the clause would only be invoked if the content of a film impinged on security and integrity of the nation.

Not satisfied with the explanation, the members asked why, when there were

existing penal provisions to deal with such a situation, did the Ministry feel it necessary to incorporate this in the Bill. "If any person or group feels that a film or part of it hurts their sentiment or imperils the country, they can go to court. Our basic question was why should this power be adjudicated be vested with a bureaucrat," another member said.

The members, sources said, also pointed to the Supreme Court order passed in 2000 that the government could not exercise revisional powers on films already certified by the CBFC.

The Bill was placed in the public domain till July 2 inviting comments.

Filmmakers across the country has slammed the Bill, with veteran filmmaker Adoor Gopalakrishnan calling it an attempt by the government to bring in "super censorship".

## IT rules: Centre asks SC to transfer pleas to itself

Various HCs are hearing the petitions

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Centre has asked the Supreme Court to transfer to itself cases pending in various High Courts challenging the validity of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules of 2021.

The High Courts, including Delhi, Bombay, Madras and Kerala, are hearing the petitions against the new IT Rules.

The Delhi High Court is hearing the case concerning Twitter.

Recently, the government informed the Delhi High Court that micro-blogging site Twitter had failed to comply with the law regulating tech companies rendering their services as "intermediaries".

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity), in an affidavit, said despite three months being granted to all significant Social Media Intermediaries (SSMIs) to comply with the Rules, Twitter has failed to fully comply with the same.

Last week, Twitter informed the court that the interim Resident Grievance Officer and the interim National Contact Person had resigned from their positions in June.

The tech giant had said it was in the final stages of appointing a replacement. Meanwhile, "the grievances of Indian users are being addressed by the Grievance Officer".

On September 24, 2019, hearing a petition filed by Facebook, the apex court had shown deep concern at the utilisation of social media for committing crime. It said the medium had become a source for pornography. Paedophiles used social media in "big way". Criminals exploit it to run weapons, drugs and contraband. Hate and violence are shared and spread through these virtual platforms.

## Union Cabinet reshuffle likely today

LJP rebel Paras, ex-Assam CM Sonowal, Scindia among those tipped for inclusion

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to effect the first reshuffle in his Council of Ministers on Wednesday evening, sources said.

Former Chief Ministers and MPs who have had administrative experience in other States would be part of the new Cabinet.

Former Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and former Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar Sushil Kumar Modi are expected to be included as is Congress rebel Jyotiraditya Scindia.

NDA ally Lok Janshakti Party's Pashupati Paras is also tipped to be included in the Cabinet, setting off an angry tirade from his estranged nephew, Chirag Paswan, who said he had written to the Prime Minister not to appoint Mr. Paras as a Minister in his government on the LJP quota.



BJP leader Jyotiraditya Scindia offering prayers at the Mahakaleshwar temple in Ujjain on Tuesday. PTI

The slot became vacant after the passing away of LJP founder Ram Vilas Paswan, which also plunged the party into a split.

"Making him [Pashupati Paras] a Union Minister on LJP quota isn't possible as the party's executive board expelled him. I have informed the Prime Minister through a letter. If he is appointed, then I shall go to

court," Mr. Chirag Paswan said.

The Janata Dal (U) is also bargaining for more slots than they had been promised, which was basically one Cabinet post and a Minister of State berth. The party wanted two Cabinet berths.

Late evening talks were being held between JD(U) national president and MP

R.C.P. Singh and the BJP national leadership in New Delhi at the time of writing.

### Influx of candidates

The national capital saw an influx of candidates likely to take oath as Ministers.

Apart from Mr. Scindia, Mr. Paras and Mr. Sonowal, sources told *The Hindu* that former Chief Minister of Maharashtra and currently BJP-supported Rajya Sabha member Narayan Rane has been asked to come to Delhi. He is expected to meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

The extensive Cabinet reshuffle will not be the end of political appointments, as Mr. Gehlot's exit from the Council of Ministers also means that the BJP will have to look for another Leader of the House for the Rajya Sabha, and another member for the party's parliamentary board, its highest decision-making body.

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati said on Tuesday that it was "absolutely shameful" that instead of providing justice to the "victim" Dalits, the police resorted to atrocities and caused them financial loss. She demanded that the Uttar Pradesh government take strict action against the culprits and compensate the victims.

The BSP also deputed a senior leader to meet the family in Azamgarh.

## Negative of PK finds its way to NFAI vaults

One of the last films shot on celluloid

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE  
PUNE

The city-based National Film Archive of India (NFAI) on Tuesday acquired the original camera negative of filmmaker Rajkumar Hirani's popular satire *PK*.

Besides the negative, Mr. Hirani handed over nearly 300 cans of initial rushes of the film and outtakes of his other hugely popular *Aamir Khan* starrer *3 Idiots* (2009) to NFAI Director Prakash Magdum for preservation in the premier film archive.

"The significance of the acquisition of the negative of *PK* (2014) is that it is one of the last films to be shot on celluloid," said Mr. Magdum.

Mr. Magdum said negatives of the director's earlier films such as *Munnabhai MBBS* (2003), *Lage Raho MunnaBhai* (2006) and *3 Idiots* (2009) – all major commercial successes –



Filmmaker Rajkumar Hirani with NFAI Director Prakash Magdum.

were already part of the NFAI vaults.

"It is the duty of a filmmaker to ensure that the original negatives of his or her films are preserved for posterity and for the entertainment and study of future generations of cineastes and scholars. I appeal to all filmmakers to support the NFAI in this important endeavour," said Mr. Hirani.

## On the draw



## Cross-border espionage network busted: police

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

my were recovered from cross-border drug smuggler Ranvir Singh, who was arrested with 70 g of heroin on May 24, 2021. Ranvir disclosed during interrogation that he got these documents from Harpreet, who was his friend, as they both belonged to the same village.

"Ranvir motivated and lured Harpreet with financial benefits for sharing defence-related classified documents, following which the latter induced his friend Gurbhej into such anti-national spying activities," said Mr. Gupta.

The Minister was addressing an event to mark the coverage of more than nine lakh beneficiaries of the government's tele-law scheme, using common service centres (CSCs) to provide justice across the coun-

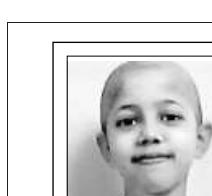
## Tele-law services empowering voiceless'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

try. Mr. Prasad said the facility had been "a source of gender justice and empowerment". To mark the occasion, the Minister released a special postal cover on tele-law – Reaching the Unreached.

Urging lawyers and para-legal volunteers engaged in tele-law to keep their commitment, Mr. Prasad said tele-law had the potential to foster inclusive justice delivery and strengthening rule of law.

Presently, tele-law programme is operational in 633 districts.



**APPEAL**  
Name of Patient: Master MD Irfan, 7 years.  
Hospital Name: Christian Medical College.  
Diagnosis: B Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia.  
This is a type of Blood Cancer for which he requires Chemotherapy. The estimated cost of Chemotherapy, Hospitalization, Investigation, Antibiotics & Blood Product Support is likely to be about Rs. 4,50,000/-  
Save Poor Lives and on the back of Cheque write C/Md.Irfan. Our Account Details:  
SBI Account No.20000913487, State Bank of India, Raja Annamalaiapuram Branch, and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001655, You can donate Google Pay No.9884607377, UPI ID: sbmsm134@ksb which is exempted under 80G of I.T. Act.

# Leaders urge Kovind to act on Fr. Swamy death

They say he was denied treatment for his various ailments

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Ten Opposition parties have urged President Ram Nath Kovind to act against those responsible for foisting "false cases" on human rights activist Fr. Stan Swamy for his continued detention in jail and alleged inhuman treatment resulting in his death.

The signatories to a letter to the President include Congress president Sonia Gandhi, former Prime Minister and Janata Dal(S) leader H.D. Deve Gowda, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, his West Bengal and Jharkhand counterparts Mamata Banerjee and Hemant Soren, respectively, NCP leader Sharad Pawar, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, NC leader Farooq Abdullah, and CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury and his CPI counterpart D.Raja.

The Opposition parties said they were writing to express their "deep anguish" and to express "intense

**We are urging your immediate intervention as the President of India to direct 'your government' to act against those responsible for foisting false cases on him, his continued detention in jail and inhuman treatment**

LETTER FROM OPPosition

## Institutional murder'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

Friends and family members of Father Stan Swamy said on Tuesday that he was a victim of institutional murder. "We are deeply pained and shaken to the core by the loss of Father Stan Swamy."

**grief" and "outrage" at the death of Fr. Swamy, who was jailed last October under the UAPA [Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act] in connection to the Bhima Koregaon case. The Opposition pointed out that he was denied**

This is not a natural death, but the institutional murder of a gentle soul, committed by an inhuman state. Having spent his life amongst the Adivasis in Jharkhand, fighting for their right to resources, Father Stan did not deserve to die in this manner," a statement said.

treatment for his various ailments, including Parkinson's. It was only after a nationwide campaign was conducted that even a sipper to drink liquids was made available to him in jail, they said.

# A long struggle for medical bail

6 more accused senior citizens in the Bhima-Koregaon case battle ailments

SONAM SAIGAL  
MUMBAI

The death of 84-year-old tribal rights activist Father Stan Swamy in a Mumbai hospital on Monday from ailments exacerbated by his incarceration without bail in the Bhima Koregaon case, has turned the spotlight on the other accused in the case who remain in jail with medical conditions.

The Bombay High Court and the special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court have denied several interim medical bail pleas of the six senior citizens with co-morbidities over the past three years. Poet Varavara Rao is 81; Anand Teltumbde, former managing director and CEO of Petronet India Limited, is 70; writer and a columnist Vernon Gonsalves is 68; civil rights scholar and journalist Gautam Navlakha is 67; Shoma Sen, former head of the Department of English at Nagpur University, is 63; and trade unionist and human rights lawyer Sudha Bharadwaj is 61.

Mr. Rao was granted interim medical bail of six months by the High Court on

### Fight for bail

A timeline of the struggle of the accused in the Bhima-Koregaon case to get bail

2018

JUNE 6: Sudhir Dhawale, Shoma Sen and Mahesh Raut, Rona Wilson and Surendra Gadling arrested

.....

AUG. 28: Sudha Bharadwaj, Vernon Gonsalves, Varavara Rao and Arun Ferreira arrested

.....

NOV. 26: Special NIA court rejects Ms. Bharadwaj's default bail

.....

2019 OCT. 15: Bombay High Court rejects bail pleas by Ms. Bharadwaj, Mr. Ferreira and Mr. Gonsalves

.....

JUNE 12: Ms. Bharadwaj files default bail before HC

.....

2020 MARCH 31: Special NIA court rejects Ms. Sen and Mr. Rao's interim medical bail

.....

MAY 29: Court rejects Ms. Bharadwaj's interim medical bail

.....

JUNE 26: Ms. Sen and Mr. Rao's interim medical bail rejected

.....

AUG. 28: HC rejects Ms. Bharadwaj's appeal against rejection of medical bail

.....

2021, FEB. 22: HC grants Mr. Rao interim medical bail for six months

.....

JUNE 12: Ms. Bharadwaj files default bail before HC

oarthritis, glaucoma and high blood pressure, and Ms. Bharadwaj has hypertension, diabetes mellitus, moderate depression, osteoarthritis, ischaemic disease and tinea corporis (skin fungal infection).

### Treatment in jail

On May 3 this year, Ms. Bharadwaj's daughter Maaysha Singh moved the High Court seeking interim medical bail for her mother.

The court, however, disposed of the case after it was informed that she had received medical treatment in jail.

On August 28, 2020, the High Court rejected the second medical bail of Ms. Bharadwaj and said, "She is taken care of in so far as her health condition is concerned." On May 29, 2020, the NIA court rejected Ms. Bharadwaj's interim bail plea on medical grounds due to the outbreak of COVID-19 in jail.

On June 26, 2020, the special NIA court had for the second time rejected the interim medical bail pleas of Mr. Rao and Ms. Sen.

## 10 accused at Taloja to go on hunger strike

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

All the 10 Bhima Koregaon case accused, lodged at the Taloja Central Jail, will go on a day-long hunger strike on Wednesday in protest against the "institutional murder" of Father Stan Swamy. The tribal rights activist, who was denied bail despite his deteriorating health, died at a Mumbai hospital on Monday.

The decision was taken by Rona Wilson, Surendra Gadling, Sudhir Dhawale, Mahesh Raut, Arun Ferreira, Vernon Gonsalves, Gautam Navlakha, Anand Teltumbde, Ramesh Gaichor and Sagar Gorkhe, according to family members whom they spoke to from the prison.

A statement released by the accused said that Fr. Swamy's death was a very well-thought-out conspiracy and the accused blame the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and the former Superintendent of Taloja prison, Kaustubh Kurlekar, for his death. They also demanded a judicial inquiry into the death.

## IN BRIEF



Mehbooba says ED has summoned her mother

SRINAGAR

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti has said her mother was served a notice by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday and asked to appear in person before it. "In its attempts to intimidate political opponents, the Government of India (GOI) doesn't even spare senior citizens. The agencies like the NIA and ED are now its tools to settle scores," she said in a tweet, with a copy of the summons.

### SAD want five seats for Sikhs in J&K Assembly

CHANDIGARH

The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) has urged the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory Delimitation Commission to reserve five seats for Sikh community members in the Assembly. SAD senior leader Prem Singh Chandumajra on Tuesday handed over a letter written by party president Sukhbir Singh Badal in this regard to Delimitation Commission Chairman Justice (retd.) Ranjana Prakash Desai. The SAD has urged the Commission to consider reserving three seats for the Sikh community in Jammu and two in Srinagar.

### 'Review implementation of Forest Rights Act'

NEW DELHI

The Environment Ministry and Ministry of Tribal Affairs jointly issued a communiqué on Tuesday to Chief Secretaries of States to review the implementation of the Forest Rights Act that came into force in 2006 and ensure better coordination among forest departments and forest communities. "You are requested to undertake a review of the implementation of the Act and intimate the Government of India about any clarifications that are needed to smoothen the process," says the letter from the Environment Ministry.

### IGNCA remembers Syama Prasad Mookerjee

NEW DELHI

The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) on Tuesday organised a webinar to mark the birth anniversary of Bharatiya Jana Sangh founder Syama Prasad Mookerjee, who it termed was the "architect of modern India". During the webinar organised by the IGNCA, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha said Mookerjee's visit to J&K in 1953 was the "first movement for independence after the country's Independence". He said Mookerjee's vision of uniting J&K with the rest of the country had been realised and development had begun.



Expressing concerns: NC leaders arriving to meet the Delimitation Commission in Srinagar on Tuesday. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

## Modi greets Dalai Lama on his 86th birthday

Ministers also wish the spiritual leader

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI



Dalai Lama

Valley, marking the worst violence on the border since 1967. The LAC crisis remains unresolved, and talks to restore the status quo appear deadlocked. India has made clear to China that relations cannot be returned to normal unless there is full disengagement and de-escalation along the border.

This is the first time Mr. Modi has publicly confirmed speaking with the Dalai Lama since he took over as Prime Minister in 2014. Mr. Modi and the Dalai Lama previously exchanged greetings on Twitter in 2015. Mr. Modi is also known to have spoken with the Dalai Lama on the phone previously, including to wish him on his birthday in 2019, but that call was not publicly acknowledged at the time.

The July 2019 call came amid a period of India and China trying to repair relations following the 2017 border stand-off in Doklam. Mr. Modi travelled to China for an "informal summit" with President Xi Jinping in April 2018, and Mr. Xi travelled to Mamallapuram for another in October 2019.

That process of repairing the ties was derailed with the May 2020 border crisis along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and the June 15, 2020, clashes in Galwan.

State – Executive and Legislature – must out of respect to the third pillar, judiciary, avoid implementing and exercising powers under an Act that is under scrutiny," the NC said in a memorandum submitted to the commission.

The NC suggested that the delimitation be carried out after 2026 once the relevant figures of the census were published.

The commission, under the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019, is mandated to carve out seven more constituencies to the 83-member UT Assembly. It will meet more parties and civil society groups in south Kashmir, Jammu and the Chenab Valley in the next three days.

A CPI(M) delegation, led by party's J&K secretary Ghulam Nabi Malik, told the commission the exercise

should be carried out along with the rest of the country in 2026.

He said the commission assured the CPI(M) delegation that it will put the report in public domain and only after that the report will be finalised.

Bycutting the exercise, PDP general secretary Ghulam Nabi Hanjra wrote an open letter to the commission. "The commission lacks constitutional and legal mandate. There are apprehensions that the exercise is part of the overall process of political disempowerment of the people of J&K. There are apprehensions that the process is aimed at realising the political vision of a particular political party, and the views and wishes of the people of J&K would be considered the least," he said.

Sajad Lone's Peoples Conference also questioned the timing of the exercise.

## Chirag bristles at possible Cabinet entry for Paras

Will go to court, threatens LJP MP amid a power tussle

AMARNATH TEWARY  
PATNA

After embarking on his Aashirwad yatra from Hajipur on July 5, Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) leader and MP Chirag Paswan on Tuesday said he would go to court if his uncle and expelled party leader Pashupati Kumar Paras was inducted into the Union Cabinet.

Mr. Paswan also slammed Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's government in Bihar and said the "countdown of this government has begun".

Amid reports that Mr. Paras, who leads the LJP rebel faction, will be joining Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Cabinet on July 8, Mr. Paswan said, "Making him a Union Minister on LJP quota is not possible as the party's executive board has expelled him. I've informed

PM through letter. If he is appointed Minister as MP of my party, I'll move court but I've no problem if he is appointed as minister at the Center as an Independent MP or from JD(U) after joining it."

The LJP leader was addressing media persons at his residence in Patna.

Earlier on July 5, Mr. Paswan was accorded a rousing welcome by party leaders and workers when he visited Patna and Hajipur to kick off his Aashirwad Yatra. Projecting himself as rightful political heir of his father and founder of the party, Ram Vilas Paswan, Mr. Paswan had said those who rebelled against the party were guilty of "betrayal".

New strategy: Chirag Paswan addressing a press conference in Patna on Tuesday. ■ PTI

Registrar

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY KOTHIYAN  
(An Autonomous Institute under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Govt. of India)  
Transit Campus of NIPER, Raebareli, Bijnor, Sisend Road, Village-Kambapur, Urf Ahmedpur,  
Post-Muti, Sarojini Nagar, Lucknow - 226002, Phone: 0522-2497903, Web: www.niperabareli.edu.in  
No Admn/05/3/RUITT/2021-22 5th July 2021

Requirement of Adhoc Faculty  
Applications are invited for the following faculty position of this Institute.

Position: Adhoc Faculty in Computer Science and Engineering / Information Technology. Tenure of Appointment: On Contract for six months-Extendable. Emoluments: Rs.65,000/- (Consolidated)- Per month.

Selection process: Online Interview on 12th July 2021 from 11.00 AM onwards. Mode of application: Online through www.niperabareli.edu.in before 05.00 PM on 11th July 2021.

Please refer to the detailed advertisement at www.niperabareli.edu.in for further details.

Registrar

National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Raebareli

(An Autonomous Institute under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Govt. of India)

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Transit Campus of



# 'U.S. left Afghan airbase without notice'

The new commander was not informed before the American troops' departure, say officials

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The U.S. left Afghanistan's Bagram Airfield after nearly 20 years by shutting off the electricity and slipping away in the night without notifying the base's new Afghan commander, who discovered the Americans' departure more than two hours after they left, said Afghan military officials.

Afghanistan's army showed off the sprawling airbase on Monday, providing a first glimpse of what had been the epicentre of America's war to unseat the Taliban and hunt down the al-Qaeda perpetrators of the 9/11 attacks on America.

The U.S. announced on Friday it had vacated its biggest airfield in the country in advance of a final withdrawal the Pentagon says will be completed by the end of August.

"We [heard] some rumour that the Americans had left Bagram ... and finally by seven o'clock in the morning, we understood that it was



**A long war:** An Afghan National Army helicopter taking off inside the Bagram Air Base on Friday after the U.S. exit. ■ AFP

confirmed that they had already left Bagram," said Gen. Mir Asadullah Kohistani, Bagram's new commander.

U.S. military spokesman Col. Sonny Leggett did not address the complaints of many Afghan soldiers who inherited the abandoned airfield, instead referring to a statement last week. Col. Leggett said in the statement that they had coordinated their departures with Afghanistan's leaders.

Before the Afghan army could take control of the airfield, it was invaded by a small army of looters, who ransacked barracks and rummaged through storage tents before being evicted, according to Afghan military officials.

"At first, we thought maybe they were the Taliban," said Abdul Raouf, a soldier. He said the U.S. called from the Kabul airport and said "we are here at the airport in Kabul".

The last U.S. soldiers are likely to remain until an agreement to protect the Kabul Hamid Karzai International Airport, which is expected to be done by Turkey, is completed.

## Pullout of troops over 90% complete: Pentagon

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE WASHINGTON

The withdrawal of U.S. forces from Afghanistan is more than 90% completed, the Pentagon's Central Command announced on Tuesday.

CentCom said it had

handed over seven former U.S. bases to the Afghan forces and had evacuated the equivalent of nearly 1,000 C-17 air freighter loads of equipment from the country, ahead of the September deadline to complete the pullout.

## Amid rising Taliban wins, consulates shut down

ASSOCIATED PRESS KABUL

A surge of Taliban wins in northern Afghanistan has caused some countries to close their consulates in the region, while in Tajikistan, reservists are being called up to reinforce the southern border, according to officials. The consulates

of Turkey and Russia have reportedly closed in Mazar-e-Sharif. Iran said it has restricted activities at its consulate.

The consulates of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Pakistan have reduced their services, and Turkey and Russia have closed their consulates.

## 14 years in jail for Belarus's Viktor Babariko

ASSOCIATED PRESS KYIV

The Supreme Court in Belarus on Tuesday sentenced a former contender in the 2020 presidential race to 14 years in prison on corruption charges in a case that has been widely seen as politically motivated.

Viktor Babariko was arrested two months before the 2020 vote and has remained in jail since.

On Tuesday, he was found guilty of taking a bribe and money laundering. The court handed him a 14-year prison sentence and a fine roughly equal to \$57,000. He will not be able to appeal the court's verdict.

## Wreckage of Russian plane found

All 28 on board feared dead; the An-26 aircraft had gone missing on Tuesday

ASSOCIATED PRESS MOSCOW



The site where the Russian plane crashed. ■ REUTERS

Wreckage from a plane that went missing on Tuesday in Russia's Far East region of Kamchatka was found around 5 km (three miles) away from a runway at an airport on the coast where it was supposed to land, officials said.

An Antonov An-26 plane with 22 passengers and six crew members, flying from the city of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky to the town of Palana on the Okhotsk Sea coast, missed a scheduled communication and disappeared from radar as it was on approach for landing.

The governor of Kamchatka, Vladimir Solodov, told the Interfax news agency

According to media reports, none of the 28 people

on board survived the crash. The plane belonged to a company called Kamchatka Aviation Enterprise and had been in operation since 1982, Russian state news agency Tass reported.

**'Technically sound'** The company's director, Alexei Khabarov, told Interfax that the plane was technically sound before taking off in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky.

A criminal investigation into the incident has been launched. Kamchatka Aviation Enterprise's deputy director, Sergei Gorb, said that the plane "practically crashed into a sea cliff", which wasn't supposed to be in its landing trajectory.

The plane was on approach for landing when contact was lost about 10 km (six miles) away from Palana's airport.

The head of the local government in Palana, Olga Mokhireva, was aboard the flight, spokespersons of the Kamchatka government said.

In 2012, an Antonov An-28 plane belonging to Kamchatka Aviation Enterprise crashed into a mountain while flying from Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsk and coming in for a landing in Palana. A total of 14 people were on board and 10 of them were killed. Both pilots, who were among the dead, were found to have alcohol in their blood, Tass reported.

## Xi reshuffles PLA border command leadership

Xu Qiling appointed head of Western Theatre command

ANANTH KRISHNAN



The Chinese military's Western Theatre Command borders India.

China's President Xi Jinping has replaced the head of the military's Western Theatre Command, which borders India, appointing a new General to lead the military's biggest command.

Mr. Xi on Monday promoted four senior military officers, including one who has been at the centre of the border tensions with India as the head of the People's Liberation Army's (PLA) Ground Forces or Army in the border Western Theatre Command, to the highest rank of General.

Mr. Xi, who also heads the Central Military Commission (CMC), presented the certificates of the orders to them at a ceremony held by the CMC on Monday, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

The promoted officers were named as Xu Qiling, Commander of the PLA's Western Theatre Command, Wang Xiubin, Commander of the Southern Theatre Command, Liu Zhenli, Commander of the PLA Army, and Ju Qiansheng, Commander of the PLA Strategic Support Force.

General Xu becomes one of the PLA's youngest Generals, the highest rank for ac-

ting.

The current thinking among Indian military plan-

ners is that the April mass mobilisation by the PLA and subsequent multiple LAC transgressions, coming after annual summer exercises, was likely planned at the level of the Western Theatre Command, and that the higher levels, such as the Central Military Commission headed by Mr. Xi, were most likely only involved after the June 15 clash in Galwan Valley.

In December 2020, seven months into the tensions, General Zhang took over as Commander of the entire Western Theater Command overseeing all its forces, replacing General Zhao Zongqi, the long-standing Commander, who retired at 65. In March, General Zhao was rewarded with a post-retirement appointment as the Vice-Chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC) or parliamentary committee on foreign affairs, a top advisory body.

General Xu, 59, now becomes the third head of the Command since tensions began. He was appointed under General Zhang, as Commander of the Western Theatre's Ground Forces or Army, on June 1, 2020, around a month into the tensions and before the June 15, 2020 Galwan Valley clash.

## Israel PM suffers defeat over Arab family unification ban

Yamina party member votes with Opposition, causing a tie

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE JERUSALEM

Israel's Prime Minister Naftali Bennett accused his opponents on Tuesday of harming national security as his coalition failed to extend a ban on citizenship for Palestinian spouses from the West Bank and Gaza.

Earlier, the coalition had sought a deal for nearly all of its members to back the ban's extension. The PM had also called for Opposition right-wingers to support the measure, urging unity on national security grounds. But that failed when a member of the Yamina party, Ami-

chai Chikli, voted with the Opposition, tweeting later that the debate over the Bill was "proof" that a government without a "clear Zionist majority" would be "problematic". His defection left Parliament tied at 59 to 59 votes, meaning the measure would lapse later Tuesday.

## IN BRIEF



### Iran blames Israel for nuclear facility attack

DUBAI

A sabotage attempt at an Iranian nuclear facility in June caused minor damage to a building but none to equipment, the Iranian government said on Tuesday, blaming the attack on Israel. Satellite images appearing to show that part of a roof was missing were taken while the building was under repair, government spokesman Ali Rabiei told a news conference carried by state media. "We have had no damage to equipment. There was small damage to a roof and the (satellite) pictures were taken when the roof was removed for repairs," Mr. Rabiei said, according to the news agency IRNA. ■ REUTERS

## U.K. court quashes 1972 convictions of 3 black men

They were accused of trying to rob a policeman

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE LONDON

Appeal court judges in London on Tuesday overturned the convictions of three black men for attempting to rob a corrupt police officer nearly half a century ago.

The Court of Appeal cleared the trio following a referral by a criminal cases review commission, and comes just over a year after the acquittals of four men in a similar case.

The latest ruling is the third time convictions have been overturned based on the tarnished evidence of discredited British

Transport Police officer Detective Sergeant Derek Ridgewell.

The three men – all aged between 17 and 20 at the time – and three friends were accused of trying to rob Ridgewell in 1972 on the London Underground while travelling from Stockwell station, south London.

All bar one of "The Stockwell Six" were convicted, largely on the word of the corrupt officer, who himself was jailed for seven years and died of a heart attack in prison in 1982.

Lawyers for the men said it was "deeply troubling" that it had taken so long for the convictions to be overturned.

At their trial, the accused told jurors that officers, including Rid-

gewell, who had previously served in the South Rhodesian, now Zimbabwean, police force, had lied and subjected them to violence and threats.

"It is most unfortunate that it has taken nearly 50 years to rectify the injustice," Julian Flaux, one of the three judges to hear the case, said on Tuesday. The two remaining members of the Stockwell Six who were convicted have not yet been traced.

Lawyers for the men said it was "deeply troubling" that it had taken so long for the convictions to be overturned.

## Ethiopia resumes filling disputed dam

Egypt and Sudan have opposed the project on the Nile

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE CAIRO

Ethiopia has started the second phase of filling a mega-dam's reservoir on the upper Blue Nile, said Egypt and Sudan, raising tensions Tuesday ahead of an upcoming UN Security Council meeting on the issue.

Both Cairo and Khartoum said they had been notified by Addis Ababa that the second phase of filling had begun at the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam.

Egypt's Irrigation Ministry late Monday expressed its "firm rejection of this unilateral



**Controversial move:** The under-construction Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam in 2019. ■ REUTERS

measure" and Sudan's Foreign Ministry on Tuesday followed suit, labelling the move a "risk and imminent threat".

In Addis Ababa, the offices of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Irrigation Minister Seleshi Be-

keli did not immediately respond to AFP's requests for comment.

The huge dam, set to be Africa's largest hydroelectric project when completed, has sparked an almost decade-long diplomatic stand-off between Addis

**KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED**  
(Raichur Thermal Power Station)  
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919

**Tender Notification**

(Two Cover System - Only through e-procurement portal)

No. KPCL/2021-22/PS/Work/Indent 11226 Date: 23-06-2021

Tender through e-procurement portal mode are invited from contractors/agencies who are reputed individuals/company and having past experience for the work of "RTPS-Assistance in operation of DM plant 1 and 2, clarifiers, cooling water treatment, collection of boiler and steam samples of all units, Chlorine dioxide generation, and regular monitoring of environmental parameters of all eight units for a period of 2 years" Bids will be received through GOK e-procurement portal mode only. Last date for submission of tenders: on or before 25-07-2021 up to 16:00 hrs. The detailed notification can be viewed on GOK e-proc portal <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> Further details can be had from the office of: The Deputy General Manager (Chemical), RTPS, KPCL, Shaktinagar-584170, Raichur District. Mobile: 9449596497

**GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
Buildings (C&M) Circle, Tirunelveli - 627 002.  
Notice Inviting Tenders Lumpsum Contract (Rate Tender System)  
Tender Notice No. 02 /2021-2022/ Dated 05.07.2021

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu sealed Tenders are invited from the contractors registered in Public Works Department in the appropriate class to the office of the Special Chief Engineer, PWD, PWD, Buildings (C&M) Circle, Tirunelveli.

Tender Schedule Available Date : 08.07.2021 to 09.08.2021 upto 5 45 PM  
Tender Schedule Receiving Last Date : Upto 3.00 PM on 10.08.2021  
Tender Opening Date : 3.30 PM on 10.08.2021  
Total No. of Works : 1  
Total Approximate Value of Work : Rs.369.00 Lakhs

For further details and tender documents visit the website : [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in) and [www.tntenders.gov.in](http://www.tntenders.gov.in).

Special Chief Engineer, PWD., Buildings (C&M) Circle, Tirunelveli.

**icmr ICMR - NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EPIDEMIOLOGY**  
R-127, Second Main Road, TNHB,  
Ayapakkam, Chennai – 600077.

**ONLINE INTERVIEW**

Candidates are invited for Online zoom app Interview and Walk-in-Interview for the posts of: **Consultant II, Project Scientist-B (Medical), Project Scientist-B (Non-Medical), Project Technical Officer (MSW), Project Technical Assistant (Lab) and Multi Tasking Staff** on contract basis at ICMR - NIE.

For application proforma and other details regarding qualification and experience, etc., please refer to [www.nie.gov.in](http://www.nie.gov.in)

Director

**KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED**  
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

**BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION**  
(Through e-procurement portal only)

Request for Qualifications (RFQs) from eligible and interested companies/parties/developers/investors/operators of "Tourism Infrastructure Projects" for the work of "Development of Luxury Hotel (equivalent to Five-Star Hotel Standards) and Ropeway [UR Falls under DBFOT model]" at Jog Falls in Sagara Taluk, Shivamogga District, Karnataka on DBFOT Basis in PPP Model are invited, in GoK e-procurement portal [www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in](http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in). The last date for submission of RFQ is 04.08.2021. Further details can be had from the office of the Chief Engineer (Civil Designs), KPCL, No. 03, 1st Floor, Drug Control Building Premises, Palace Road, Bengaluru-560 001.

**CSIR-CENTRAL LEATHER RESEARCH INSTITUTE**  
वैज्ञानिक तथा आधिकारिक अनुसंधान संस्थान  
Council of Scientific & Industrial Research  
अड्डा, वैनी, तमिलनाडु, भारत  
Adyar, Chennai – 600 020, TamilNadu, India

CSIR-CLRI is one of the Constituent Laboratories of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), which is an Autonomous Body under the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India.

Applications are invited from the Indian Nationals for the following Scientific & Technical Positions:

Advertisement No.1/2021	Post	No of Posts & Reservation	Pay Level & Pay	Total Emoluments*	Upper Age Limit**
Advertisement No.1/2021	Senior Scientist / Gr IV (3)	3 posts Unreserved	Pay Level 12 Rs. 78,800/-	Rs. 1,19,532/-	37 years
Advertisement No.1/2021	Scientist / Gr IV (2)	5 posts [UR - 2 EWS - 1			

## MARKET WATCH

	PRICE	CHANGE
Sensex	52,861	-0.03%
US Dollar	74.55	-0.32
Gold	47,747	2.80
Brent oil	75.23	-1.15

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	712.70	2.65
Asian Paints	3002.50	-12.30
Axis Bank	758.35	-2.00
Bajaj Auto	4195.40	-6.10
Bajaj Finserv	12090.80	-16.70
Bajaj Finance	6202.40	129.70
Bharti Airtel	526.10	2.15
BPCL	458.05	-1.65
Britannia Ind	3519.00	-4.55
Cipla	969.10	-5.60
Coal India	147.50	-2.40
Divis Lab	4524.20	-35.75
Dr Reddys Lab	5539.45	1.55
Eicher Motors	2711.15	10.10
Grasim Ind	1497.25	7.55
HCL Tech	972.05	-7.70
HDFC	2496.40	1.50
HDFC Bank	1534.70	39.25
HDFC Life	680.05	2.15
Hero MotoCorp	2919.25	-18.80
Hindalco	385.35	-4.20
Hind Unilever	2472.50	-26.55
ICICI Bank	650.30	2.45
IndusInd Bank	1031.05	10.50
Infosys	1562.20	-16.75
Indian Oil Corp	108.40	-0.40
ITC	202.50	-1.15
JSW Steel	673.15	0.40
Kotak Bank	1755.35	24.25
L&T	1505.50	-2.45
M&M	781.90	-9.85
Maruti Suzuki	7514.95	-84.50
Nestle India Ltd.	1747.10	-171.25
NTPC	117.65	-0.95
ONGC	121.50	0.55
PowerGrid Corp	228.80	-1.50
Reliance Ind	2124.80	-25.40
SBI Life	1023.15	13.30
State Bank	429.75	-2.90
Shree Cement	27769.10	781.50
Sun Pharma	673.25	-6.95
Tata Consumer Products Ltd.	762.60	-3.70
Tata Motors	316.90	-29.20
Tata Steel	1167.25	10.40
TCS	3262.30	-58.70
Tech Mahindra	1049.55	-25.10
Titan	1762.80	12.90
UltraTech Cement	6933.05	213.20
UPL	803.30	-4.30
Wipro	532.60	-3.75

## EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	74.34	74.66
Euro	88.04	88.45
British Pound	102.95	103.40
Japanese Yen (100)	67.09	67.39
Chinese Yuan	11.50	11.55
Swiss Franc	80.52	80.87
Singapore Dollar	55.29	55.54
Canadian Dollar	60.18	60.46
Malaysian Ringgit	17.88	17.97

Source: Indian Bank

## 'Warehousing deals for 8 cities to grow at 19%'

BENGALURU  
Annual warehousing deals for the top 8 Indian cities will log a compounded annual growth rate of 19% to 76.2 mn sq ft by FY26, said property consultant Knight Frank.

# Oil soars to multi-year highs after OPEC+ talks collapse

Brent hits highest level since 2018 after producers fail to agree on raising output

REUTERS  
LONDON

Oil prices climbed to multi-year highs on Tuesday after OPEC+ producers clashed over plans to raise supply to meet rising global demand.

Brent crude hit a session high of \$77.84, a level not seen since October 2018, before losing momentum and easing to trade 25 cents, or 0.3% lower, at \$76.91 a barrel by 1149 GMT.

U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures traded up 75 cents, or 1%, at \$76.91, after reaching \$76.98 earlier in the session, the highest since November 2014.

Ministers from OPEC+, which groups producers



No deal: Ministers abandoned talks as negotiations failed to close divisions within the group. ■ REUTERS

from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) with Russia and others, abandoned talks on Monday as negotiations failed to close divisions within the group.

No date for further talks

has been announced.

The United Arab Emirates said it would go along with output increases but rejected a separate proposal to extend curbs to end-2022 from an existing April deadline.

Some OPEC+ sources said

they still believed OPEC+ would resume discussions this month and agree to pump more from August while others said current curbs might stay in place.

**Brent seen at \$80/barrel**  
Goldman Sachs said the collapse of the talks has introduced uncertainty into the group's production path, while maintaining its view of an \$80 per barrel Brent price and gradual increase in output early next year.

In a sign of a tightening market, top oil exporter Saudi Arabia raised the August official selling prices of all crude grades it sells to Asia, the state oil producer Aramco said on Tuesday.

India imports more than two-thirds of its oil needs. ■ REUTERS

## Tyre industry to see 13-15% growth in FY22

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

After two years of contraction, the Indian tyre industry is expected to grow 13-15% in unit terms and 7.9% in tonnes during the current financial year, according to ICRA said.

The growth will be aided by a sharp recovery in original equipment manufacturer (OEM) tyre demand, lower base effect of FY21, improving pace of vaccination, continued preference for personal mobility and healthy rural cash flows, ICRA said in a note.

"Tyre demand has been relatively more resilient as the replacement demand insulates it from cyclical to a large extent," said Srikanth Krishnamurthy, VP and co-group head, ICRA.

## Domestic air passenger trips grew 42% from May'

Rising ATF prices a challenge: ICRA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Domestic air passenger traffic in June registered a growth of 41-42% at 29-30 lakh trips compared with about 19.8 lakh trips in May, ratings agency ICRA said.

On a sequential basis, the number of departures in June 2021 was higher by 14-15% at 31,700 departure flights as COVID-19 infections witnessed a downward trajectory, ICRA said.

"For June 2021, the average daily departures were at nearly 1,100, significantly higher than average daily departures of nearly 700 in June 2020, and higher than nearly 900 in May 2021, though it remained significantly lower than nearly 2,000 in April 2021," accord-

ing to Kinjal Shah, V-P & co-group head, ICRA.

"The average number of passengers per flight during June 2021 was 94, against an average of 77 passengers per flight in May 2021," Ms. Shah added. ICRA, however, warned that the rise in aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices remained a near-term challenge.

## ALL to step up operations at units in July

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

Following an improvement in overall market demand, Ashok Leyland Ltd. (ALL) has decided to operate its plants for more number of days in July.

The commercial vehicle manufacturer said that the overall situation in July was better than in June.

Consequently, ALL plants will be working for more number of days in July compared with May and June, ranging from 6 to 25 days across various plant locations, the company said in a regulatory filing.

In earlier communications, the company had said that its plants were not fully operational during May and June due to the lockdown.

## China tightens oversight of firms listed offshore

To improve regulation of data flows

REUTERS  
BEIJING

China will step up supervision of Chinese firms listed offshore, its cabinet said on Tuesday, days after Beijing launched a cybersecurity investigation into ride-hailing giant Didi Global Inc. on the heels of its U.S. stock market listing.

Under the new measures, China will improve regulation of cross-border data flows and security, crack down on illegal activity in the securities market and punish fraudulent securities issuance, market manipulation and insider trading, the cabinet said in a statement.

China will also check sources of funding for securities investment and control leverage ratios, it said.



The move comes amid China's sweeping clampdown on its massive and online "platform economy", which has been the target of antitrust investigations and penalties as well as increased scrutiny of data security and privacy, and as U.S.-China tensions have spread to capital markets.

## SAT to hear PNBHF-Carlyle deal next week

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) will hear the case related to the PNB Housing Finance-Carlyle deal on Monday next.

The order in the matter was expected on July 5; however, it was adjourned for July 12.

PNB Housing had filed an appeal before the SAT against the letter issued by SEBI last month, requesting it not to go ahead with the proposal until due diligence was done.

"As sought by the company, the Securities Appellate Tribunal, in its hearing on July 5, 2021, adjourned the first round of the PNB Housing Finance deal on Tuesday.

## SPORT

# 'The 400m could change my life'

Dhanalakshmi says going to Tokyo is something unimaginable

## ATHLETICS

STAN RAYAN  
KOCHE

When S. Dhanalakshmi made her 400m debut at the Olympics trials in Patiala on Sunday, she felt good in the first 200m and thought the next half would go well too. But in the last 100m, she realised how difficult the quarter-mile was.

"After 300m, everything sort of switched off. I felt like I didn't have any energy left. I've never run more than 300m before," said the 23-year-old National 100m champion, who made the Indian 4x400m mixed relay team to the Tokyo Olympics after that run, in a chat with *The Hindu* from Patiala on Tuesday.

**Coach's encouragement**  
When Russian Galina Bukharina, the quarter-milers and relay teams' national coach,



Dhanalakshmi.  
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

to wait another four years for the Olympics. Then our coach said, 'I will give you another chance, you try to finish at least third in the trials, I will surely take you to the Olympics,' said the sprinter from Tiruchi who had shocked National record-holder Dutee Chand and Hima Das for the National 100m gold.

"In the last 50m, my mind was just saying, 'Olympics, Olympics'. It was close and I pushed my head forward and finished third. Running the 400m and going to the Olympics...this is something unimaginable. How can I even dream such a thing," she said.

Bukharina was thrilled too. "After the trials, she told me I should concentrate on the 400m. That I would surely run in 52s if I train hard," said Dhanalakshmi who had an impressive varsities debut three years ago.

That has transformed her life.

## Nobel laureate champions a cause

Prof. Yunus wants 2024 Olympics organisers to help the poor

## GENERAL

KAMESH SRINIVASAN  
NEW DELHI

Nobel laureate Prof. Muhammad Yunus, who works for the betterment of society with his revolutionary idea of Grameen Bank, may not visit the Tokyo Olympics owing to the pandemic, but has been relentlessly working for the social success of the Paris Games scheduled for 2024.

In a lively webinar on 'how sport can change the world', initiated by Olympic champion Abhinav Bindra on Monday, Prof. Yunus shared his experience and views on tapping the power of sports.

Prof. Yunus revealed that he had given the 2024 organisers a simple formula that every single penny of their €7 billion budget should have a "social purpose".

"The beautiful Games Village which they build for the athletes should serve the

poor people in that area, with school, market area etc. I asked them to design it in a way that it serves the homeless people

# Sabalenka and Pliskova power through, set up a semifinal date

Jabeur finds the Belarusian too hot to handle; Golubic wilts under the Czech's onslaught; Barty to take on Kerber in the other last-four clash

## WIMBLEDON

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
LONDON

Aryna Sabalenka ended Ons Jabeur's historic run at Wimbledon on Tuesday, the second-seeded Belarus player's power getting the better of the guile of the Tunisian.

Sabalenka won 6-4, 6-3 in 74 minutes as Jabeur lost for the second time in a Grand Slam quarterfinal.

The 23-year-old Sabalenka, who had only won one match in her three previous visits to SW19, will play former World No. 1 Karolina Pliskova who eased into the last four with a straight sets win over Viktorija Golubic.

Sabalenka may sport a tiger tattoo – it prompted her parents not to speak to her for a week in 1998 – but the broadest of smiles spread across her face as she soaked up the reality of her achievement.

She will try and go one better than compatriot Victoria

Azarenka who twice reached the last four in 2011 and 2012.

"I mean I am really happy with this win," she said. "It's always tough against Ons, she's an amazing player and person. I'm happy it looks like everything is working for me."

### Tough battle

Sabalenka said she was anticipating a tough battle on Thursday against Pliskova.

"It doesn't matter what happens in the past in tennis (playing Pliskova)," she said. "Pliskova's a great player and she's serving well. Her game fits really well on grass."

Pliskova's success revolves around her big serve, which rewards her with plenty of easy points and gets her out of trouble when needed.

She claimed 24 of 26 points on her serve in one stretch, hit eight aces and saved all three break points on her serve as she coasted to a 6-2, 6-2 victory over

Golubic. "I feel like I'm improving with every match," said Pliskova, the 2016 US Open runner-up. "My game has been good the last two weeks, even during training."

Pliskova averaged 106.5 mph on her first serves, 20.5 mph faster than Golubic, with the retractable roof at No. 1 Court shut because of rain.

### Capacity crowd

The crowd on the No. 1 Court – and Centre Court – was at full capacity on Tuesday for the first time during the tournament after COVID-19 restrictions placed a 50% cap on attendance when the fortnight began.

Former champion Angelique Kerber reached the Wimbledon semifinals for the fourth time with a 6-2, 6-3 win over Karolina Muchova of the Czech Republic.

Ashleigh Barty outclassed unseeded compatriot Ajla Tomljanovic 6-1, 6-3 to set up a meeting with Kerber.

Earlier in the day, No. 14

## Men's quarterfinals

### Centre Court (6 p.m. start IST)

- 1-Djokovic vs Fucsovics followed by
- 6-Federer vs 14-Hurkacz
- Court 1 (5.30 p.m. start)
- 10-Shapovalov vs 25-Khachanov followed by
- 7-Berrettini vs 16-Auger-Aliassime

seed Hubert Hurkacz came back to beat No. 2 Daniil Medvedev 2-6, 7-6(2), 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 in a fourth-round match that was suspended on Monday while in the fourth set.

Hurkacz's first Grand Slam

quarterfinal will come against 20-time Major champion Roger Federer.

"Roger, what he does, the way he plays, the titles he has won – he has inspired so many people," said Hurkacz, a 24-year-old from Poland.

## THE RESULTS

**Fourth round: Men:** 14-Hurkacz (Pol) bt 2-Medvedev (Rus) 2-6, 7-6(2), 3-6, 6-3, 6-3.

**Quarterfinals: Women:** 1-Barty (Aus) bt Tomljanovic (Aus) 6-1, 6-3; 25-Kerber (Ger) bt 19-Muchova (Cze) 6-2, 6-3; 8-Pliskova (Cze) bt Golubic (Sui) 6-2, 6-2; 2-Sabalenka (Blr) bt 21-Jabeur (Tun) 6-4, 6-3.

"It's going to be fun. I'll be hoping to get a little bit of support."

On Monday, Federer eased past Italy's Lorenzo Sonego 7-5, 6-4, 6-2 to make the last eight for the 18th time.

"I felt after the first set I was able to control things. I couldn't be more excited to be in the quarters," said Federer.

### Match suspended

Sania Mirza and Rohan Bopanna were trailing by a set (3-6) against 14th seeds Andreja Klepac (Slovenia) and Jean-Julien Rojer (Netherlands) when the contest was suspended due to rain.

## THE HIGHLIGHTS



1 Maiden Slam semifinal for World No. 4 Sabalenka, whose best finish prior to this was fourth round at the 2018 US Open and 2021 Aus Open

4 Pliskova has now made the last four or better at all four Majors, one of only six active players to possess the record. Serena, Venus, Clijsters, Halep and Azarenka are the other

12 The 12 women's singles semifinal slots at the three Majors of the year have been occupied by 12 different players

50 No. of points Hurkacz won at the net against Medvedev from 69 advances (winning % 72)

83 Tuesday was Kerber's 83rd win on grass (including Olympics), the third-most by an active player after Serena (107) and Venus (99)

## TV PICKS

**Wimbledon:** SS Select 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m.  
**Tour de France:** Eurosport (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m.

**Euro 2020:** Sony Ten 1, 2, 3 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 12.30 a.m. (Thursday)

## IN BRIEF



### Mithali back on top in ODI rankings

DUBAI India skipper Mithali Raj on Tuesday reclaimed the No.1 spot in the women's ODI rankings after more than three years following a stellar show in the three-match series against England. PTI

### Rashid Khan named Afghanistan's T20I skipper

KABUL All-rounder Rashid Khan on Tuesday has been appointed as captain of the Afghanistan T20I team, with Najibullah Zadran his deputy, according to an Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) release. ANI



### Udayan Mane officially qualifies for Tokyo

NEW DELHI Udayan Mane on Tuesday officially booked himself a maiden Olympic berth, becoming the second Indian male golfer after Anirban Lahiri to be Tokyo-bound for the mega-event starting July 23. "I'm still pinching myself as it hasn't yet sunk in fully," Mane said. PTI

### Australian F1, Moto GP races called off

SYDNEY Australia's Formula One Grand Prix and MotoGP races were called off on Tuesday for a second year in a row due to entry restrictions and logistical problems caused by the pandemic, officials said. Australian Grand Prix Corporation chairman Paul Little said he was "deeply disappointed" in a statement. AFP



### Cavendish moves closer to Merckx's record

VALENCIA Mark Cavendish won his third stage on the 2021 Tour de France on Tuesday to move within one of Eddy Merckx's all-time record of 34 wins. He edged Belgians Wout van Aert and Jasper Philipsen to also keep a firm grip on the sprint points green jersey. The 22-year-old defending champion Tadej Pogacar retained the yellow jersey for the overall lead.

# Defensively solid England takes on a resilient Denmark

Former looking to reach a first major final after 1966, latter hoping to emulate 1992 exploits

## EURO 2020

REUTERS  
MANCHESTER

England has the chance to reach a first major final since its 1966 World Cup triumph when it takes on Denmark in Wednesday's Euro 2020 semifinal, but it will need to banish a history of stumbling at this stage.

Coach Gareth Southgate has been keen to keep the burden of history out of his team's thinking, though he does not have to look back far for a warning against complacency.

An England side containing 10 of the current squad faced Denmark in October in a Nations League match and lost 1-0 to a Christian Eriksen

## Three Lions vs Danish Dynamite

As Kane's England takes on Kjaer's Denmark in the Euro semifinal on Wednesday, a review of their performances so far

### H2H IN EUROS

Their only meeting ended in a goalless draw in the 1990 edition

LAST MEETING:  
England 0-1 Denmark - UEFA Nations League (Oct. 2020)

	AT EURO 2020	ENGLAND	DENMARK
Matches played	5	5	
Matches won	4	3	
Goals	8 (Ranked 5th)	11 (2nd)	
Possession	53.4% (7th)	54.2% (5th)	
Passes attempted	2630 (5th)	2513 (8th)	
Passing accuracy	87.6% (6th)	82.4% (14th)	
Total shots	37 (19th)	90 (3rd)	
Cleansheets	5 (1st)	1 (8th)	

■ England is the only team yet to concede a goal in the tournament

■ Harry Kane and Raheem Sterling have scored three goals each for Southgate's side

■ Denmark has had seven different goalscorers (excluding own goals) in the competition. Kasper Dolberg leads the pack with three

so keep England focused.

Hjulmand's team, mean-

while, has a clear structure

and method to its play which

has earned them its place in

the last four.

In attack, Martin Braith-

waite creates the spaces

which Mikkel Damsgaard

and Kasper Dolberg have ex-

ploited well and there is a

solid threat from attacking wing

backs Jens Stryger Larsen

and the excellent Joakim

Mæhle.

Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg and

Thomas Delaney are a firm

presence in the centre of mid-

field while the back line in

front of goalkeeper Kasper

Schmeichel has been

solid.

# Brazil in final again

Beats Peru through Paqueta's strike

## COPA AMERICA

REUTERS  
RIO DE JANEIRO

Brazil reached the Copa America final after a first-half goal from Lucas Paqueta – his second in two games – gave it a 1-0 win over Peru on Monday.

The hosts will play the winner of the other semifinal between Argentina and Colombia on Saturday in the final.

Neymar was quick to sing his teammate's praises and said there was more to come.

**The result:**  
**Semifinal:** Brazil 1 (Paqueta 35) bt Peru 0.



On target: Lucas Paqueta, No. 17, scores Brazil's winner.

REUTERS

# Hardik bowling is a very good sign: Suryakumar

Team management and the all-rounder knew their responsibilities well

## INDIA IN SRI LANKA

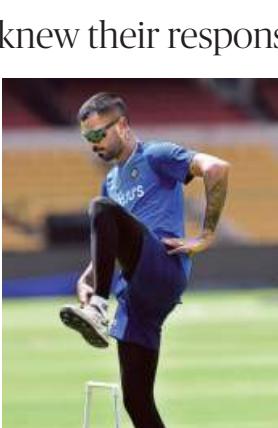
AMOL KARHADKAR

Innovative batsman Suryakumar Yadav has said that Hardik Pandya resuming bowling is a "very good sign" ahead of India's limited-overs series in Sri Lanka.

"He did bowl in the England series [at home earlier this year]. I was part of it – in all the T20 games, he bowled. In the deciding ODI also he bowled when the team was in a crunch situation, so it was good," Suryakumar told on Tuesday in a virtual interaction from Colombo.

"I think the team management and Hardik knew their responsibilities really well, so they were taking a call. Here, in the intra-squad game, he did bowl in the nets."

"He is bowling. It is his and the team management's call



Suryakumar and Hardik. ■ FILE PHOTO

hardly contributed consistently with the ball in India's blues.

While his workload with the ball during the limited-overs series against England gave a glimmer of hope, a niggle that he developed as a re-

sult meant he didn't bowl a single ball during the Indian Premier

THE HINDU

# OPPORTUNITIES

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT • JOBS • TECHNOLOGY

## 'Work ecosystem being reshaped by digital transformation'

The latest LinkedIn data underlines that digital roles have registered a huge surge in demand; seven out of 10 companies in India are keen on moving to a completely remote setup; and that burnout cannot be swept under the carpet

**T**he latest LinkedIn data paints a variegated picture of the work ecosystem in India, with hope and despondency emerging as alternating colours.

Looking on the brighter side of things, digital transformation is on the ascendancy, and the demand for highly specialised tech roles is keenly felt. A sub-plot in this digital transformation story is that a large section of India Inc views remote work as an opportunity for growth, inclusion and diversity.

"A little more than 7 in 10 companies in India are keen on moving to a completely remote setup, while the proportion of entry level jobs labelled as 'remote' increased nine times between 2020 and 2021," states a note about the LinkedIn Data, adding that this development augurs well "for new grads, women professionals, and the future workforce".

The report further notes: "Both organisations and professionals have redoubled their efforts to match strides with today's increasingly digital and remote job market. More than 9 in 10 companies in India are merging roles, and looking to fill open roles internally."

The report points to an improvement in hiring rate, terming it moderate – dropping from 50% in March 2021 to 10% in April 2021, India's hiring rate on LinkedIn clambered up to 35% in May 2021.

Now, a part of the dismal picture ironically emerges from the one that looks bright. The digital transformation sweeping through the work ecosystem is making for huge demands on the workforce.

As this dynamic hustle for upskilling, tech-proofing,



During a vaccination programme at a company in Chennai  
PHOTO: JOTHI RAMALINGAM B

and recruiting continues, India's workforce has slowly but surely arrived at the brink of collective burnout. This sentiment reflects strongly across the rising demand for flexibility in India as every second (50%) job seeker prioritises location, hours, and work life balance when looking for a job today."

The LinkedIn data further elaborates that "working women and young professionals still remain vulnerable to economic turbulence. Working women are four times less confident than working men" about future work scenario.

### Top five jobs

Using this filter – jobs with a minimum of 300 postings on LinkedIn that witnessed the highest month-on-month

growth in the period April to May 2021 – here is the five jobs most in demand.

1. Software engineering specialist; 2. automation test analyst; 3. Dotnet developer; 4. Java software engineer; and 5. DevOps engineer.

The report says: "In 2020 in the midst of the pandemic, the demand for specialized engineering, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and data science roles took centre stage. Nearly a year later, this demand for IT talent continues to surge."

### Top five hirers

The top five dominant industries on LinkedIn that are actively hiring are:

1. Finance; 2. Corporate services; 3. Manufacturing; 4. Healthcare; 5. Hardware and networking.

The methodology brought

to the assessment was that the industries should have registered a minimum of 500 job postings with the highest month-on-month growth.

These sectors "have witnessed a growth in hiring, as economic activity resumes after a two-month pause since the second COVID-19 wave," the report explains.

### Decline in hiring

Industries with a minimum of 500 job postings on LinkedIn that

registered a decline in hiring from April to May 2021 are as follows:

1. Media & communication; 2. Automotive; 3. Marketing & advertising; 4. Staffing and recruiting.

### High remote openings

As per LMU India May 2021, following are roles with the

most remote vacancies are:

1. DevOps engineer; 2. JavaScript Developer 3. software engineer.

### In-demand skills

The list of 10 highly in-demand skills is based on the picture that emerged in March 2021.

1. SQL; 2. JavaScript; 3. Sales management; 4. Teaching; 5. Business analysis; 6. Adobe Illustrator; 7. Recruiting

8. AutoCAD; 9. Team leadership; 10. Core Java.

### The IT scenario

Based on the "Jobs on the rise" report 2021 April - October 2020, here are some of the in-demand IT and digital roles. The specialised engineering roles that are much sought are as follows – network expert; software engineering specialist; back-end developer; development

team lead; web development specialist.

Among artificial intelligence roles, demand for machine learning specialist; artificial intelligence specialist and machine learning engineer has shot up remarkably.

With Cybersecurity roles, it is security researcher; and cyber security specialist. With data science roles, it is data science specialist; analytics consultant; and data analyst.

Digital roles that have registered various degrees of growth on account of the COVID-19 pandemic are as follows.

Under social Media and digital marketing, it is social media marketing manager; social media strategist; growth hacker; web manager; and digital marketing director. Under ecommerce, it is online specialist; and e-commerce coordinator.

The emphasis on user experience has been instrumental in the surge in demand for some of these roles. Under user experience design, it is user experience designer; and user interface designer.

## What employees want

The latest LinkedIn data

points from +58 in March). The aftermath of the second COVID-19 wave has left professionals in India – particularly Gen Z and working women – increasingly vulnerable to the economic uncertainty in today's evolving job market."

**Future of Work**  
1. Job seekers prioritise flexibility (based on the Workforce Confidence Index May 8 - June 4)  
2. 50% of India's job seekers value hours or location flexibility post COVID-19  
3. 48% of India's job seekers value work-life balance more post COVID-19

## Key work trends from the latest LinkedIn data

**D**uring the pandemic, there was an increased inclination towards knowledge accumulation, as was evident from the surge in webinars and a variety of other online engagements, engineering by subject matter experts in various spheres.

**Learning data**  
Here are findings from LinkedIn's December 2020 learning data:

One, the average number of monthly learning hours increased three times in comparing April-December 2020 vs. "pre-COVID" (January-February). And two, students, career starters (< 2 years into career), and job seekers saw the largest increases in learning hours.

### Internal mobility

Here is how internal mobility was being viewed by

New graduates witness more remote openings and longer hiring processes, according to the Labour Market Update May 2021 presented by LinkedIn

work."

"50% of companies in India are willing to hire remote staff within the country."

### On gender gap

According to Workforce Confidence Index May 8 - June 4, 2021, "working women are two times more likely to be worried about job availability compared to working men." The Index added that "1 in 4 (23%) working women are worried about growing expenses or debt when compared to just 1 in 10 (13%) working men."

The key findings of the Opportunity Index March 2021 is that "84% of working women in India have missed out on a raise or promotion; 71% of them said family care comes in their way of career development; 37% of them feel they get fewer opportunities and lesser pay than men."

### About remote work

India Inc tilts more towards remote work (Future of Talent 2021 | Labour Market Update May 2021)

"71% of Indian companies said they are willing to give up their office spaces and move entirely to remote

## GENERAL



### Appointment of Director, Indian Institute of Bank Management (IIBM), Guwahati - 2021

The Search Committee for selection of a Director for Indian Institute of Bank Management (IIBM), Guwahati invites applications from seasoned bankers and accomplished academicians-administrators for the post of Director, IIBM. The appointment shall be on tenure basis for a period of 3 years, extendable by a block of two years each, depending upon the performance. In any case, the Director shall retire at the age of 68 years. The other terms and conditions of appointment and format for submitting Curriculum Vitae are detailed in the advertisement placed on the websites of RBI ([www.rbi.org.in](http://www.rbi.org.in)), IIBM ([www.iibm.ac.in](http://www.iibm.ac.in)) and IBA ([www.iba.org.in](http://www.iba.org.in)). Applications, together with a detailed Curriculum Vitae (in the prescribed format only), may be sent to IIBM Search Committee 2021, C/o Corporate Strategy & Budget Department, Central Office, Reserve Bank of India, Main Building, 2nd floor, Shahid Bhagat Singh Road, Mumbai 400001 or by email to [iibmsearch2021@rbi.org.in](mailto:iibmsearch2021@rbi.org.in), not later than 5:30 p.m. (IST) on July 23, 2021. The Search Committee reserves the right to fill the position by invitation.

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### ENGAGEMENT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR(INDIAN INSTITUTE OF COAL MANAGEMENT) ON FIXED TENURE CONTRACT BASIS

Advertisement No.: 05/2021

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF COAL MANAGEMENT (IICM), an autonomous Institution registered under Societies Act was established in 1994 at Ranchi. It is sponsored and funded by COAL INDIA LIMITED (CIL).

IICM functions as a Centre of Excellence and imparts specialized training for the executives of Coal India & its Subsidiaries on a regular basis.

**Executive Director (IICM)** is the head of the Institute and works to ensure meeting its objectives and organizational goals. CIL proposes to engage One(1) Executive Director (IICM) in E9 grade, on contract basis and consolidated monthly remuneration for an initial period of two years extendable for another two years at the discretion of the Chairman, CIL in the interest of the Company.

Candidates who had applied against earlier Advertisement No. 01/2021 for the post of Executive Director (IICM) since cancelled, will be required to apply afresh against the above-mentioned notification/advertisement.

Last date of receipt of Applications through speed post will be 06.08.2021.

For detailed information on the above, please refer to the Detailed Advertisement to be hosted on CIL's website [www.coalindia.in](http://www.coalindia.in) under the link "Career with CIL".

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### INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF MARKETING PROFESSIONALS

Aleading all India Organization dealing in Fertilizers requires for its Offices across India

"Marketing Professionals" to take up the entire activities of the region including Marketing and Extension & Promotional activities.

Successful applicant should have the following qualification, experience, skills and age.

♦ Graduate / Post Graduate / Management degree from renowned Institute. Graduation / Post Graduation in Agriculture will be considered additional qualification.

♦ Minimum 10-12 years of experience with relevant field / office exposure, out of which the last 5 years experience should be in handling a region / state activities independently.

♦ Strong communication, interpersonal, negotiation, presentation and leadership skills.

♦ Preferred age group will be around 40 years.

Remunerative package and perks offered will be on par with the market trend for qualified and suitable professionals.

Interested applicants are requested to forward their detailed CV giving details of qualification, work experience, salary last drawn, etc., to email id [agrifreecruitment2021@gmail.com](mailto:agrifreecruitment2021@gmail.com)

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### Recruits DOCTORS for COVID Mission to UAE

**Category:** Specialist Physician ICU, Consultant Physician ICU, ER Specialist, Specialist Physician Pulmonologist, General Practitioner Acute Care

**Experience:** Minimum 3 yrs. Age: Below 40 years.

**Qualification:** MBBS, MD, DNB. **Salary:** Specialist: AED 40000, Consultant: AED 60000, General Practitioner AED 20000.

**Contract Duration :** 3 - 6 months (Extended on demand)

### NO DOH LICENSE REQUIRED

### Recruits PICU Nurses for COVID Mission to UAE

**Category:** PICU NURSES. **Experience:** Minimum 2.6 yrs. **Age:** Below 40 years. **Qualification:** B.Sc./PB.B.Sc/M.Sc Nursing. **Salary:** AED 8000

**Contract Duration :** 3 - 6 months (Extended on demand)

### NO DOH LICENSE REQUIRED

Email your CV and passport to [uae@odepc.in](mailto:uae@odepc.in) on or before 10<sup>th</sup> July 2021

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For more details visit [www.odepc.kerala.gov.in](http://www.odepc.kerala.gov.in)

### SBI

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