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Haiti President Jovenel Moïse assassinated, First Lady injured

#### **NEARBY**



Rewari farmers join

A large number of farmers

NORTH & EAST ▶ PAGE 4



#### **Odisha reports highest**

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday directed the Centre to submit a status report on the availability of Liposomal Amphotericin B, used for treating patients of affects those who have recovered from COVID-19. The Centre was also asked to provide data on the quantity

# challenges new IT rules



Page 15



BHUBANESWAR Odisha on Wednesday There are 28,015 active cases in the State at present

#### **High Court seeks report**

of the drug imported.

# Heavyweights shown the door as PM Modi rejigs Cabinet

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Move aimed at bringing in qualified professionals and balancing regional and community aspirations in the run-up to upcoming elections

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

In a major shake up of his Council of Ministers almost midway through his second term, Prime Minister Narendra Modi oversaw the swearing-in of 43 Ministers (new faces and seven promotions to Cabinet rank) and dropped 12 Ministers (seven Cabinet and five Ministers of State) including Health Minister Harsh Vardhan on Wednesday. In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, India's new Health Minister would be the newly elevated Cabinet Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.

Government sources termed it an effort by Mr. Modi to strike a balance between political messaging of including MPs from various regional centres as well as from marginalised communities and beefing up the skill set of the ministries with professionally and educationally qualified additions.

Several ministries have been clubbed together, sources say, to increase synergy. For example, Odisha MP and former bureaucrat Ashwini Vaishnaw will be the Railway Minister, with additional charge of Information and Technology and Communications, and Dharmendra Pradhan will handle Education with Development while Home Minister Amit Shah will have additional charge of the new Ministry of Cooperation.

#### The exclusions

The rejig was significant not just for the inclusions but also the heavyweights who were dropped, including Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar, Labour Minister Santosh Gangwar, **Education Minister Ramesh** Pokhriyal 'Nishank' and Ministers of State Babul Supri- Pradhan's Petroleum portfo-

Rane, 69

Minister of Micro,

Small and Medium

**Jvotiraditva** 

Scindia, 50

Aviation

Pashupati Kumar

Paras, 68

Minister of

Food Processing

yo, Debashree Choudhary,

Ratan Lal Kataria, Pratap Sa-

the handling of the second

wave of the COVID-19 pan-

demic is being cited as the

reason why Dr. Harsh Vard-

han had to go, Mr. Javadekar

and Mr. Prasad's exits ap-

peared to be over the failure

to handle controversial is-

sues hitting the government

with regard to their minis-

The portfolios of the new Mi-

nisters were announced late

at night with Jyotiraditya

Scindia getting the Civil Avia-

tion portfolio and former Pe-

troleum Minister Dharmen-

dra Pradhan getting the

Education Ministry. Mr.

Portfolios announced

While unhappiness with

rangi and Sanjay Dhotre.



Sarbananda Sonowal, 58 Minister of Ports Shipping and



Mansukh

Virendra Kumar, 67

Justice and



Fertilizers



L. Murugan, 45

lio will be handled by Har-

# Kiren Rijiju, 49 | Minister of

Raj Kumar Singh, 68 | Minister of Power; and Minister of New and Renewable Energy Hardeep Singh Puri, 69 Minister of Petroleum and

Natural Gas; and Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Ramchandra Prasad Singh, 63 | Minister of Steel

Bhupender Yadav, 52 Forest and Climate Change and Minister of Labour and **Employment** 

G. Kishan Reddy, 61 Minister of Culture; Minister of Tourism; and Minister of Development of North Eastern

Anurag Singh Thakur, 46 | Minister of Information and Broadcasting; and Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Pankaj Choudhary, 56 | Minister of State, Finance

Anupriya Singh Patel, 40 MoS, Commerce and Industry

8 ST Ministers

#### S.P. Singh Baghel, 61 | MoS, **Ajay Kumar, 60** | MoS, Home Affairs Devusinh Chauhan, 56 | MoS,

Rajeev Chandrasekhar, 57 | MoS, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship: Electronics and Information Technology

Shobha Karandlaje, 54 | MoS. Agriculture and Farmers

Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma, 63 MoS, Micro, Small and Medium

Darshana Vikram Jardosh, 60 MoS, Textiles and Railways

Meenakshi Lekhi, 54 | MoS, External Affairs and Culture Annpurna Devi, 51 | MoS, Education

A. Narayanaswamy, 64 MoS, Social Justice and

Kaushal Kishore, 61 | MoS, Housing and Urban Affairs Aiav Bhatt. 60 | MoS.

B. L. Verma, 59 | MoS, Development of North Eastern Region and Co-operation

12 SC Ministers 27 OBC Ministers 4 former CMs

Panchayati Raj Pratima Bhoumik, 52 | MoS, Social Justice and Empowerment

Kapil Moreshwar Patil, 60 | MoS

Fertilizers

Bhagwant Khuba, 52 | MoS, New and

Renewable Energy and Chemicals and

Subhas Sarkar, 67 | MoS, Education Bhagwat Karad, 64 | MoS. Finance

External Affairs and Education Bharati Pravin Pawar 42 | MoS, Health and Family Welfare

Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, 68 | MoS,

Bishweswar Tudu, 56 | MoS, Tribal Affairs and Jal Shakti Shantanu Thakur, 38 | MoS, Ports,

Shipping and Waterways Mahendra Munjapara, 52 | MoS, Women and Child Development

John Barla, 45 | MoS, Minority Affairs Nisith Pramanik, 36 | MoS, Home Affairs and Youth Affairs and Sports

Out of the 43

#### Ministers from 36 are new faces Lekhi in, Harsh Vardhan

all set for Delhi return

and AYUSH

JATIN ANAND

NEW DELHI Two-time BJP Lok Sabha MP from New Delhi Meenakshi Lekhi replaced the party's veteran local leader and Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan in the Union Cabinet on Wednesday. Given his "seniority, expe-

sources said Dr. Harsh Vardhan's exit heralds his return to Delhi politics in the runup to the civic elections due early next year. "Dr. Harsh Vardhan was

State unit will do much better if he is at the helm in one way or another," said a senior leader in the Delhi BJP. According to party sourc-

es, Ms. Lekhi's legal acumen and experience in the administration of Lutvens' Delhi where most embassies are located, as Member, New Delhi Municipal Council, was expected to inform the choice of portfolios for her. Ms. Lekhi, a practising Su-

preme Court lawyer, was named Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture.

candidate in the 2013 Delhi vardhan has become the fall

#### Cabinet berths aimed at Gujarat poll

The elevation of two junior Ministers to Cabinet rank and the induction of three more from Gujarat appears to be part of the BJP's strategy to give representation to the Patidars and OBCs ahead of the Assembly poll. ▶ PAGE 9

#### West Bengal gets highest share ever

The BJP has tried to cater to different regions of West Bengal while inducting four of its MPs in the Council of Ministers. This is the highest-ever representation from the State in any BJP government. PAGE 9

#### U.P. choices an exercise in caste balance

Seven leaders from Uttar Pradesh were inducted into the Cabinet, reflecting the ruling BJP's focus on its targeted constituencies of non-Yadav Other Backward Class and non-Jatav Dalits ahead of the 2022 Assembly elections. PAGE 9

#### Paras not a member of LJP: Paswan

The ousted president of the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP), Chirag Paswan, registered his protest against the appointment of his uncle, Pashupati Nath Paras, in the Union Council o

# P.R. Kumaramangalam's wife murdered at her Delhi home

Two arrested, police searching for a third accused

Kitty Kumaramangalam, 70, wife of former Union Minister the late P. Rangarajan Kumaramangalam and a lawyer by profession, was murdered at her residence in southwest Delhi's Vasant

Vihar area on Tuesday night. Police have arrested two persons in connection with the case.

five years, and his friend Rakesh Raj, 34.



Kitty Kumaramangalam. • ANI

Another associate Suraj was absconding, Mr. Singh said. Teams of the police were looking for him, the

Ms. Kitty lived on the second floor of her residence in Vasant Vihar's A Block. An office runs in the basement, tenants live on the ground floor and on the first floor.

Mr. Singh said police re-

ceived a call around 10 p.m. about an incident of loot in a house in Vasant Vihar. When the police reached the house, they were in-

formed by the cook, Mithila,

that her employer, Ms. Kitty,

had been killed by the washerman and two others. The cook said the PCR call was made by her brother-in-

**CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8** SON LOSES MOTHER ON HIS

# Judge recuses from hearing Mamata's election petition

He imposes cost of ₹5 lakh on CM

SHIV SAHAY SINGH KOLKATA

Calcutta High Court Justice Kaushik Chanda on Wednesday imposed a cost of ₹5 lakh on Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee while recusing himself from hearing an election petition filed by her. The cost has been imposed for "vilification

adopted to seek recusal". The Chief Minister had filed an election petition in June 2021 before the High Court, alleging irregularities in the counting process in the Nandigram Assembly poll. The matter came for hearing before Justice Kaushik Chanda.

Ms. Banerjee urged the

judge to recuse himself from hearing the petition, alleging that he had links with the Bharatiya Janata Party.

The order said, "The calculated psychological offensives and vilification adopted to seek recusal need to be firmly repulsed, and a cost of ₹5 lakh is imposed upon the petitioner... Such cost should be deposited with the Bar Council of West Bengal within two weeks from date, and upon such deposit, the Bar Council shall set milies of the advocates who succumbed

# Petrol price crosses ₹100/litre mark in Delhi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The price of petrol crossed the ₹100 per litre mark in Delhi for the first time ever Wednesday, fuelling protests from various sec-

The price of petrol was increased by 35 paise per litre while the diesel rate was increased by 17 paise a litre. In Delhi, the price of petrol now stands at ₹100.21 per litre and diesel



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# Thespian Dilip Kumar dies, the legend lives on Laid to rest with full state honours; tributes pour in from friends, political leaders and peers

decades in cinema and in public life, had been admitted Legendary actor Dilip Kumar to Hinduja Hospital, a non-COVID-19 facility in Khar,

"He passed away due to

prolonged illness at 7.30

a.m.," Dr. Jalil Parkar, who

since last Tuesday.

had been treating Kumar, told PTI. "With a heavy heart and profound grief, I announce the passing away of our beloved Dilip Saab a few minutes ago. We are from God and to Him we return," family friend Faisal Farooqui

posted on the actor's Twitter



Kumar's body was taken

to his Pali Hill residence around 9.30 a.m., where friends, political leaders and colleagues, including DharShah Rukh Khan and Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, paid their respects. "I am very sad today, I can't say anything. I've lost my brother," an emotional Dharmendra told reporters outside Kumar's residence. Condolence messages for the much-loved star poured

in, with President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi joining political leaders, the film fraternity and others to express their grief. "Dilip Kumar summarised in himself a history of

with unparalleled brilliance,

the President said. Prime Minister tweeted: "He was blessed

due to which audiences across generations were enthralled. His passing away is a loss to our cultural world. Condolences to his family, friends and innumerable ad

MORE REPORTS ▶ PAGE 10

# handle at 8.01 a.m.

# Empowerment Waterways; and AYUSH Ashwini

Vaishnaw, 50 Minister of Railways;



**Parshottam** 

Rupala, 66

Minister of Fisheries.

Animal Husbandry



Animal Husbandry and Dairying: Information and Broadcasting

COMPOSITION

Former Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal will handle Ports and Shipping while the first Cabinet Minister from Arunachal Pradesh, Kiren Rijiju, will handle Law and Justice after the resignation of Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad. Janata Dal (United)'s

R.C.P. Singh will be the new Steel Minister, and Pashupati Paras will occupy his brother, late Ram Vilas Paswan's old portfolio of Food and Consumer Affairs. BJP leader Bhupendra Yadav will be the new Environment and Labour Minister, replacing Mr. Gangwar, who quit on Wednesday, and the Ministry of External Affairs will have

deep Singh Puri, who holds Muraleedharan and new inductees Meenakshi Lekhi on to one of his old portfolios of Urban Development. and Rajkumar Ranjan Singh. **Political signalling** With Wednesday's inclu-

three Ministers of State – V.

sions, the government now has a record 12 Ministers belonging to the Scheduled Castes, 27 belonging to the Other Backward Classes, eight Ministers belonging to the Scheduled Tribes and five Ministers belonging to the minority communities, including one Muslim, one Christian, one Sikh and two Buddhists. Women Ministers number 11 in the Modi go-

vernment, with two Cabinet

MORE REPORTS ▶ PAGE 9

Ministers of State.

# rience and goodwill", party Ministers and others being

the party's Chief Ministerial

# Assembly polls. The party's **GUY, SAYS CONGRESS >** PAGE 9

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» GS » CSAT Start: 4 July for Prelims 2022: 27 June

**DETAILS ON ▶** PAGE 2

aside the amount for the fa-COVID-19." **CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 8 mendra, Shabana Azmi, emerging India. The thespian's charm transcended all boundaries, and he was हिन्दी माध्यम <mark>5</mark> जुलाई | <mark>5</mark> PM | <mark>23</mark> मार्च |<mark>1:30</mark> PM To know more, get loved across the subcontinent... Dilip Saab will live fo-FREE Counseling rever in the heart of India,"

> GS TESTS - 25 Apr | 9 May | 4 July | 8 Aug | 5 Sept CSAT TESTS - 13 June | 22 Aug Register at: www.visionias.in/abhyaas

# NEW DELHI

#### protest in Rajasthan GURUGRAM

from Rewari under the aegis of Bawal Khap-84 reached the protest site at Rajasthan's Shahjahanpur village on Wednesday to support the ongoing agitation against the three farm laws. Swaraj India national president Yogendra Yadav welcomed the farmers.

reported its highest single-day COVID-19 fatality as 59 people died, taking the toll to 4,358. The highest number of deaths were reported from the Khurda district. The State also registered 2,602 new cases, pushing the tally to 9.2 lakh.

# on black fungus drug

black fungus, which primarily

single-day COVID deaths

NORTH & EAST ▶ PAGE 4

HEMANI BHANDARI

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South West) Ingit Pratap Singh said they had been identified as Raju, 24, the victim's washerman for over

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

died at a Mumbai hospital on Wednesday morning and was laid to rest with full state honours in the evening, his death a testament that the end of an era can be more than just a cliché. He was 98. The actor, known to gen-

erations of film-goers as "tragedy king" for his portrayal of the brooding, intense romantic in classics like Mughal-e-Azam and Devdas, is survived by wife Saira Banu. Kumar, born Yusuf Khan, an enduring legend through his

#### Boy beaten to death on theft suspicion

STAFF REPORTER

A 16-year-old boy was allegedly beaten to death on suspicion of theft in south-west Delhi's Kapashera on Wednesday afternoon. Police have registered a case.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South-West) Ingit Pratap Singh said that the victim has been identified as Sandeep Mahto, who is from Jharkhand and a resident of Kapashera. His father works as a driver.

Police said that on Wednesday morning, Sandeep and two of his friends entered a farmhouse owned by one Prakriti Sandhu, a resident of Gurugram. "When the three boys entered, the security guard thought that they had come with the intention of committing theft. Therefore, the guard held all of them but Sandeep's friends managed to flee," a senior police officer said.

#### Dog bites on body

Police said the owner of the farmhouse then thrashed Sandeep with sticks and the stick appears to have hit him fatally on his head. However, Sandeep fled for 50-60 meters and collapsed. "There are dog bites on his body and it looks like dogs had bitten him when he was fleeing," the officer

Around 4.30 p.m., an erickshaw contractor then spotted Sandeep lying on the road and made a PCR call after which his family called identification.

Police said that a case has been registered and teams are looking for the farmhouse owner.

# Farmers gear up for stir against fuel price hike

Protests to be organised across India for 2 hours today: SKM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Large contingents of farmers have started arriving at protest sites in preparation for their agitation on Thursday against fuel price hike, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) said on Wednesday.

"At the call of Samyukt Kisan Morcha, protests will be organised across India on Thursday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon for two hours against the hike in diesel, petrol and cooking gas prices," the umbrella body of over 40 farm unions said.

The protesters will reach designated public locations with any means of transport including scooters, motorcycles, tractors, cars, buses, trucks and also with empty gas cylinders, it said. On Wednesday, the petrol pric-



immediate effect. • FILE PHOTO: SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

es in Delhi as well as Kolkata roadside, without blocking crossed the ₹100 a litre

For peaceful march The SKM has demanded that the fuel prices be halved with immediate effect. It has

also appealed to the protes-

fects every section of the society, and SKM appeals that farmers, labourers, youth, students, women, employees, shopkeepers, transporters, traders and others ters to keep the demonstrabe part of these protests evetion peaceful and on the rywhere," the body said.

This is an issue that af-

any pathways.

# Petrol crosses ₹100/litre mark in Capital

Cong. workers hold Centre responsible, demand Dharmendra Pradhan's exit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The price of petrol crossed the ₹100/litre mark in the Capital for the first time, fuelling protests from various sections.

Petrol price was increased by 35 paise per litre while diesel rates were increased by 17 paise a litre, according to price notification from State-owned fuel retailers. In Delhi, the price of petrol now stands at ₹100.21 per litre and diesel rates rose to ₹89.53 a litre.

#### Demands rollback

The Delhi Congress organised a flash protest outside the residence of Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gases Dharmendra Pradhan, demanding his resignation for failing to keep fuel prices in check. Congress workers held the BJP government at the Centre responsible for the prices of



A scene at a filling station in Delhi soon after the fuel price hike on Wednesday. • R.V. MOORTHY

petrol and diesel and demanded a rollback of excise duty and VAT (value added tax) on these products to give relief to common people.

Delhi Congress chief Ch. Anil Kumar said that frequent petrol and diesel price hike, almost on a daily basis for the past many weeks, seems to have not affected the BJP government at the Centre, which is least concerned about the plight of the common people. "The common people have been financially distressed by the pandemic crisis and are in no position to bear the extra burden of oil price hikes,"

He added that the seven BIP MPs from Delhi were not

Mr. Kumar said

concerned about people's difficulties as their interaction with the residents remains confined to asking votes during elections and fooling people with lies and falsehood. The protesters were stopped by the Delhi police as they moved towards the residence of the Union Minister. Mr. Kumar said that des-

pite crude oil price in the international market slumping, retail prices of petrol and diesel continue to soar in the country without any checks and balance. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is happy with his friends in the petroleum sector making enormous profits from the retail sale of oil products. "High cost of petrol and diesel has had an adverse impact on the prices of essential commodities as rising transportation costs get reflected when these products reach markets," he said.

# Improved last-mile connectivity discussed at meet

Policies on shelter and social infra also find place among suggestions at DDA webinar

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI In a webinar held for consultations on the draft Master Plan for Delhi (MPD) 2041, suggestions pertaining to GIS-based plans, improved last-mile connectivity, detailed mandates on night shelters were discussed among other issues, officials of the Delhi Development Authority said.

Policies and plans pertaining to transport and mobility, shelter and social infrastructure were also discussed at the webinar held on Tuesday,

according to officials.

"The major suggestions provided during the webinar were that MPD-2041 to be GIS-based plan, last-mile connectivity to be focused by promoting more Intermediate Public Transport (IPT) modes, facilities mandated for night shelters should be detailed out, women workforce participation to be reflected in provisions for housing," the urban body said.

The need for specific guidelines for urban peripheral rural area, the approach of use development

zones to be adopted on the lines of the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) corridors, development of rental housing, inter-linkage of MPD-2041 with the sub-regional plan for NCR and a healthcare infrastructure to cater to the pandemic situation, were among the other issues discussed, officials

Additionally, suggestions pertaining to the need for circle rates to be rationalised, permission for vertical mixed use needs to promote urban extension road (UER) with

metro services were also put forth.

The urban body is conducting a series of webinars for stakeholders and the next one is due on July 13. The draft MPD-2041 was placed in the public domain on June 9 and suggestions and objections from stakeholders were invited by the DDA.

Meanwhile, the "Main Bhi Dilli" campaign, a citizen's collective, demanded an extended period of six months, instead of the 45 days, to submit responses and feedback to the draft master plan

# Relative arrested for killing wife, son of IAF employee in Palam

He was irked as aunt used to 'taunt' his family over money

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A day after wife and son of an Indian Air Force employee were found murdered at their residence in south-west Delhi's Palam village, police have arrested their relative in connection with the case.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South West) Ingit Pratap Singh said that the accused has been identified as Abhishek Verma (33), a resident of Burari, who allegedly killed his paternal aunt Babita Verma (52) and her son Gaurav Verma (27). The accused was annoyed as his aunt used to allegedly "mentally torture and taunt" his family to return the money she had given for his sister's marriage.

Police said that on Tuesday evening, a PCR call was received by Krishan Swaroop Sudhir (55), who is employed as accountant in the IAF Palam station, stating that his wife and son have been murdered. When police reached the spot, they found that the two had been killed using dumbbells and almirahs were open.

During investigation, pol-

HEMANI BHANDARI

is his birthday.

to contain tears at Vasant Vi-

har police station, he was

joined by his mother's fami-

ly while completing police

proceedings and last rites

on Wednesday afternoon

P. Rangarajan Kumaraman-

galam lost his mother on his

birthday. The family's two

sons lost their mothers on

their birthdays," said Kitty's

"It's too uncanny that late

Accused was present during post-mortem and has been with the family since the murder to ensure that no one suspects him

ice examined the CCTV footage and saw the accused take-rickshaw Dashrathpuri metro station where he stopped near a coffee shop. When police tracked down the e-rickshaw driver, he told them that the man had blood on his face and the currency note he gave was torn. So, the driver returned it because of which the accused used e-wallet to pay the driver ₹30.

E-wallet gives clue

When the mobile number was examined, it was found to be in the name of Abhishek Verma. Family members of the victim were asked if they knew this name, after which it was revealed that Abhishek is Babita's brother's son. Abhishek was arrested on Wednesday.

Son loses mother on his birthday

Police said that the accused was present during post-mortem and has been with the family since the murder to ensure that no one suspects him.

During interrogation, it was revealed that Babita had given ₹50,000 to Abhishek's family for his sister's wedding and she used to allegedly "mentally torture and taunt" his family to return the money.

Two days before the incident, the accused had come to the victim's residence and an argument ensued. Therefore, on Tuesday, Abhishek had allegedly come with a plan to kill his aunt but ended up killing the cousin as +well because he had witnessed the murder.

Police said Abhishek had come on his two-wheeler, which he parked at Dashrathpuri metro station, and took an e-rickshaw to the house. He was also carrying an extra pair of clothes to change after the incident. At ter killing the two, Abhishek allegedly opened the almirah to mislead police and make it look like a robbery, police

# DCW notice to police over online harassment of Muslim women

Their photos were uploaded online without consent

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) on Wednesday issued notice to Delhi Police over photos of Muslim women being displayed online without their consent and being termed as "sulli deal of the day."

The DCW has sought information pertaining to the steps taken by the police in identifying the accused and other details in the matter.

Taking suo motu cognisance of media reports, the women's panel said: "It has been reported that photos of hundreds of Muslim women and girls were uploaded by an unidentified group



DCW chief Swati Maliwal

on an app using GitHub by the name of "Sulli Deals" on July 4. Reportedly, "sulli" is a derogatory term used to refer to Muslim women."

According to reports, the app came to the notice once it was shared on Twit-

Government of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING

DIVISION SRINAGAR

Telefax:- 0194-2496089, Email ID:- xenmhchdk@yahoo.in

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir state, e-tenders, valid for 180 days, are

TS No.

45 of 07/21

46 of

17 of 17/21

07/21

07/21

50 of 07/21

51 of 07/21

07/21

1. Downloading of Bids:- The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications

Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen from ental website <u>www.jktenders.gov.in</u> from **06.07.2021 (<u>18.00 hrs)</u> and can be downloade** 

2.Uploading: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site 07.07.2021

3. Opening of Bids: The bids received upto due date and time shall be opened on 13.07.2021 at 15.00 hrs or any date convenient to the department in the office of Executive Engineer, MHCHD,

comple-tion (in Days)

10

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NIT No: MHCHD/TS /2021-22/67/e Dated:-06.07.2021

Cost of T/Doc. (In

1000

1000 07/21

1000

1000

1000

1000

1000

1000

1000 07/21

Est Cost (Rs in Lacs)

30.00

15.00

10.00

10.00

(10.00 hrs) to 12.07.2021 (14:00hrs) in two (02) covers.

ter, the DCW said, adding, "Subsequently, many had to leave social media platforms after their images got circulated. This is a very serious matter."

Sought FIR copy

In the notice issued to Delhi Police, the women's panel has sought a copy of the FIR registered in the matter, details of accused identified and arrested in the matter and a detailed action taken report.

The DCW asked the pol-

ice to respond by July 12. Meanwhile, the Editors Guild of India (EGI) issued a statement after a woman journalist was also targeted.

SHS/NHM/J&K

PS/6247-56 Dt:-05.07.21

SHS/NHM/J&K

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PS/6247-56 Dt:-05.07.21

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PS/6247-56 Dt:-05.07.21

SHS/NHM/J&K

PS/6247-56 Dt:-05.07.21

SHS/NHM/J&K

SHS/NHM/J&K

**Executive Engineer** 

MHCHD, Srinaga

# Armed men hold family hostage, loot house

Incident caught on camera; case filed

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Four armed men wearing masks, caps and helmets barged into the house of a property dealer in Dwarka's Uttam Nagar and decamped with cash and valuables after holding his family hostage on Wednesday, the police said.

Police said that according to the information, four men entered victim Vinod's house around 1.30 p.m. The accused were carrying wea-

The incident, which was caught on CCTV, shows that a woman opened the door and was threatened by the men. The accused entered posing as electricians.

It was revealed that at the time of the incident, Vinod's wife Seema, mother Savitri Devi, two minor children and a relative Sachin were at home. In the video, Mr. Vinod's minor daughter can be seen reaching out to her mother whose chain was snatched by the accused at gunpoint. The accused could be seen tying Sachin and holding him hostage.

The police said that the accused robbed ₹7-₹8 lakh in cash and jewellery worth lakhs after threatening Ms. Seema to give the locker's code. A case has been registered and teams have been formed to identify and arrest the accused, the police

# DU gets over 300 pleas for confidential results

Results of 47 applicants issued so far

STAFF REPORTER

Senior officials of Delhi University on Wednesday said that the varsity had received over 300 requests for issuance of confidential results, of which 47 were issued.

DU had earlier announced that students will be permitted to apply for confidential results to ease the application process for higher education or jobs.

DU Dean of Examinations D.S. Rawat said: "We have received 354 applications till date for the issuance of confidential results out of which 47 have been issued already. The examination got over on June 28 and the first confidential result was issued on

In a notice issued on June 25, DU had said that students can seek confidential results in order to apply for higher studies or job purposes.



Rangarajan Mohan Kumaramangalam (centre) and relatives outside Kitty's residence in Vasant Vihar. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAF

Talking about her sister, Ms. Chadha said she was the sweetest person on the planet. "She was the most helpful person who would go out of her way to help people. She was intolerant to wrongdoing. She was vocal and that was her personality. I am sure she would have put up a fight while they were

smothering her because she was a warrior. I haven't met a person who was more selfless than her," the sister remembered of Kitty.

It has been learnt that Kitty used to financially help the accused Raju, her washerman, because he wasn't earning enough during the pandemic.

# Two involved in international online cheating scam arrested

sister Geeta Chadha.

STAFF REPORTER

Two persons, allegedly hired by Chinese nationals, have been arrested in connection with an international online cheating scam. They used to allegedly induce people to invest online in wine and spice market and cheated people of ₹25 crore, police said on Wednesday.

DCP (South-East) R.P. Meena said that the accused have been identified as Nagaraju

Karmanchi (31), a resident of Gurugram, and Kondala Subash (31), a resident of Secunderabad.

Police said that a complaint was received wherein the complainant stated that he met one of the accused persons, Soo Yeon Park, allegedly a South Korean national, on a dating app and he was promised huge returns on his investment. He told police that initially more than 20% returns were given

to him in three to four days on investment of ₹5,000.

Police said that the victim was asked to make account on a given website and the money got deposited by accused persons in four separate accounts of different companies, out of which one was Golden Mark Technologies Private Limited.

During probe, police said, raids were conducted and Subhash, one of the directors of the said company, was ar-

legedly in touch with Chinese nationals and also operated the bank accounts, was arrested from Gurugram. During investigation, it

rested from Secunderabad

and Karmanchi, who was al-

was revealed that Karmanchi created at least 10 different companies whose bank accounts were used by Chinese nationals.

He was in touch with them and was working as dummy director in an online shortterm loan company whose real owners are Chinese nationals, the DCP said, adding that Karmanchi used to work on the directions of Chinese nationals.

Police said the accused used to ask victims to invest only a small amount and gave good returns in less than one week. Victims eventually got to know that they have been cheated when they invested large amount and were unable to withdraw money.

RO DIPK: 4218

Augmentation of existing MGPS system at Govt. JLNM Hospital, Srinagar

Augmentation of existing MGPS system at Govt. District Hospital, Pulwama

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Augmentation of existing MGPS system at Govt.

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nedical college Barmaulla

from 06.07.2021 (18.00 hrs).

nedical college Anantnag

Hospital, Kupwara

District Hospital, Shopian Augmentation of existing MGPS system at Govl District Hospital, Kulgam

at Govt.

#### DELHI

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

SATURDAY, JUL. 10 RISE 05:32 SET 19:23 RISE 05:27 SET 19:54

**Delhi Weather** max min Delhi City 43 30

#### **Delhi Palam Today** 40°C Duststorm & thunder-

storm with light rain may occur at some places towards evening. Day would remain hot with partly cloudy sky.

#### **Delhi Palam Tomorrow** 38°C Light rain and thunder-

storm likely at some places with gusty winds. Drop in day temperature likely.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2019

#### L-G reviews progress of Yamuna project

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal reviewed the progress of work related to the restoration and rejuvenation of the Yamuna riverfront along with DDA Vice-Chancellor, senior officials and experts on Wed-

While appreciating the progress of the rejuvenation work undertaken so far, a senior officer present at the meeting said the L-G emphasised that each constituent project be assigned specific timelines that should be strictly adhered to for effective monitoring and timely completion of projects.

According to the officer, the L-G advised that the provision of eco-friendly amenities and conveniences in the above areas, including zero-waste toilets, drinking water, sit-outs, solar lights and signages be made available to encourage increased utilisation of these assets and to foster strong ownership of the community.

The L-G also advised the DDA V-C to take steps for adequate surveillance and security of the area in collaboration with local pol-

# Delhi gets own genome sequencing lab

Kejriwal inaugurates facility at Lok Nayak Hospital; machine will help identify all variants of COVID-19

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday inaugurated the SARS CoV-2 genome sequencing facility at Lok Navak Hospital. It will help in timely identification of COVID-19 variants and aid strategies to counter them, he said,

The third such facility in north India, Mr. Kejriwal stated that the machine will be able to identify and analyse all variants of COVID-19 for any future waves or spreads in the city. Until now, he added, Delhi was dependent on the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) for this purpose.

The machine will be able to sequence 5 to 7 samples in a day with a turnaround time of about 4 to 5 days. This fa-



Arvind Kejriwal at the genome sequencing facility at Lok Nayak Hospital in New Delhi. ■PTI

cility will be used mainly for surveillance and public health purposes as identification of variants of concern in interest would be done.

**Follow precautions** The Chief Minister also appealed to residents to follow COVID-19-appropriate behaviour and take requisite precautions to prevent the outbreak of another wave of infection

"We have been constantly reading in the newspapers that new variants and mutations of COVID-19 are emerging every day. So as to get our samples tested, we were dependent upon the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), the lab of the Central government," he said.

"Through this machine, we will be able to analyse all the variants of COVID-19 and understand them for any future waves or spreads in Delhi, if at all they are witnessed. If we get to know the variant on time, we will be able to strategise our preparations well and it will be helpful in taking the right action," he said.

Mr. Kejriwal said the genome sequencer facility will be an asset not only for Delhi but for northern India.

The COVID-19 pandemic was still ongoing and new viral variants were rapidly emerging leading to recurrent outbreaks.

As the pandemic was notorious for undergoing mutations, he said, it was of paramount importance to identify the circulating viral strains so that contact tracing can be done to check the further spread of variants.

#### **Another facility soon**

The Delhi government is setting up another SARS CoV-2 genome sequencing facility at the Institute of Liver and Biliary Services to tackle a possible third wave of CO-VID-19 pandemic, he said.

"I appeal to the public that while activities are being opened, the people of Delhi should follow social distancing and take the right precautions, else COVID-19 might spread again," Mr. Kejriwal added.

# HC: submit report on black fungus drug

It also seeks details of imports from govt.

STAFF REPORTER

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday directed the Centre to submit a status report on availability of Liposomal Amphotericin B, used for treating patients of mucormycosis (black fungus), which primarily affects those who have recovered from COVID-19.

A Bench of Justices Vipin Sanghi and Jasmeet Singh asked the Centre to also indicate the quantities of the drug imported and the outstanding supplies and also its domestic production.

#### No shortage

The court was informed that there was no shortage of the drug as of now as the number of patients had gone

"If we are preparing for the third wave of COVID-19, we need to see the arrange-

ment for it," the Bench said. The court was informed by the Centre's counsel that presently there are 17,000 cases of black fungus in the country, which have come down from 23,000-24,000.

In May, the High Court had allowed duty-free import of Amphotericin B till the Central government took a final decision on waiving the customs and other duties on the drug. The court had also asked the Centre to come out with a policy on distribution of Amphotericin B due to its current scarcity.

# 'North body hasn't given ration to 3.5L children'

No distribution for a year, alleges AAP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI Aam Aadmi Party MLA Saurabh Bharadwai on Wednesday alleged that the BIPruled North Corporation has failed to distribute mid-day meal ration for a year due to which over 3.5 lakh children from 700 schools are yet to receive their dry ration.

Mr. Bharadwaj said that due to COVID-19, all schools have remained shut.

The Delhi government took the initiative to give the children their due share in the form of dry ration by calling and giving it to their parents. However, in North Corporation schools, not even a single child has been given the dry ration, he said. "It is very shameful that

about 3.5 lakh students in about 700 schools are not receiving ration. The North body that was supposed to distribute 2,924 tonnes of ration has failed to distribute even 1 kg of it," he alleged.

"It is July now and not even a single child has received the ration since the last year." Mr. Bharadwaj said.

Responding to it, Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said that the North body had already dispatched dry ration to most of its schools and within the next 4 to 5 days ration distribution will start.

# BJP accuses AAP leaders of siphoning off ration meant for poor

'They have been caught stealing and black-marketing it'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The BJP on Wednesday accused the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and its leaders of siphoning off ration meant for distribution amongst poor in Delhi and selling them in the market.

The BJP claimed to have caught AAP worker redhanded while trying to steal dry ration from a storage point in Trilokpuri to sell it in the black market. Party also staged a protest against the local AAP MLA, it said.

"Ration meant for the poor had been stored in the Government Boys Senior Secondary School at New Ash-

ok Nagar. However, the AAP workers with the connivance of the school management stole the ration and started selling them in the open market," Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri alleged.

#### **Demands arrest**

"We demand that an FIR be lodged against the AAP MLA and he should be arrested immediately. The Delhi Food and Civil Supplies Minister should also resign," he demanded.

Mr. Bidhuri claimed that 516 food kits had already been stolen and this was the second time that AAP workers had come to pick up kits to sell in the open market, but we caught them redhanded.

Stolen ration had also been recovered from the house of an AAP party worker which he offered to return to the school, he alleged.

"What is most unfortunate is that action had been taken against the school principal in the matter, but no action had been taken against the AAP MLA or the party workers," Mr. Bidhuri alleged.

"We have sent all the evidence of the incident to L-G Anil Baijal for appropriate action," he said.

# Capital reports 93 new **COVID-19 infections**

78,582 tests conducted; positivity at 12%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Capital recorded 93 new COVID-19 cases on Wednesday along with four deaths, according to a health bulletin released by the Delhi government.

It added that 78,582 tests were conducted that had a positivity rate of 12%. Of the total tests conducted, 53,983 were RT-PCR.

The total number of cases since the pandemic began now stands at 14,34,780 with 25,005 fatalities. On Wednesday, 64 more patients recovered, taking the total recoveries to 14,08,917. There are 858 active cases in the

Capital out of which 265 are

under home isolation.

#### **Vaccination drive**

According to the vaccination bulletin issued by the government, 34,688 beneficiaries were vaccinated on Wednesday out of which 19,162 got their first dose.

The total number of beneficiaries vaccinated since the drive began has reached 85,04,690, of which 19,56,331 have received both doses.

The government said that Delhi was facing a shortage of vaccinations with Covaxin being used only for the second dose as its stocks are limited and have irregular delivery supply.

#### THEMAHINDU

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# **DELHI POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT**

4thFLOOR, ISBT BUILDING, KASHMERE GATE DELHI-110006 Visit us at: http://dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in

Battery (Management & Handling) Rules, 2001 came into force w.e.f 16th May, 2001. These rules mandate various responsibilities on

manufacturers, importers, assemblers, reconditioners, dealers, recyclers, consumers, bulk consumers and auctioneers. Major responsibilities of each of these stakeholders are listed as under

#### **Manufacturers/Importers**

✓ Shall ensure that the new batteries be sold only to the registered dealers and the used batteries are collected back as per the schedule against new batteries sold excluding those sold to original equipment manufacturer and bulk consumer(s). ☑ Shall file a half-yearly return of their sales and buy-back to the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) in Form- I latest by 30th June (for Oct-Mar) and 31st December (for Apr-Sept)

☑ Set up collection centres either individually or jointly at various places for collection of used batteries from consumers or dealers and shall ensure that the collected batteries are sent only to

the registered recyclers. ☑ Shall ensure that necessary arrangements are made with dealers for safe transportation from collection centres to the premises of registered recyclers and shall ensure that no damage to the environment occurs during the transportation.

advertisement, publications, posters or by other means with regards to (a) hazard of lead (b) responsibility of consumers to return their used batteries only to the dealer or deliver at designated collection centre and (c) address of the dealer and designated collection

☑ Buy recycled lead only from registered recyclers.

☑ Bring to the notice of the DPCC or the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India for any violation by the

✓ Importers shall apply for registration as per Form II and Form III on the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) online portal for a period of five years (link: http://cpcbbrms.nic.in/).

#### Assemblers/Re-conditioners

☑ Shall ensure that the used batteries collected back are of similar type and specifications as that of the new batteries sold and shall ensure that used batteries collected are sent only to registered recyclers.

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

advertisement, publications, posters or by other means with regard to hazards of lead.

☑ Apply for registration by submitting online application in Form- IV available on DPCC website by creating user ID and password for the

period of five years. ☑ Shall ensure that the used batteries are collected back as per the schedule against new batteries sold.

☑ Shall ensure safe transportation of collected batteries to the designated collection centres or to

registered recyclers.

means with regards to (a) hazard of lead, and (b) obligation of consumers to return used batteries only to the registered dealers or deliver at the designated collection centres.

**Consumers/Bulk Consumers** ☑ Shall ensure that used batteries are not disposed off in any manner other than by depositing with the dealer/ manufacturer/ registered recycler/ importer/ re-conditioner or at the designated collection centres. ☑ Bulk consumers shall file half-yearly return latest by 30th June (for Oct-Mar) and 31st December (for Apr-Sept) in Form- I to DPCC.

☑ Bulk consumers to their user units may auction



and buy-back of old batteries to the DPCC and manufacturer in Form-V latest by 31st May (for Oct-Mar) and 30th November (for Apr-Sept) of every year.

#### Recyclers

✓ Shall apply for registration to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change or an agency designated by it (if not applied already), by submitting information in Form VI.

✓ Shall submit half-yearly returns as per Form-VII to the DPCC latest by 30th June (for Oct-Mar) and 31st December (for Apr-Sept) of every year. ✓ Shall make available all records relating to receipt of used batteries, sources, quantities and metal yield to be submitted to the DPCC. 

advertisement, publications, posters or by other

#### **Auctioneers**

in Form-IX.

☑ Shall ensure that used batteries are auctioned to the registered recyclers only. ☑ Shall maintain records relating to receipt of

used batteries, sources, quantities and metal yield and submit to DPCC. ☑ Shall file half-yearly returns of their auctions latest by 30th June and 31st December to DPCC

Note:- As per Batteries (Management and Handling) Amendment Rules, 2010, every dealer of Lead Acid Battery shall obtain registration from DPCC, within 30 days of this Notice and in case of failure legal action including prosecution shall be initiated.

M ND-NDE

Member Secretary

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# Rewari farmers join protest in Rajasthan

Farmers' movement is gaining strength with each passing day, says Swaraj India chief Yogendra Yadav

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A large number of farmers from Rewari under the aegis of Bawal Khap-84 reached the protest site at Rajasthan's Shahjahanpur village on Wednesday to support the ongoing agitation against the three farm laws.

Welcoming the farmers, Swaraj India national president Yogendra Yadav said the farmers' movement was gaining strength with each passing day. He said that those who were claiming that the movement had lost its steam must see the huge number of farmers reaching the protest site at Shahjahanpur in tractors and trolleys. Mr. Yadav said the farmers' morale was high and they would soon emerge victorious.

He said farmers from neighbouring villages in Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab were reaching the Shahjahanpur protest site every day despite blistering heat. Mr.



Yogendra Yadav

Yadav added that the movement had improved the selfrespect of the farmers who had risen above caste and religion to unite and fight for

#### 'We stand united'

He said that 450 farmer organisations had joined hands to spearhead the ongoing agitation and still stood united despite the efforts from the government to create division. The Swaraj India chief said the farmers were awakened and had learnt to

peacefully continue with the agitation and their victory was confirmed.

The farmer unions have given a call for nationwide protest against the rise in prices of petrol, diesel and cooking gas on July 8.

#### 'Contest Punjab Polls'

Meanwhile, Haryana Bharatiya Kisan Union (Charuni) chief Gurnam Singh Charuni said on Wednesday said that outfits involved in farmers' agitation against the new agriculture laws should contest the Punjab Assembly elections as it will "present a model on how the system can be changed".

Mr. Charuni, a key leader of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) which is spearheading the farmers' stir, said: "What I want to say is that we should not run 'Mission U.P.', but 'Mission Punjab'." SKM has planned a mahapanchayat in September and other activities in Uttar Pradesh, which

goes to the polls next year. "Now, we are moving for Mission U.P. A mahapan-

chayat will be organised on September 5. Other activities will happen. Then polls will come and we will work to defeat the BJP. If we assume BJP gets defeated, will the Centre then agree to our demands? Don't take it otherwise," asked Mr. Charuni in a video message, and cited the example of West Bengal, where the farmer bodies campaigned against the BJP.

"The BJP was defeated there, but did the Centre then accept our demand," he

Mr. Charuni said that the BJP and the Congress have not been able to change the system. "Then from whom should we expect to do this? If we have to change the system, then we will have to formulate a plan. And that plan should be 'Mission Punjab'," he said

(With PTI inputs)

# Only traditional food items to be served at Assam govt. events

Handwoven gamosa to be used at official programmes

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Only traditional food items will be served at government programmes in Assam, the State Cabinet headed by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma decided on Wednesday.

The decision has been taken in sync with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's credo of 'vocal for local' for promoting indigenous food products, a government spokesperson said.

Assam has a variety of snacks, mostly on the sweeter side and made of powdered rice, coconut and othlocally ingredients.

"Traditional snacks such as pitha and laaru will be served with tea at official functions from now on," the spokesperson said.

The Cabinet also decided to make it mandatory for

handwoven gamosa - the traditional multipurpose scarf-towel – to be used at government programmes.

Gifting an Assamese gamosa to visitors or dignitaries is a tradition in Assam. The tradition is similar for other indigenous communities with the Bodos, for one, using the *arnai* or a decorative scarf.

But over the years, cheaper machine-made gamosas from Gujarat and Tamil Nadu have threatened to push Assam's weavers out of business. According to a 2018 estimate by the State government, Assam has more than 13 lakh looms out of a total of 28 lakh looms in the coun-

Seizures of machinemade gamosas under the Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act.

1985, have had little impact.

articles for exclusive production by handloom. These include the gamosa, angavastram and the Manipuri

phanek. Playing the State anthem 'O mur apunar dekh' at the beginning of all government programmes and meetings and the national anthem 'Jana gana mana' at the end was another decision taken by the Cabinet.

#### Awards for govt. staff

Among other decisions was an annual performancebased award for five non-gazetted employees at the district and 10 at the State level. Apart from citations on Karmachari Divas (August 5) to mark the death anniversary of the State's first Chief Minister Gopinath Bardoloi, the award-winning employees will get a year's extension of service, the spo-

# Compensate industry for huge losses: Akali Dal

It seeks Assembly session to discuss 'complete mismanagement' of power situation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHANDIGARH

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal on Wednesday demanded the Congress government provide financial package to the industry for the losses suffered by it on account of forced shutdown amid the ongoing power crises.

Mr. Badal said after suffering huge losses due to the CO-VID lockdown in the last one and a half years, the sector was presently in the grip of a "power lockdown" with the government imposing a three-day compulsory off, closing down large-scale industries for five days and reducing contracted power load of continuous supply to industry by 50%.

"This has broken the back of the industry which is suffering losses of worth crores of rupees on a daily basis besides losing orders," said Mr. Badal, holding Chief Minister (Retd.) Captain Amarinder Singh responsible for the state of affairs.

He said collection of bills for the current cycle be deferred by two months for the sector. "Power should also be provided at a landing cost of ₹5 per unit as promised by the Chief Minister," he said, adding that the industry was paying nearly ₹10 per unit.

#### 'PSPCL in a sad State'

Mr. Badal also demanded a special session of the Assembly to discuss the complete mismanagement of the situation. He said the Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL), which had been declared as the best electricity utility in 2015 during the SAD government led tenure, was now finding it difficult to even supply adequate power to the

"Mismanagement and the Congress government's failure to add a single mega watt in the last four and a half years has led to a situation where farmers are not getting adequate supply for their paddy crop even as unscheduled power cuts are being imposed on domestic consumers. The Chief Minister owes an explanation as to how a power-surplus State during SAD tenure has become deficient and unable to even distribute power to consumers due to lack of maintenance of transmission and distribution system," he said.

# Health start-ups providing innovative solutions

They have begun rolling out new concepts of hybrid pharmacy and diagnostics

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

'Punjab BJP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

A day after the Punjab BJP

issued a show-cause notice

to him for his "anti-party'

activities, former Minister

Anil Joshi on Wednesday

slammed the State unit al-

leging that it did not give

correct feedback to the

Mr. Joshi claimed that in-

itially, farmers protesting

against the farm laws had a

few demands that could

have been handled had the

BJP's Punjab unit not pro-

jected that all was hunky-

He also said State BIP

president Ashwani Sharma

should admit his failure

and resign rather than issu-

dory in the State.

Centre on farm laws.

feedback'

CHANDIGARH

gave incorrect

Health start-ups coming up in Rajasthan during the CO-VID-19 pandemic have provided some innovative solutions to overcome the crisis amid the virus infection putting an excessive burden on the public health infrastructure. The start-ups have kicked off with the new concepts of hybrid pharmacy and diagnostics.

Supported by a health research institution, the startups have conducted research and made intelligent planning with an out-of-box thinking to

provide succour to those affected by the second wave of pandemic as well as other other patients whose health needs constant monitoring. The institution provided orientation to several of the entrepreneurs who launched

#### **CIIE support**

The Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE) at the Indian Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR) University here has extended support to the nascent startups in the State and helped them with

Home healthcare for the elderly patients was a major area of intervention in the services of start-ups. CIIE chairperson Sheenu

the entrepreneurial skills.

Jain said here on Wednesday that while one of the start-ups had come up for operating in the sphere of hybrid pharmacy, another had launched health-based devices for diabetes and other allied diseases. Technology and servicebased start-ups had joined the centre to get connected with the right set of people, she said.

The CIIE has worked on

evolving the prototypes for start-ups and supported them through mentoring, legal assistance and company registration. Dr. Jain said the CIIE would shortly become the first purely health-based incubator in Rajasthan and get the State government's support for laying a strong foundation for the units adding value to the healthcare services.

A women's entrepreneurdevelopment programme launched by the CIIE has helped out women entrepreneurs to take up the startup projects with profitable outcomes.

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This is to inform to all concern that Smt. Inder wati Wlo Late Sh. Birbal Singh R/o House opposite Kirshi Gyan Kender, Delhi Road, Rohtak, who is the original allottee of Shop No 101, Block-II, Sector-29, Ganga Shopping Complex, Noida U.P., said property on General Power of Attorney Birbal Singh R/o House No. 1418, in Sector-29, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P., and General Power of Attorney was duly red in the office of Sub-Registra NOIDA, U.P., on dated 02.12.2006, as Document No. 503. and the Agreement to Sell was executed in favour of Smt. Shiksha Dudi W/o Col. O.P. Dudi. R/o House No. 1418, in Sector-29, Noida, U.P., which was not registered. So it is informed to all concerned that the said Shop in going to the transferred in favour of Smt. Shiksha Dudi W/o Col. O.P. Dudi. R/o House No. 1418. in Sector-29, Noida, U.P., on basis of General Power of attorney. If any one has/have any objection he/she may file his/her objection along with the sufficient proof in the commercial department of Noida authority commercial department of Noida authority

Col. O.P. Dudi

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applying to the Secretary to the
Government of India in the Ministry of Home
Affairs for Naturalization and that any
person who knows any reason why
Naturalization should not be granted should
send a written signed statement of the facts
to the said Secretary.

#### CORRIGENDUM

Reference tender notice ublished on 18/06/202 egarding supply of machiner entre at Murthal. Soninal laryana, this is to inform you hat due to some unavoidabl easons the last date fo ubmission of bids has be xtended to 19/07/2021.12.PM and bids shall be opened a 3.30 PM. Tender available o /ww.urida.org Capt.Deepak Ra (Secretary Irbo Rural Integrated Developmen ssociation,WZ-33A,Dayalsar Roac



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#### APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one unidentified dead body of male Namely: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: about 30 Years. Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 5' 6", Face: Long. Built: Medium. Wearing: Without clothes, ID: Mentally disturbed, who was found near Majdiya Hospital, Delhi. In this



regard a case DD No. 21A Dated 30.06.2021 has been registered at P.S. Tigri, New Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the above deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone

DP/589/SD/2021

Sd/-SHO P.S: Tigri, New Delhi Tel.: 011-26041473

#### SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



one boy Namely: Umesh Kumar @ Lala, S/o: Late Sanjay Kumar, R/o: 102, Old Kondli Village, Gali No. 1, Jatav Mohalla, Delhi-110096, Age: 13 Years Height: 4', Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, **Built**: Thin, **Wearing**: Blue Colour Jeans, Red & Black Jarsi and Hawai Chappal in Feet has beer nissing/kidnapped since 12.12.2018 rom the area of P.S. New Ashok Nagar Delhi. In this regard DD No. 658/18. U/s 363 IPC, Dated 17.12.2018, has been

General Public is hereby informed that

@ LALA lodged at P.S. New Ashok Nagar, Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped boy but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing/kidnapped boy please inform the undersigned.

E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in Fax: 011-23011334 DP/576/ED/2021

Web-site: http://cbi.nic.in

P.S. New Ashok Nagar, Delhi Ph.: 011-22610839, 22610843

#### **SEARCH FOR MISSING FEMALE**

Any person having any information or clue about this

missing female may kindly inform to the following:-



General public is here by informed that this female namely Usha D/o Megha Ram R/o T-634/17, Near Chachi Ka Mandir, Baljeet Nagar, Delhi Age: 21 years, Height: 5'2", Face: Round, Complexion : Wheatish, Built: Medium, wearing pink colour suit, red colour salwar

and hawai chappal in feet, has been missing since 19.06.2021 at about 11:30 A.M. from her house. In this regard DD No. 31 dated 20.06.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Patel Nagar, Delhi.

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in Website: http://cbi.nic.in Fax: 24368639. Tel.: 24368638/24368641

SHO: P.S. Patel Nagar, Delhi Ph.: 011-25874034, 8750870434, 8750870436

#### 2 more held for 'indecent' sloganeering

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BALLIA (U.P.)

Two more people were arrested on Wednesday for allegedly indulging in "indecent" sloganeering against Pradesh Minister Upendra Tiwari and his family members, police said. The police also said

charges of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act have been added in the FIR. "With two more arrests, the number of those arrest-

ed in the case reaches nine," a police officer said here. After the initial probe, charges of the POCSO Act

have been included in the FIR, he said. Tiwari's family had demanded that the accused be booked under the POCSO Act as the slogans targeted

the minister's two minor

daughters.

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DP/590/ED/2021

#### Six Pakistani migrants, living in Madhya Pradesh for dethe Minister said. cades, were granted Indian citizenship on wednesday under the Citizenship

They were staying in M.P. for decades

6 Pak migrants get Indian

citizenship under CAA

cials said. State Home Minister Narottam Mishra said these migrants were victims of religious persecution.

Amendment Act (CAA), offi-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

"Indian citizenship has been provided to these Hindu migrants who reached here due to religious persecution in neighbouring countries. The State government has completed the process and handed them Indian citizenship certificates today," Mr. Mishra told reporters.

Among the six who were granted Indian citizenship, Nandlal and Amit Kumar are residents of Bhopal while Ar-

Dhami takes

charge as CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Uttarakhand's new Chief

Minister Pushkar Singh

Dhami on Wednesday for-

mally assumed charge of

office at the State Secreta-

riat after performing a

puja.

General public is hereby informed

that one person Name: Unknown,

S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown,

Age: About 40 Yrs., Height: 5'7",

Sex: Male, Built: Medium, Face:

Round, Wearing: Blue Lower and

T Shirt, **Place of Recovery:** Found

P.S. Ghazipur, Delhi

Ph.: 011-22610068, 22610094

dead in Hindan Canal Kondli Pul.

**Appeal for Identification** 

In this regard GD No. 26A, Dated 04.07.2021 has

been lodged at Police Station, Ghazipur, Delhi.

Any clue come to notice please inform undersign.

Das, Narayan Das and Saushalya Bai are from Mandsaur, Talking to reporters, Mr.

jundas Manchandani, Jairam

Manchandani said, "we are happy that the government has provided us citizenship. I was neither an Indian nor a Pakistani for the last 31 years, but now I am an Indian".

'Came from Sindh'

Officials said these people came to Madhya Pradesh from the Sindh province of Pakistan between 1988 and 2005 and were granted Indian citizenship under the Citizenship Amendment Act.

The CAA, passed in December 2019, expedites grant of Indian citizenship to Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian immigrants from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

#### 'Ensure no candidate is intimidated<sup>a</sup>

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ALLAHABAD

The Allahabad High Court on Wednesday directed the District Magistrate and Senior Superintendent of Police, Prayagraj, to ensure that the entire process of filing nomination papers for Block Pramukh (Chairperson) is completed in a free and fair manner and no candidate is intimidated by their rivals.

The order was passed while hearing a petition filed by one Kalpana Pandey, a candidate for block Sringverpur in district Prayagraj.

The Bench also directed the District Magistrate and the SSP to make necessary arrangement for providing adequate security to Ms. Pandey so that she may file her nomination paper without any hindrance.

# Odisha reports highest single-day COVID deaths

59 patients lose their lives in the State

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BHUBANESWAR

ported its highest single-day COVID-19 fatality as 59 people died, taking the toll to 4,358, a Health Department official said. The State also registered 2.602 new cases. pushing the tally to 9,29,788, he said.

Odisha on Wednesday re-

There are 28,015 active cases in the State at present. In the last 24 hours, 3,258 patients have recovered. So far, 8,97,362 have recovered from COVID-19 in the State.

The number of deaths is on the rise, bucking the country-wide trend, a cause concern for government.

The highest 10 deaths were reported from the Khurda district, followed by Bargarh, Dhenkanal and Puri (five each). Ganjam, Nayagarh, Rayagada and Sundargarh reported four deaths

ported the highest 529 new cases, followed by Cuttack (397), Jajpur (183), Puri (174), Balasore (164) and Mayurbhanj (141). Odisha tested 74,468 samples on Tuesday. Cuttack district registered a positivity rate of 15.1%, the

each. Khurda district also re-

State's highest.

**COVID despite doses** 

Around 0.13% of the people who are either fully vaccinated or received one dose have been found to be COVID-positive in the State, officials said. "While 9,154 persons (0.09%) of 1,00,43,077 people getting the first dose tested positive, 7,806 (0.31%) people got infection even after taking both the doses," an of-

The State government has urged the Centre to allocate more Covishield vaccines on an urgent basis as it was facing a shortage. M ND-NDE

ficial said.

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**DONATE EYES-GIFT SIGHT** 



Sivagiri Math is no more Swami Prakashananda, former president of Sree Narayana Dharma Sangham Trust and former head of the Sivagiri Math, passed away here on Wednesday. He was 99. The last rites were performed at Sivagiri Math.

#### **Govt. attaches Roshan** Baig's assets in IMA scam

The government on Wednesday told the High Court of Karnataka that it has issued a notification on July 6, 2021, attaching around 20 immovable and movable assets of former Minister R. Roshan Baig situated in various parts of the Bengaluru in connection with his alleged involvement in the scam of I Monetary Advisory (IMA) group of companies.

#### Kitex: court order on minimum wages awaited

The Labour Department has said that action on the notice issued to Kitex Garments violation of minimum wages rules as per Government Order (P) No. 143/2019 of December 30, 2019, will be taken in accordance with the orders of the court.

#### A.P. decides to reopen schools on August 16

The Andhra Pradesh government has decided to reopen schools on August 16 Speaking after attending a review meeting with Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, Education Minister Adimulapu Suresh said online classes would commence from July 12. Teachers would be given training on workbooks from July 15 to August 15. he added

# HC for further probe into Fazal's murder

Order to CBI comes after confessional statement of RSS activist that he was involved in the killing

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Kerala High Court on Wednesday ordered the Central Bureau of Investigation to conduct further investigation into the murder of National Development Front (NDF), now Popular Front of India, activist Mohammed Fazal at Thalassery in 2006 in view of the confessional statement given by a Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) activist.

Justice Ashok Menon directed the CBI to constitute a special team to further investigate the case.

The order was passed while allowing a petition filed by P.K. Abdul Sathar, elder brother of Fazal, for a directive to conduct further investigation into the case. He

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM/KOCHI

A court here on Wednesday

adjourned till July 12 the

hearing on the anticipatory

bail plea of former Kerala

Director General of Police

Siby Mathews in a case regis-

tered by the the Central Bu-

reau of Investigation against

him and 17 other police of-

ficers in connection with the

Indian Space Research Or-

ganisation (ISRO) espionage

Two Maldivian women,

"wrongfully" arraigned as

accused in the case, have

opposed Mr. Mathews' anti-

the district court for protec-

tion from arrest after the

CBI named him as accused

in the 1994 "police frame-

Mr. Mathews had moved

cipatory bail petition.

ISRO spy case: bail plea of

former DGP adjourned

Maldivian women have opposed bail

earlier.

pointed out that further investigation was required in the light of the statement given by RSS activist Subeesh alias 'Kuppi' Subeesh that he was involved in the murder.

Subeesh made the confession in 2016 when he was interrogated by the Koothuparamba police in connection with the murder of CPI(M) activist Mohanan. He stated that Fazal was murdered by RSS workers, including himself and three others, namely Proneesh, Prabheesh and

The court observed that there was undoubtedly a need for examination of the confession statement of Subeesh and the attending circumstances. It might be true that the CBI might not be satisfied with the materials

Former ISRO scientist

Nambi Narayanan, the de

facto complainant in the

case, had done the same

High Court that if anticipa-

tory bail was granted to the

two former police officers,

S. Vijayan and Thampi S.

Durga Dutt, it would cause

serious prejudice to the in-

vestigation. In a statement

filed before the High Court,

the CBI pointed out that the

police officers had played an

active role and concocted

an espionage case following

a conspiracy with the other

accused in the FIR and oth-

very influential. If bail was

granted, it would create fear

in the minds of probable

witnesses, the CBI said.

The petitioners were still

er unknown persons.

The CBI informed the



Mohammed Fazal

now collected by the local police during the investigation in some other case involving Subeesh. But there was no harm in examining those materials also, as part of a further investigation. Without an examination of

those materials by the investigating agency, it was not proper to discard them altogether.

The Ernakulam CBI Special Court had earlier dismissed the petitioner's plea for further investigation, holding that once the final report is filed, the de facto complainant could not seek further investigation invoking the provisions under Section 173 (8) CrPC, without the investigating officer asking for it.

The State government had submitted before the court that the murder was a sequel to the NDF-RSS standoff in Thalassery in October 2006.

The CBI took over the investigation on the directive of the High Court on a plea by the victim's wife Mariyu. According to the investigation agency, Fazal of Madapedika from Kodiyeri was murdered allegedly by a group of CPI(M) sympathisers after he defected from the CPI(M) and joined the NDF on October 22, 2006.

Eight persons, including Karayi Rajan and Karayi Chandrashekaran, CPI(M) local leaders, were arrested by the CBI.

M.K. Sunil Kumar, alias 'Kodi' Suni, who had been convicted in the case of the murder of Revolutionary Marxist Party (RMP) leader T.P. Chandrashekaran, was named the prime accused in the case.

According to the CBI, the murder was masterminded by Rajan and Chandrashekaran because of political ani-

# Andhra Pradesh announces YSR achievement awards

Surendra, retired cartoonist of *The Hindu*, among awardees

STAFF REPORTER VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh government announced 63 YSR Lifetime Achievement and YSR Achievement Awards in various categories on Wednesday. A cash prize of ₹10 lakh and a memento would be given to the YSR Lifetime Achievement awardees. Similarly, ₹5 lakh cash prize and a memento would be given to each YSR Achievement award winner.

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy had planned to present the awards last year, but the COVID-19 panpostponed process.

A State-level screening committee has selected eight organisations, 11 farmers, 21 artistes, seven wri-



Surendra

ters, eight journalists, and eight COVID-19 warriors for the awards.

Among the YSR Lifetime Achievement awardees are the MSN Charities Trust (Kakinada), the C.P. Brown Library (YSR Kadapa), and the Maharaja Government College of Music and Dance (Vizianagaram).

The farmer who will re-

ceive the Lifetime Achievement Award is the late Palla Venkanna, founder of Kadiyam Nurseries.

Among the writers are included the late Kalipatnam Rama Rao (Kara Master, Srikakulam) and Katti Padma Rao (Guntur).

Among the journalist Lifetime Achievement awardees are Palagummi Sainath (Chennai) and retired cartoonist of The Hindu Surendra (Kadapa).

Achievement awardees include COVID-19 warriors Dr. Nitichandra (Professor, Pulmolonology, Nellore), Lakshmi (staff nurse, GGH, Vijayawada) and Turubilli Tejaswi (staff Visakhapatnam).

The awards will be presented on August 14 or 15.

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, Assam, Sikkim, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Vidarbha, Konkan & Goa, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Heat wave conditions likely in isolated pockets over Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and Rajasthan

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nedabad		38.5	28.2	Kurnool		–	.35.4	26.
wl		27.0	23.4	Lucknow			.39.0	28.
habad		39.1	28.4	Madurai			.38.5	25.
galuru		29.4	22.3	Mangalur	u	6.3	.29.5	24.
pal		37.8	26.7	Mumbai		. 17.9	.33.5	26.
baneswar		33.8	27.6	Mysuru			.31.9	21.
ndigarh		41.8	30.7	New Delh	ıi	–	.42.6	29.
nnai		36.2	27.8	Patna		9	.33.8	26.
nbatore		35.0	24.5	Port Blair	r	20	.29.4	24.
radun	6.4	35.4	24.8	Puducher	ry		.34.7	26.
gtok	45	21.7	19.5	Pune		. 77.2	.31.8	22.
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hal	0.7	31.8	22.1	Srinagar			.32.1	16.
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ima	3	–	17.6	Vijayawa	da	–	.37.8	27.
kata	15	35.7	28.4	Visakhapa	tnam	–	.34.8	27.

**SO<sub>2</sub> NO<sub>2</sub> CO PM2.5 PM10 CODE** 11 .17 108 ...131 .126 .... Bengaluru...... 11 .37 .60 Chennai...... ..6 .13 117 Visakhapatnam 10 .53 .47 ....77 .112

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# 

# Recoveries dip as Maharashtra reports Pune fire: flagrant violation of safety norms, more than 9,500 fresh COVID-19 cases labour laws at chemical unit, reveals report

Pune records highest infections; active tally climbs to 1.14 lakh; 179 patients succumb

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Maharashtra saw a dip in recoveries on Wednesday with 8,899 patients being discharged against a surge of 9,558 new COVID-19 cases.

The active case tally rose to 1,14,625.

A total of 326 deaths have been added to the progressive death toll, with 98 of those occurring in the last 48 hours and 49 being from the past week. A further 179 fatalities have been added as per the ongoing 'reconcilia-

The State's total death toll has climbed to 1,23,857 with the State's case fatality rate standing at 2.01%.

The State's total cases have reached 61,22,893 while its cumulative recoveries have gone up to 58,81,167



A beneficiary receives a dose of COVID-19 vaccine as others wait outside at a hospital in Navi Mumbai. • FILE РНОТО

ing at 96.05%.

"Of a total 4,31,24,800 laboratory samples tested thus far, 61,22,893 (with the average case positivity falling incrementally to 14.2%) have returned positive with

with the recovery rate stand- over 2.16 lakh samples being tested in the last 24 hours," State Surveillance Officer Dr. Pradeep Awate said.

> Pune reported 1,533 new cases taking its total case tally to 10,63,678. Seven deaths were reported as the fatality

toll rose to 17,034. According to district authorities, the active cases went up to nearly 10,500 while the death toll touched 18,034.

Mumbai recorded 662 new cases to take its total tally to 7,26,278 while the active cases declined to 12,255. Nine fatalities took the city's death count to 15,573.

Kolhapur added more than 1,300 new cases taking its total cases to 1,68,015 of whom 12,902 are active. As many as 17 deaths saw the toll climb to 4,847.

Satara registered 1,114 cases and nine deaths as its total case tally rose to 1,99,014 of whom 7,675 are active while the fatality toll went up to

Neighbouring logged more than 900 new

Fact-finding team held interviews with survivors, kin of deceased, district officials

A fact-finding team, probing the horrific Pune chemical factory blaze last month in which 17 workers, most of them women, were killed, has found that the factory owners flagrantly violated safety and labour laws and that the authorities from the State Industrial Safety and Health Department connived with the factory owners in granting the firm a licence in the absence of all safety norms.

A fire erupted on June 7 on the premises of SVS Aqua Technologies in Mulshi taluk. The blaze, which sounded like a bomb explosion to 37 workers trapped inside the cramped working space, spread with such rapid intensity that 17 of them were charred to death.

The team, organised by the Trade Union Action Committee, comprised Nitish Nawsagaray, a professor at the city-based ILS Law College; Vivek Patwardhan, a senior HR professional; advocate Vishal Jadhav; health and safety expert Prahlad Malvadkar; and social researcher Roma Makati. It held detailed interviews with the survivors, the kin of the deceased, and the Pune division and district authorities.

No training for workers

The report revealed that the factory had been in operation since 2012 but had neither obtained a licence under the Factories Act, 1948, nor even bothered to acquire one till 2020. Contrary to the line given out by the factory owners, the

workers were not given any training on the safety precautions or made aware of the enormous risk of handling chemicals, it said. "Since commencement of

its operations in 2012, no officer of the Industrial Safety and Health Department had ever visited the factory nor sent any notice even once till December last vear regarding norms flouted by it. It was also learnt the visit [by an authority] was the result of an unrecorded fire that had occurred in the factory earlier," Dr. Nawsagaray said.

The officer's report to the Industrial Safety and Health Department in December 14 last had raised objections regarding the process, safety and the layout of the fac-

The fact-finding team re-

vealed that after the official's visit, the plan of the existing factory building was filed with the authorities of the Industrial Safety and Health Department in February last and "hurriedly approved" by the Industrial Additional Director of Industrial Safety

and Health. "The Director neither visited nor inspected the existing factory structure before approving the said plan which, he was legally duty bound to do. The factory plan itself reveals that it did not provide sufficient fire exits and doors. The windows shown in the plan were, in fact, sealed with grills right from the beginning. It showed many elements that never existed on the site, thus making it to be a fraudulent and fake submission," said advocate Jadhav.

# Soon, a special cell to protect doctors from complaints by patients' relatives

It will consist of medical experts, police officers, State tells HC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Maharashtra government told the Bombay High Court on Wednesday that it was in the process of constituting a special cell by next week to protect doctors against unnecessary police complaints by kin of patients.

A Division Bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice G.S. Kulkarni was hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) petition filed by one Dr. Rajeev Joshi, seeking orders from the court to protect doctors from being attacked by families of

The PIL alleged that Maha-

rashtra witnessed the maximum number of such inviolence. According to the plea, the State government had failed to implement the Maharashtra Medicare Service, Persons and Medicare Institutions (Prevention of violence

and damage or loss of pro-

perty) Act, 2010, to curb such instances. Advocate General Ashutosh Kumbhakoni informed the court that the special cell would consist of experts from the medical field, senior police officers, and

stakeholders. He said that the duty of the cell would be to examine complaints of medical negligence against doctors and hospitals and only after verifying how genuine the complaint was, the police station concerned would register an With respect to com-

plaints of vandalism and attack on doctors and hospitals, the Indian Penal Code was sufficient to deal with them, Mr. Kumbhakoni said.

The Chief Justice said there was a similar committee in West Bengal that comprised nine members, including IPS officers and doctors, and suggested that the cell here could be formed on similar lines.

# Won't arrest Param Bir till July 29: State to HC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Maharashtra government told the Bombay High Court on Wednesday that it would not arrest former Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh till July 29 in a case registered against him.

The statement was made before a Division Bench of Justices S.S. Shinde and N.J. Iamadar.

The court was hearing a petition filed by Mr. Singh seeking to quash an FIR filed against him at Bazzar Peth police station in Kalyan and

also registered at Akola. The plea said, "The FIR refers to an event of 2015 and is belatedly registered after having failed to pressure him to withdraw his complaint against former Home Minister Anil Deshmukh."

On March 20 last, Mr. Singh wrote to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, alleging that Mr. Deshmukh directed suspended police officer Sachin Vaze to collect ₹100 crore from bars and restaurants over a month.

The FIR was registered on April 24, 2021, by police inspector Bhimraj Ghadge against Mr. Singh under several sections of the Schedule Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, the Civil Rights Protection Act, the Indian Penal Code, and the Maharashtra Police Act, at Akola.

# State land appears paternal property of executive, says Bombay HC

Bench makes remark while hearing plea on illegal buildings

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday said it appears that the 'State's property was the paternal property of the executive' while commenting on the rampant illegal constructions in Mumbai.

A Division Bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice G.S. Kulkarni was hearing a suo motu public interest litigation following the collapse of a building in Bhiwandi last year. While 41 people, including three toddlers and 18 children, were killed in the incident, the National Disaster Response Force rescued 25 people.

noy, along with advocate Joel Carlos, representing the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), informed the court that the civic body could not act against encroachers as the State government's slum rehabilitation policy protected them. Mr. Chinoy said that the BMC had a limited role to play as an external

#### 'Statutory protection' State Advocate General Ash-

utosh Kumbhakoni said that the government's slum rehabilitation policy granted statutory protection against the

Senior counsel Aspi Chidemolition of structures constructed before January 1, 2000, and not higher than 14 feet. He said the structures of slum dwellers with valid photo identity cards were protected and could not be demolished. Mr. Kumbhakoni added that successive governments had extended the cut-off date for protecting tenements in notified slum areas till 2000.

The court said, "The moment you [State] bring them under a beneficial scheme, State land and corporation lands are written off. It seems like the State's property is the paternal property of the executive."



## Perfecting the test

CBSE's plan for Class 10 and 12 assessments should incorporate needs of stressed schools

reparing for an uncertain academic year ahead during the pandemic, the Central Board of Secondary Education has decided on an assessment scheme for Classes 10 and 12 for 2021-22 under various scenarios, including the possibility that Board examinations can be conducted, should circumstances improve. The year gone by was extremely challenging for all Boards, and the CBSE had to hastily come up with a scheme to assess candidates in Class 12. It became clear that even with its high emphasis of academics, there was considerable deprivation for some students, and not all got the opportunity to complete their syllabus or attend online classes even in the national capital. The wide coverage of the Board, as of 2019, includes 1,138 Kendriya Vidyalayas, 2,727 government schools, 17,553 independent schools, 598 Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas and 14 Central Tibetan schools, and schools abroad. The diversity of students and their varied backgrounds was apparently reckoned to some degree while drafting the scheme for the coming year, which includes a mix of internal assessments for Classes 9-10 and 11-12, and term examinations in November-December and in March-April 2022. There will be a rationalised, compartmentalised syllabus split into two halves for each term. The scheme, which has the benefit of advance planning unlike the past year, must be responsive to the issues faced by all institutions in remote locations and the deprivation faced by less privileged students.

The CBSE's special scheme relies on syllabus rationalisation done through expert evaluation of interconnectivity of subjects, and a centralised protocol of question papers and marking scheme for the term examinations. In the case of term I, it will be a multiplechoice question (MCQ) type test stretching over 90 minutes, with machine-readable optical marking, and for term II, a short-and-long-answers model, if circumstances permit. Efficient as it may sound, the multiplechoice model is critiqued by some as inferior, with sometimes irrelevant and meaningless questions that add up to little in terms of assessment, helping only the marking process. An adjunct to the MCQ pattern could be a decentralised process, empowering regional CBSE units and external experts to consider the state of particular districts and come up with assessments tailored to specific situations. At the same time, the Board has done well to plan for different scenarios that could be imposed by the pandemic, where either of the term examinations or both cannot be held, or the second term has to be converted into the MCQ type. The fallback option in the worst-case scenario is a combination of internal assessments, practical and project work and theory examinations taken at home. The extreme uncertainty underscores the need to take online lessons to all classes of students, and factor in schools with special needs.

# The surge

The Taliban should not be allowed to take control of Afghanistan through bloodshed

The rapid territorial gains made by the Taliban over the last two months should worry both the Afghan government and the regional powers who are invested in the country's long-term stability. The Taliban started their latest offensive on May 1, the day the remaining U.S. troops started withdrawing as part of President Joe Biden's plan. With 90% of U.S. withdrawal complete, the Taliban have taken control of 195 of Afghanistan's 407 districts, and are contesting 129 others. Most of their recent victories are in the northern provinces of Badakhshan and Takhar, which had resisted Taliban rule in the 1990s. In several northern districts, Afghan troops have either surrendered or retreated. If the north, home to Afghanistan's elite power brokers and leaders, is lost, the risk of a total collapse of the government in Kabul would increase. The government still controls most of the provincial capitals and cities but are practically surrounded by the Taliban. Given the pace of the Taliban's advancement in the countryside, it is possible they could launch an offensive to take the population centres once the foreign troops are out.

The Taliban's strategy is still not clear. Their political office in Doha, which started peace talks with Afghan government representatives in September 2020, continues to say they are committed to the dialogue. But on the battlefield in Afghanistan, they continue a relentless campaign aimed at capturing more territories. Part of the problem was the total abdication of leadership and responsibility by the U.S., which invaded Afghanistan 20 years ago. When direct talks between the U.S. and the Taliban began, the U.S.'s focus was not on finding a peaceful settlement to the crisis that it partly created, but on exiting the war. Therefore, instead of putting pressure on the Taliban to extract concessions, the U.S. struck a deal with them, completely ignoring the concerns of Kabul. Now, the Taliban are much more powerful on the ground and even if the peace process is revived after American pullout, they would negotiate from a position of strength. But that should not stop Kabul and regional powers China, Russia, Iran, Pakistan and India from seeking a political settlement. A violent takeover of the country by the Taliban, like in 1996, would not serve anybody's interests. The Taliban would also not find international legitimacy if they capture Kabul through bloodshed. Afghan's past experiences suggest that one-party regimes - the communist regime, Mujahideen or the Taliban – failed to stabilise the country or sustain themselves in the long term. Now that the invading troops are exiting Afghanistan, the warring parties' focus should shift towards settlement and building lasting structures of power. Else, Afghanistan would fall into another cycle of violence.

# Darkness at noon, felled by the judiciary

Posterity will blame the judiciary for the incarceration and unfortunate death of Father Stan Swamy



AJIT PRAKASH SHAH

t has been 81 years since Arthur Koestler's Darkness at Noon was **▲** first published. The novel is set in the backdrop of the Great Purge of the late 1930s in the Soviet Union under Stalin. This period was marked by, among other things, political repression, police surveillance, general suspicion of the opposition, imprisonment, and executions. Decades on, thousands of miles away, darkness fell at noon in India too, when Father Stan Swamy passed away at a private hospital in Mumbai on July 5. Ominously reminiscent of the macabre world Koestler had drawn, Fr. Swamy's death is much more than the death of an activist accused of terrorist activities. It is the result of a systemic abuse of majoritarian authority and disregard for the rule of law.

#### His life in a nutshell

For many, Fr. Swamy will be remembered as an inspiration. A Jesuit priest, he chose to make the upliftment of marginalised communities in Jharkhand his life's work. He lived and worked in a single room, prolifically writing (over 70 books are credited to him) on dispossessed people. He was an activist for most of his life, and used the legal system to fight for the rights of those who were being unfairly targeted, and thought that the Constitution would help in securing justice, even moving the Jharkhand High Court in a public interest litigation on undertrials. When doing all of this, surely, he would never have imagined that his fate would be decided by the very system he used and believed

It started in August 2018, when the Pune police raided Fr. Swamy's single-room home, seized his computer, cell phone, books and some classical music cassettes. Another raid took place in June 2019. Finally, on October 8, 2020,

tional Investigation Agency (NIA), under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), the 16th to join a roster of professors, activists, writers, and public intellectuals, as a suspect in the Bhima-Koregaon case. Fr. Swamy, aged over 80, remained an accused, in the custody of the state, till his death. Besides being arrested for what many believe to be improbable causes, and being possibly the oldest person ever accused of terrorism in India, the most tragic story is how his detention was handled by the state, by the police and worst of all, by the courts.

Fr. Swamy was arrested on flimsy evidence of some propaganda material and communication with other activists in the field, such as Sudha Bharadwaj and Varavara Rao, who were also arrested for similar charges. The authenticity of some of the allegedly indicting documentation, including a key report, has been questioned by international forensic data experts. But the state defended its arrest arguing that these issues must be gone into only during trial, and that the accused – i.e., Fr. Swamy - should remain in jail until then.

#### Pointer to judicial decline

This is the outcome also of the problematic Watali judgment, which I discuss in subsequent paragraphs. Repeated pleas for medical assistance by Fr. Swamy were consistently ignored or dismissed. Medical reports taken on record clearly showed that Fr. Swamy had the degenerative Parkinson's disease, and could not even do basic tasks. such as holding a spoon, writing, walking or bathing. Indeed, the court noted that he had a severe hearing problem, and was physically very weak. But even that did not move them. Every regular bail application that was filed by his lawyers was unequivocally rejected. When he applied for medical bail, the court kept adjourning the matter, and merely offered him the services of a private hospital. In my opinion, this demonstrates a lack of sensitivity on the part of the judges, which is deeply saddening.

The series of events that led to

passing is testimony to the judicial decline that we have seen in recent years, which coincidentally or not, appears to be coterminous with the current political regime in

Why is the political establishment, and the police, so emboldened to pursue cases under UA-PA against individuals like Fr. Swamy? A key reason, undoubtedly, is the weak judiciary we have today. Indeed, our judiciary today suffers from a great many flaws besides mere weakness. In Fr. Swamy's case, the judges displayed apathy of a shocking order. It is perplexing when, on the one hand, the Chief Justice of India grandiloquently states that personal liberties and fundamental rights must be protected, and courts do precisely the opposite.

#### A weakened central principle It would not be too bold to suggest that the idea of the "presumption of innocence" – a central principle of criminal law and procedure – is on a terribly weak footing these

days in our country, and this

should worry all of us greatly. The source of this worry is the Supreme Court of India itself. Its April 2019 decision in National Investigation Agency vs Zahoor Ahmad Shah Watali on the interpretation of the UAPA has affected all downstream decisions involving the statute. This decision has created a new doctrine, which is that effectively, an accused must remain in custody throughout the period of the trial, even if it is eventually proven that the evidence against the person was inadmissible, and the accused is finally acquitted. The illogic of this veers on the absurd: Why must an ac-

eventually acquitted?

According to the decision, in considering bail applications under the UAPA, courts must presume every allegation made in the First Information Report to be correct. Further, bail can now be obtained only if the accused produces material to contradict the prosecution. In other words, the burden rests on the accused to disprove the allegations, which is virtually impossible in most cases. The decision has essentially excluded the admissibility of evidence at the stage of bail. By doing so, it has effectively excluded the Evidence Act itself, which arguably makes the decision unconstitutional. Bail hearings under the UA-PA are now nothing more than mere farce. With such high barriers of proof, it is now impossible for an accused to obtain bail, and is in fact a convenient tool to put a person behind bars indefinitely. It is nothing short of a nightmare come true for arrestees.

This is being abused by the government, police and prosecution liberally: now, all dissenters are routinely implicated under (wild and improbable) charges of sedition or criminal conspiracy and under the UAPA. Due to the Supreme Court judgment, High Courts have their hands tied, and must perforce refuse bail, as disproving the case is virtually impossible. As a result of this decision, for instance, a High Court judge can no longer really adjudicate and assess the evidence in a case. All cases must now follow this straitjacketed formula of refusing bail. The effect is nearly identical to the draconian preventive detention laws that existed during the Emergency, where courts deprived people access to judicial remedy. If we want to prevent the disasters of that era, this decision must be urgently reversed or diluted, otherwise we run the risk of personal liberties being compromised very easily.

The most flagrant abuse of the UAPA, and constant rejection of bail applications of those accused as a means of silencing opposing voices, can be seen in the Bhima Koregaon cases, including Fr. Swa-

taining to protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), where mere thought is elevated to a crime. In multiple instances, evidence is untenable, sometimes even arguably planted, and generally weak overall. But as a consequence of UAPA being applied, the accused cannot even get bail. Courts cannot go into the merits of the case due to the Supreme Court

#### An issue for the judiciary

When courts do go into such matters, as in the instance of the Delhi High Court granting bail to three young activists accused in a conspiracy relating to the 2020 riots in Delhi, the Supreme Court uncharacteristically decides to weigh in. The Supreme Court reportedly expressed "surprise" and dissatisfaction at the High Court's decision, giving the direction that the decision will "not to be treated as precedent by any court" to give similar reliefs. Specifically, the Supreme Court reportedly said that "in a bail application, a 100page judgment discussing all laws is surprising us", perhaps forgetting that the case that started it all, i.e., the Watali judgment of the Supreme Court, was itself a judgment in a bail matter! This seems to imply that only the Supreme Court can hold forth on matters of statutory interpretation, and that High Courts – which are constitutional courts in their own right may not? By extension, if statutes ought not to be examined at all by High Courts, does this mean that individual arrestees must languish in jail till, say, the constitutional validity of the statutes under which they are arrested are decided? Surely, this would be completely irrational.

Posterity will blame the judiciary for the incarceration and unfortunate death of Fr. Swamy, and the continued imprisonment of so many others like him. But voices will continue to rise in protest. As Fr. Swamy himself said, though, "we will still sing in the chorus. A caged bird can still sing."

Ajit Prakash Shah is Former Chief Justice, Delhi High Court and Former

# Agents of change and a new chapter in Israel's politics +

After the Netanyahu years, Israel, a divided society, is now looking forward to some domestic stability



KHINVRAJ JANGID

enjamin Netanyahu is out and Israel has got a government without him after 12 years. The new government has cobbled together a very unexpected coalition of eight political parties led by Naftali Bennett (picture) who is head of the smallest segment of the coalition. With only six seats of his far-right party, Yamina, Mr. Bennett has surprised all by preventing two things – Netanyahu's hold on power and the fifth national election that most Israelis feared coming their way.

It is Yair Lapid, Israel's new Foreign Minister and the Prime Minister-in-waiting, who is the key architect of the coalition. Mr. Bennett acknowledged him in his first speech in the Knesset (https:// bit.ly/3wmqVcG) by saying that Mr. Lapid "showed national responsibility, political generosity, and without whom we would not be here today". Under the coalition deal, Mr. Bennett will be the Prime Minister for the first two years, followed by Mr. Lapid for the remaining two. While there are not many who predict that this coalition will last that long, the ve-

rv strange union is still a welcome change in Israeli politics after the four national elections in less than two years. The eight parties do not but the single agenda to keep Mr. Netanyahu out of power, in the short run, and to uphold the democratic system based on consensus building, in the long run.

#### Diverse team

What makes this coalition unique as much as fragile is the fact they fight each other on the most essential matters of politics. Yet, the fight against Mr. Netanyahu has given the Israeli people the most representative government: the coalition has three right-wing parties, two centrist parties, two left-wing parties and one Arab party. Women leaders have done well too, comprising nine Ministers out of the total of 27 Ministers. It is remarkable from the gender point of view as Israel, like most other nation-states, is male-dominated. There is no religious party in the coalition, but Mr. Bennett is a religious individual unlike Mr. Netanyahu; he is also the first kippa (skull cap) wearing Prime Minister

The political stalemate is over for the time being, and Mr. Netanyahu is not the 'King Bibi' of Israel after all. He has been outdone by the far-right political leaders who were once his loyal aides; they include Mr. Bennett, Mr. La-

pid and Avigdor Lieberman. What makes the new government unprecedented is the fact that the farright, in order to fight its mentor Mr. Netanyahu, walked up to the left parties as well as an Arab-Islamist party of Mansour Abbas.

While Israel is a strong and militarily capable state, it is also deeply divided as a society, with too many fundamental frictions among its Jewish population. Therefore, diverse and different ideological groups in this government can help in enabling political stability and inner-social-cohesion. The role of one Arab party in the government is much needed assurance for the otherwise marginalised and stigmatised Israeli Arabs minority.

The challenge ahead is to satisfy each party's core ideological interests but not at the cost of the other so that the fickle unity can last. It demands compromise, reconciliation and acceptance of the other. Anti-Netanyahu sentiment is pivotal thus far and this will be the glue ing for after a battered past.

#### Change of leadership

Mr. Bennett was born and raised by American immigrant parents who moved to Israel from the United States after the 1967 war. He is a former commando of the army's most prestigious commando unit, Sayeret Matkal, the one that Netanyahu used to boast about himself. Mr. Bennett made his way to active politics in the aftermath of the Lebanon war in 2006. Though religious, he is not ultra-orthodox. He is a self-made millionaire who had a greatly successful high-tech career. In short, he is a poster boy for a Start-Up Nation.

As a free-spirited entrepreneur, he has an astonishing ability to take risks and can be called a politically audacious leader. He was Mr. Netanyahu's loyal man for long and served under him as Defence and Education Ministers, and in those years, he demonstrated his far-right inclinations without any qualms such as advocacy for settlements, annexation of major parts of West Bank, Jewish religion and its major role in Israeli society and politics. However, while he struggled to come out of the shadow of Mr. Netanyahu, he transformed himself as flexible and ne-

gotiable politician which was clear when he delivered his first speech but a constructive and long-lasting and said, "Twice in history, we common minimum programme is have lost our national home precisely because the leader generation were not able to sit with one and another and compromise. Each was right, yet with all their being right, they burnt the house down on top of us. I am proud of the ability to sit together with people with very different views than mine." It is going to be intriguing how he conducts himself with the others in the coalition and revisits some of his core ideological beliefs and assumptions.

#### The world watches

Israeli foreign policy is Prime Minister-driven, so the world awaits to see how the new leader will be outside Israel. He has not given many hints about his foreign policy agenda except that he will work to cement Israel's special relationship with the United States, and that he is also well-prepared to deal with Iran firmly and aggressively like his mentor, Mr. Netanyahu. As far as Hamas is concerned, he is likely to leave that to the Defence Minister as he thinks it is a security issue and not a political question.

Khinvraj Jangid is Associate Professor and Director, Jindal Centre for Israel Studies, Jindal School of International Affairs, O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat,

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

#### **Dilip Kumar**

The kohinoor of Indian cinema, Dilip Kumar, has moved to another world. What an actor! What a powerful pair of eyes! He acted through his eyes, excelled in tragic roles, and was rightly given the title, 'Tragedy King'. Dilip Saab stood out, his subtle emotions conveyed through expressions that conveyed it all. Thank you, Dilip Saab, for everything. BALASUBRAMANIAM PAVANI,

■ Dilip Kumar had an innate flair for tragic and forlorn

roles. His influence on Hindi cinema was so profound that it could be divided as the pre- and post- Dilip Kumar eras. His performances were so complete that there was nothing left unsaid. That he repeatedly produced blockbusters out of pathos, was proof of his immense ability to bring out the different dimensions of tragedy. He was neither one-dimensional nor formulaic. He never overacted and herein lies the core reason for his immense success.

V. LAKSHMANAN, Tirupur, Tamil Nadu ■ He was one of Indian cinema's first superstars, a thespian par excellence, who could deliver sterling performances in varied roles proving beyond the pale of doubt that when it came to

class apart. Dilip Kumar was the last of the golden troika that ruled the roost in Bollywood, the other members being Raj Kapoor and Dev Anand. A magnetic personality with an angelic smile, Dilip Kumar held an entire generation in a thrall for decades.

histrionics he was indeed a

#### **Words that resonate**

"I am not a silent spectator, but part of the game, and ready to pay the price whatever be it," were the words of Father Stan Swamy in an interview before he was arrested by the NIA. They resonate now, loud and clear, in all of us who have long been spectators. We watch until the game is over and then play the blame game. It is a challenge for all of us who are now talking about justice and injustice to take a clear stand on the cause for which Father Stan Swamy

We need to be the voice for

■ Fr. Swamy was the bearer callousness on the part of

the voiceless and fight

DR. JESSIE LIONEL,

against all elements that

suppress the truth and the

rights of every Indian citizen.

of sincere and selfless service towards the emancipation of the less fortunate. It is sheer those concerned to have not paid heed to his welfare. The spate of letters ('Letters to the Editor', July 7) have made things clear. Where is India heading? MANI NATARAAJAN,

To read more letters online, scan the QR code

#### Callous again

The return of massive crowds to hill stations is worrisome. Are people in the throes of amnesia? When the Government has failed miserably in the COVID-19 fight by providing hospitals beds, oxygen, medicines and leaving people to fend for themselves, what makes such citizens to drop their guard? Lastly, why are the authorities not coming down heavily on such large gatherings? DEEPAK SINGHAL, Noida, Uttar Pradesh

C.V. ARAVIND,

Bengaluru

# Challenging negative social norms

India touches a demographic milestone this World Population Day, but roadblocks remain



ARGENTINA MATAVEL PICCIN

In these troubled times of the CO-VID-19 pandemic, the World Population Day on July 11 brings some positive news - India has entered a demographic sweet spot that will continue for another two to three decades. Half of India's population is under 29 years of age, which means that in this period, a greater proportion of young people will drive India's economic growth and social progress. So, they must not only be healthy, knowledgeable and skilled but must also be provided with the rights and choices to develop to their fullest potential, including, and especially, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

The Guttmacher-Lancet Commission (Starrs et al, 2018) in looking at how to improve SRHR in populations formulated a comprehensive definition of SRHR that encompasses a broader range of issues. These include SRHR and issues such as violence, stigma and respect for bodily autonomy, which greatly impact the psychological, emotional and social well-being of individuals.

#### **Developmental goals**

India's population growth is now stabilising. The decline in overall fertility notwithstanding, the population will continue to grow because of the effect of 'population momentum'. It is like a Jumbo Jet that has started to descend but will take some distance to stop. The Total Fertility Rate (TFR), presently at 2.2 children, will soon reach replacement level (2.1). However, the TFR remains higher than the national average of 2.2 children among women who live in rural areas, have little formal education and are in the lowest income quintile – a majority of them live in the poor-

Changing social norms is one of the biggest challenges for India to address the needs of the next generation. For example, India's population stabilisation strategy must be adjusted keeping in mind the rights of wo-



Turning the focus on women and improving access to information and services leads to better health outcomes. • FILE PHOTO

men and girls. Women must have a greater say in choosing their family size. Prescriptive or coercive methods, such as one- or two-child norms, have rarely worked well anywhere for long. It goes without saying that for women and girls, the empowerment to make choices leads to better health outcomes, such as knowing how to prevent unintended pregnancy or giving birth with the help of a skilled birth attendant.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed weaknesses in healthcare systems and has led to serious gaps and challenges in the provision of information and services on sexual and reproductive health (SRH). Even before the pandemic, pervasive negative social norms, health system barriers and gender inequality hindered universal access to SRHR as envisioned under the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Confeon Population Development (ICPD). On World Population Day this year, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) India recognises that even if health systems are understandably strained, the provision of these services cannot wait. Any further delays will curtail the health and well-being of women and girls, the consequences of which can last a lifetime.

In the last two decades, India has

made substantial gains with SRH indicators. Progressive policies for maternal health have resulted in improved rates of institutional delivery and a decline in maternal mortality ratio (MMR) from 327 in 1999-2001 to 113 per 100,000 live births in 2016-18, as per Sample Registration System (SRS) data.

There have also been significant shifts in family planning in the past decade, and data from the National Health Family Survey 5 for the year 2019-20 (NFHS-5) show how contraceptive prevalence has improved in most States. We ought to celebrate India's success, as it significantly contributes to global progress.

The current government, with programmes such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP), has made some efforts to challenge existing social norms and has underlined that investments in social causes must go alongside economic progress. All sections of society must embrace this call for positive change, each doing their part, from the individual to the institution level. The UNFPA is keen to take India's success models and strengthen the South-South Collaboration further.

#### **Poor indicators**

But success is hard-earned and never assured. There are many challenges

on the path to 2030, the goalpost for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Two million adolescent girls (15-19 years) each year had a pregnancy, and of these, nearly 63% were unwanted or unintended (Guttmacher Institute, 2021). This points to inadequate information and access to SRH services for this age group. In girls aged 15-19 years, 22.2% had an unmet need for contraception, according to NFHS-4.

Girls are still marrying too young -26.8% of women aged 20-24 years are married before they turn 18, often having their first child within the first year of marriage. Far too many girls and women face gender-based violence and harmful practices that are socially sanctioned. All of these practices are rooted in social norms, beliefs and practices that deny women their bodily autonomy.

India has slipped 28 places to rank 140th among 156 countries, becoming the third-worst performer in South Asia in The World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Gender Gap Report (2021). Time to achieve the ambitious targets of the SDGs is running out. India must hence choose its priorities carefully. Our analysis seems to suggest that placing youth, women and girls at the centre of policymaking and services could trigger a positive ripple effect. If young people, and adolescent girls in particular, have access to education, relevant skills, information and services to make healthy choices, including related to SRH, are empowered to exercise their rights, and have access to opportunities for employment, then India will be on a clear path to achieve its goals.

What research and practical experience show is that when women can make informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health, and when they have access to services to support their choices, societies are healthier and more productive. A woman who has control over her body gains not only in terms of autonomy but also through advances in health, education, income and safety. She is more likely to thrive, and so is her family. The UNFPA calls upon stakeholders to help build a new set of social norms to drive this mission.

The author is Representative, UNFPA India and Country Director, UNFPA Bhutan

# Haryana's misplaced priorities

The State's poor record on the NITI Aayog's SDG index points to deep flaws and lax governance



DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA

Haryana's performance towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is disappointing. The NITI Aayog's latest report on SDGs has put Haryana among the top three States in terms of unemployment and crime, with a dismal show in the fields of health and education and in industrial and economic growth as well. The results are the outcome of the current dispensation's misplaced priorities. The report ranks Haryana 14th among all States with 67 composite points, just a notch above Tripura. Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, its neighbouring States, have done pretty well.

However, Haryana could have done much better as the Congress government led by former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda had handed over a robust State to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in 2014. As per the NITI Aavog report, at 11.16%, there is no change since 2019 in the number of people living below the poverty line (BPL) in the State. Clearly, the government has failed to lift people from the vicious circle of poverty. Similarly, there is no change in the proportion of the children below five who continue to be underweight (28.80%) and stunted (34.90%). As many as 55% of pregnant women in the age group of 15-49 years continue to be anaemic. Crimes against women were 88.7 per one lakh female population in 2019, which went up to 108.5 in 2020. The State reported 3.90 murders per one lakh population in 2020 as compared to 3.74 in 2019.

Instead of living in an ivory tower, the go vernment must focus on adding resilience to education, which has suffered due to the CO-VID-19 pandemic. Despite the claims around 'Digital Haryana', the State failed to ensure seamless online classes for all students. The current State government had also promised to build a medical college in every district.

Before 2005, there were only eight universities in the State, but the number went up to 43 during the Congress tenure from 2005 to 2014. Many technical education institutes, ITIs and new government colleges were opened during the Congress regime, but in the past seven years, only two universities have been set up.

Bigger challenges such as improving gross enrolment ratio, checking dropouts, addressing poor student-teacher ratio and in-

COVID-19 infection from the Delta variant and

troducing enabling interventions for providing skill training in schools and colleges have taken a backseat. The government has not been able to implement a zero vacancy policy, due to which a large number of teaching posts are vacant. In schools, 31,232 posts of teachers were lying vacant as of last year.

Compromised education has a direct relation to employability. The Periodic Labour Force Survey (2018-19) data pegged Harvana's unemployment rate at 9.2%, which was significantly higher than the all-India figure of 5.8%. In February, data from the Centre For Monitoring Indian Economy revealed a 26.4% unemployment rate, the highest among States; in 2012-13, the Department of Economics and Statistical Analysis had put the unemployment rate in Haryana at just 3%. But instead of providing jobs, the current regime's focus is on ill-thought steps like providing reservation in private jobs.

#### **Worsening numbers**

Similarly, Haryana has failed to enhance the quality of health infrastructure. It was the first State in the country to give free medicines to OPD patients in government hospitals. Free referral transport service for expecting mothers for delivery, patients of BPL families, accident victims and freedom fighters, had attracted the attention of other States. The Congress had laid significant emphasis on the health sector. One State health university and four medical colleges were set up at Karnal, Faridabad, and Nuh in Mewat, including one for women in the rural area of Sonepat district. Also, AIIMS-II and the National Cancer Institute were set up at Badshah village in Jhajjar district.

The State's financial health, which is worsening due to mounting debt, huge funds deployed on various boards and corporations, and interest payments on borrowings, is also disturbing. Infrastructural development has come to a standstill – in the last seven years, not even a single new metro station was added, while during 2005-2014, four towns were linked to metro services through new lines. The fiscal situation is equally concerning. As per the Budget Estimate for 2021-22, the debt liability of the State is likely to go up to ₹2.30 lakh crore as of March 2022. It was ₹70,369 crore in 2013-14.

Haryana is suffering on all counts due to the misplaced priorities of the current government. The State used to be one of the top performers in areas like per capita income, investment and agricultural productivity, but it has now slipped to the 14th position on the SDG index. The indicators suggest that governance has gone for a toss.

The author is a Rajya Sabha MP from the Congress

# A long road for migrant workers

The guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court are welcome, but they require robust systems

AAGAM JAIN

The Supreme Court on June 29 pronounced its judgment in the migrant labourers case. The case was initiated last year after the national lockdown was announced on March 24. Thousands of landless labourers had started walking towards their home States due to the loss of employment and income. The Supreme Court took cognisance of the matter on May 26 that year and acknowledged the plight of the workers in light of the strict lockdown.

The court has laid down numerous guidelines to provide relief to workers and efficiently tackle the problem till the threat of COVID-19 subsides. Two of the most important components to protect the migrants during this time were the food and travel arrangements insisted on by the court. In the orders pronounced in May this

year, it laid down that dry ration be provided to migrants who want to return to their homes. Further, the court said that identity proof should not be insisted upon by the governments since the labourers might not be able to furnish it. Secondly, the court called upon the State governments to arrange

transportation for workers who need to return to their homes. These guidelines by the court are crucial to ensure the safety of workers.

The Supreme Court fixed July 31 as the deadline for the States to implement the 'One nation One Ration Card' scheme. Under this scheme, the States are to complete the registration of migrant workers in order to provide dry ration to them. But it is unlikely that a standardised system can be developed within the deadline prescribed by the court.

Apart from dry ration, the top court also directed the State governments to run community kitchens for migrant workers. However, there arise administrative problems in implementing these measures. First, migrant workers keep moving in search of employment and it is difficult to cover them all under the scheme. Second, many States do not have the necessary infrastructure to run and maintain community kitchens on such a large scale.

#### **Important directives**

Under the National Food Security Act, migrant workers are issued ration cards and they are entitled to dry ration under various government programmes, such as the Atmanirbhar Bharat scheme, during the pandemic. In the order passed on June 29, the court affirmed the Right to Food under Article 21 of the Constitution. In furtherance of this, the court asked the States to formulate their own schemes and issue food grains to migrants. This is an indispensable step to keep more than a fourth of the population of the country safe and healthy during the pandemic.

However, there are no normative data that would allow the States to identify eligible migrants. The court took cognisance of the issue and directed the Ministry of Labour and Employment to ensure that the National Database for Unorganised Work-

ers is updated by July 31. Finally, the top court recognised the need for direct cash benefit

transfer to workers in the unorganised sector. But it did not issue any guidelines for the same as the workers need to be covered by the States

The Supreme Court has given a purposive declaration in the case but the bulk of the judgment seems declaratory rather than mandatory. In order to efficaciously implement the orders of the court, the State governments need to work with the Centre closely. With the third wave of CO-VID-19 infections looming, it is imperative to ensure that government machinery works to its full potential and robust systems are developed to withstand the challenges.

Aagam Jain is a II-year student at National Law School of India University, Bengaluru

#### **DATA POINT**

end of every two-week

60%

40%

20%

**Delta** on the rise he spike is not uniform across all countries, with many nations showing a significant decline, too, in cases in the considered period. However, a common feature observed across most countries that are exhibiting a spike is a parallel increase in the share of the B.1.617 variant of COVID-19, or the Delta variant, which was first identified in India last year. The effectiveness of most widely used vaccines does reduce against this variant. However, studies show that the vaccines are highly effective in reducing related hospitalisations. By **The Hindu Data Team GROWING THREAT** The graph shows the rolling 7-day average of daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases worldwide. that are the Since June 23, the global case curve Average cases has been going up again. From over 3.59 lakh cases on June 22, the new infections increased to over 4 lakh cases Mar 1, '20 Aug. 8 Nov. 16 Feb. 24, '21 Jul. 6 as of July 6 **MAPPING THE** LATEST SPIKE The map depicts 149% the biweekly growth rate in new confirmed COVID-19 cases as on June 28, 2021. 120% The rate measures Bangladesh the % change in 129% the new confirmed cases over the last 183% 14 days relative to 77% the number in the previous 14 days <- 100% 0% 75% >200% **DELTA'S SHARE** The chart shows the share VACCINE EFFECTIVENESS | The table lists of COVID sequences that the effectiveness of select vaccines against 100% are the Delta variant at the

related hospitalisation in various studies across period. It is important to Indonesi countries. While the effectiveness note that only a fraction reduced considerably at the infection level, of all cases are sequenced. hospitalisations due to the Delta variant reduced - Portugal It can be seen that most considerably after the shots countries that recorded a S. Africa Country of study Vaccine significant increase in the Australia case levels (darker shade in map) also saw in parallel a surge in Delta cases Britain Pfizer-88 BioNTech 64 Israel Israel Pfizer-BioNTech Infection Scotland 79 BioNTech Thailand Scotland AstraZeneca 60 Canada Pfizer-87 BioNTech England Pfizer 96 Hospital-England AstraZeneca 92 Apr 25 May 15 Jun 28 93 Source: OURWORLDINDATA, Outbreak,info

# The Man Prindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 8, 1971

Kissinger, Indira hold discussions

FROM THE ARCHIVES

[NEW DELHI, JULY 7] A major outcome of discussions, which Dr. Henry Kissinger, President Nixon's Adviser on National Security Affairs, had to-day with the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, was stated to be a clear recognition by the visiting diplomat that a "political solution" was necessary to solve the Bangla Desh problem and to ensure the return of refugees to East Pakistan.

Dr. Kissinger did not spell out the ideas of the U.S. administration but he gave enough indication during the talks with the Prime Minister that the plan of President Yahya Khan for breaking the present constitutional and political deadlock in East Pakistan would not serve the purpose.

The Prime Minister had 15-minute discussions with Dr. Kissinger before the advisers on both sides joined the talks.

Earlier, Dr. Kissinger had held talks with Mr. Swaran Singh, External Affairs Minister, on the Bangla Desh situation for nearly two hours ... After analysing the Bangla Desh problem in depth, the Prime Minister was stated to have emphasised that there was no question of the refugees being turned back to their country to be butchered by the Pakistan Army which had received reinforcements from the U.S.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 8, 1921

Indian women's right to property

Mrs. Kamala Bai writes:-

Under the auspices of several ladies' associations, an influential gathering of Indian ladies was held at Baroda to support Mr. T.V. Seshagiri Iyer's Bill for the right of property to Indian women, which is to be brought up at the next session of the Assembly. Shrimati Sarada Gowri Mehtu presided. Shrimati Deepakba, Venu Da Ben, Sreemati Suraj Ben and Mrs. Kashi Bai Herelekar were the principal speakers. About three hundred Gujarathi and Marathi-speaking ladies were present. As a result a resolution was passed unanimously supporting Mr. T.V. Seshagiri Iyer's Bill and the association placed on its record its thanks to him for his efforts for the emancipation of women. It is requested that ladies in all parts of the Presidency and elsewhere should convene meetings to support Mr. Seshagiri Iyer's Bill and give due information to Mr. Seshagiri Iyer, as well as the Government and the Press, so that they may know that he has the support of all women in India behind him.

#### FROM PAGE ONE

# Cabinet reshuffle attempts inclusion

"The spread of the Council of Ministers has been to reflect not just marginalised sections of society but also marginalised regions like the northeast with a Minister each from Tripura [Pratima Bhowmick] and Manipur [Rajkumar Ranjan

Singhl, a Cabinet Minister [Virendra Kumar] from Tikamgarh in Madhya Pradesh, et al," said a government source. Women emerged as a significant vote bank for the BJP in the general elections and in the Bihar Assembly poll, and therefore form a sizeable presence in the govern-

This sense of inclusion is tinged with the need to beef up the governance deficit that emerged especially during the second wave of the pandemic. Former Chief Ministers Mr. Sonowal and Narayan Rane, have been made Cabinet Ministers and those with experience in State governments like Purushottam Rupala and longterm MPs like Virender Singh, a six-term MP, have been included. Former bureaucrat and Odisha MP Ashwini Vaishnaw was included as a Cabinet Minister and gets the Railway portfo-

The current government has 13 lawyers, six doctors, five engineers, seven civil servants, seven Ph.D.s and three MBAs along with 68 Ministers with graduate degrees.

Like all reshuffles, this one too made a significant nod to the States going to polls next year, with Uttar Pradesh getting seven ministerial berths, taking its tally in the Council of Ministers to 14. Uttarakhand saw the inclusion of Ajay Bhatt; for Punjab, the elevation of Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri was a nod to Sikh sentiments; and Manipur got Rajkumar Ranjan Singh in a Minister of State berth.

Gujarat, which goes to polls a little later in 2022, got two Cabinet berths with Mr. Mansukh Mandaviya and Mr. Purushottam Rupala's elevation, and a Minister of State berth for Darshana Iardosh, MP from Surat.

With the inclusion of four Ministers - Nishith Pramanik, John Barla, Subhash Sarkar and Shantanu Thakur, Mr. Modi established that West Bengal would continue to be important as a political project for the BJP.

The inclusion of Maratha strongman Mr. Rane proved the same for Maharashtra, with the portends of a peaceful relationship between the Centre and the Maha Vikas Aghadi-led Maharashtra government not very sunny. The reshuffle was the result of a massive stock taking exercise undertaken by the Prime Minister for ov-

## P.R. Kumaramangalam's wife murdered at home

Ms. Mithila told the police that Raju came to the house as usual around 8.30 p.m. to pick up the laundry. She said as soon as she turned after opening the door, he overpowered her and

dragged her into a room. Meanwhile, two others, later identified as Raju's friends Rakesh and Suraj, entered the house. They allegedly smothered Ms. Kitty with a pillow. "The articles and cash that are missing are yet to be ascertained. At least three bags are missing and a few briefcases were open at the spot," the officer

After the accused left, Ms. Mithila managed to free herself and call her brother-inlaw. Sources said she would also be examined.

Mr. Singh said a team went to Raju's residence in Bhanwar Singh Camp, from where he was arrested. He reportedly told the police that he was familiar with the house because he was a regular there and he told this to Rakesh and Suraj.

He said he had known Rakesh for a year and Suraj for eight years. "A bag was recovered on Raju's instance, but it had nothing but clothes. It appears that the other two planned to fool him," Mr. Singh said. On Wednesday afternoon, Rakesh was also arrested. Ms. Kitty is survived by

her son Rangarajan Mohan Kumaramangalam, Tamil Nadu Congress Committee working president, and daughter Kuchira. Mr. Kangarajan Mohan Kumaramangalam noted with pain that his mother died on his birthday. "The most independent and powerful woman I knew, the one who taught me right from wrong, who raised me to be who I am, who suffered through my pain, laughed loudest for my joy, loved me unconditionally, left this realm on the date she gave birth to me," he tweeted.

## Judge recuses from Mamata's election case

In a strongly worded order. Justice Chanda said the petitioner had approached the Hon'ble Chief Justice (Acting) on the administrative side on June 16, 2021 by way of writing the letter for reassignment of the case. "The election petition was first taken up for hearing on June 18, 2021, before this Bench, and quite surprisingly, nothing regarding recusal was revealed. No clue was given to me as to the fact that the petitioner had already approached the Hon'ble Acting Chief Justice for reassignment of the peti-

tion," the Judge said. In the 13-page order, Justice Chanda referred to tweets by leaders of the State's ruling party, and as well as statements in public, and said that a "deliberate and conscious attempt was made to influence my decision before the recusal application was placed before me for judicial consideration on June 24, 2021".

While recusing himself from hearing the case, Justice Chanda said he had "no personal inclination to hear out the case of the petitioner. I had no hesitation in tak-



ing up the case, either". "I have, however, decided to recuse myself from this case for a different reason."

The Judge also stated, "Since the two persons involved in this case belong to the highest echelon of the State politics, in the name of saving the judiciary, some opportunists have already emerged. These troublemongers will try to keep the controversy alive and create newer controversies. It would be contrary to the interest of justice if such unwarranted squabble continues along with the trial of the case, and such attempts should be thwarted at the threshold."

# 4 States alerted on virus surge

Step up testing, Centre directs Odisha, Assam, Tripura & Sikkim

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Union Health Ministry has sent letters to Odisha, Assam, Tripura and Sikkim, pointing to a rise in CO-VID-19 cases despite a decline in the national curve. It directed them to take steps such as improving containment measures and ramping up testing, vaccination and emphasising pandemic-appropriate behaviour. The letter, signed by

Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan, to the State Chief Secretaries is common in format except for the details on the caseloads. In Odisha, five districts (Baleshwar, Cuttack, Jagatsinghapur, Kendrapara and Khorda) had shown an increase in cases over the previous week. The Odisha case fatality ratio was less than 0.46%, but there was an increase in deaths over the past two weeks. Three districts had reported a test positivity greater than 10%.



Worrying trend: People crowding a market in Bhubaneswar. In Odisha, five districts saw a rise in cases. • BISWARANJAN ROUT

In Tripura, there was a 11% increase in the number of weekly new cases, with 2,814 cases reported during June 28-July 4. All eight districts reported more than 100 new cases over the previous week. Four out of eight districts had reported a test positivity rate above 10%.

25% jump in Sikkim

Sikkim had a weekly positivity rate of 18.7% and was consistently over 15% during the last four weeks. There was a 25% increase in the weekly new cases over the previous week. In Assam, four out of

33 districts were showing an increase in the weekly new cases and 29 out of 33 districts had reported over 100 new cases. Two out of 33 districts had shown a positivity rate of over 10%. On Tuesday, Balram Bhar-

gava, Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), said at a press conference that 73 districts were clocking over 10% positivity and that this was a cause of worry. "We have to be careful, responsible and cautious – the second wave is still on in some parts of this large country," he said.

#### Impose curbs if needed, says Centre

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla on Wednesday chaired a meeting to review the CO-VID-19 situation in all the northeast States and Union Territories.

The status and trends on active cases, case fatality rate, case positivity rate (CPR) and vaccination status were discussed. "It was noted that of the 73 districts in the country with CPR above 10%, 46 districts are in northeast States, where strict containment measures need to be taken," said a government release.

The northeast States and Union Territories were advised to strictly monitor the situation at district/city level. They could consider imposing restrictions in a calibrated manner in districts with high case positivity and higher bed occupancy.

ages had most certainly been

manipulated "by a single in-

The NCBS hasn't named

the individual responsible,

but Mr. Mayor told The Hin-

du that the person was no

The journal formally re-

tracted the paper on June 30

but it was only on Wednes-

day, the NCBS issued a press

statement on the retraction.

author, I must bear responsi-

"As the corresponding

and am deeply

longer with the institute.

dividual".

"The delay is not from the U.S. side," an American Embassy spokesperson said to queries about the fact that the shipments are yet to be announced. "India has determined that it needs further time to review legal provisions related to accepting vaccine donations. Once India works through its legal process, our donation will proceed expeditiously."

comment on the issue, directing queries to the Ministry of Health. Health Secretary Bharat Bhushan told The Hindu that the "specific provisions of indemnification are still under discussion", indicating that not only are the U.S. vaccine donations on hold for the moment, but casting a cloud over the delivery of Moderna vaccines, which have already received Emergency Use Authorisation (EUA) in India, of which the first con-

# Indemnity issues hold up U.S. vaccine donation

Clause is still under discussion: official

SUHASINI HAIDAR NEW DELHI

More than a month after the U.S. announced the donation of 80 million doses of American-made COVID-19 vaccines to dozens of countries including India, and Vice-President Kamala Harris called Prime Minister Narendra Modi to convey the decision, the vaccines are being held up by regulatory issues over indemnity, Indian and U.S. officials con

According to the officials, the demand by the U.S. companies, including Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson and Johnson, to be granted an indemnity or waiver of liability has yet to be resolved, which is also holding up the donations from the U.S. Since June 3, the U.S. has already distributed 40 million doses to about 12 countries, including Pakistan and Bangladesh.

#### **Legal provisions**

The MEA declined to



The U.S. has distributed 40 million doses to 12 nations.

signment was due to arrive this week.

During his visit to the U.S. in May, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar had met pharma company executives and U.S. business chambers who had conveyed concerns about India's request for them to provide vaccines without receiving indemnity in case of side effects. The indemnity would be used as a legal defence to protect the U.S. firms, which have pointed out that they cannot take responsibility for cold-chain lapses and transportation problems within India.

"Yes, liability issues remain unresolved," confirmed one official involved in the negotiations, adding that the 'dilemma' on the Indian side is that if the U.S. companies are given indemnities, all vaccine makers, including Serum Institute, Bharat Biotech and Sputnik, would also demand them.

Last month, the U.S. announced the distribution of 80 million doses as part of its "COVID-19 Global Response and Recovery Framework". Indian officials had estimated that India's share would total not more than a mere 2 million doses, less than half of its daily disbursal of vaccines, but said the donation was important as it made more types of vaccines available to Indians.

Shajan Perappadan)

NIA appeals against

Akhil Gogoi's release

The National Investigation

challenging the July 1 order

of the NIA special court that

cleared activist-MLA Akhil

Gogoi of all charges under

(Prevention) Amendment

Act. He was in jail for over a

'Summons to PDP chief's

mother a coercive tactic'

amalgam of five J&K parties,

on Wednesday condemned

The People's Alliance for

Gupkar Declaration, an

year from December 2019.

the Unlawful Activities

the Gauhati High Court

Agency (NIA) has approached

#### NCBS lab retracts paper after data fraud JACOB KOSHY press release on October 6, opened the possibility of de-He set up a departmental inquiry that found that the im-

NEW DELHI

A research paper by scientists at the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), among India's top research institutes and part of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, announcing a breakthrough in the field of chemical biology, and published in the prestigious Nature Chemical Biology (NCB), has been retracted as its key findings were manipulated.

On October 5, 2020, the paper "Discovery of ironsensing bacterial riboswitches" was published online in the NCB. The publication was announced in an NCBS

2020. Its listed authors were Siladitya Bandyopadhyay, Susmitnarayan Chaudhury, Dolly Mehta and Arati Ramesh, the last of whom was the group leader and is faculty at the NCBS. The finding was signifi-

cant as it announced the discovery of a new class of RNA (ribonucleic acid) molecules that could detect iron. Thus far, it was thought, iron could be detected only by specialised protein. RNA molecules, it has emerged, could detect nickel, cobalt, manganese but being able to detect iron, a key element that is vital for governing many biochemical processes,

signing RNA-based sensors. Though it had ostensibly

passed the process of peer review, within weeks of the discovery being made public, independent commentators said images included with the article, that provided critical proof of the discovery, appeared manipulated. In response, Ms. Ramesh uploaded original images and denied manipulation. Other commentators pointed out several more discrepancies in the original files.

**Inquiry held** 

Ms. Ramesh meanwhile informed NCBS Director Satyajit Mayor of these comments.

shocked and saddened that such scientific misconduct could happen under my watch," Ms. Ramesh said.

# PTI challenges new IT

'They allow govt. to dictate content'

news media. A bench of Chief Justice

A Bench of Justices S.

late 'publishers of news and

Press Trust of India (PTI). has approached the Delhi High Court, challenging the 2021 Information Technology (IT) Rules. It said the Central government was attempting to regulate digital

D.N. Patel and Justice J.R. Midha issued notice to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting on the petition. The court tagged the plea to be heard along with similar petitions filed by several online news outlets against the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 on August 20.

PTI has challenged the constitutional validity of the rules as it purports to regu-

current affairs content', particularly digital news portals, by imposing "sweeping" government oversight and a vaguely worded 'Code of Ethics'.

The petitioner argued that the new IT Rules would mental Rights as enshrined under Part III of the Constitution of India.'

the Enforcement Directorate (ED) move to summon PDP president Mehbooba Mufti's mother in an alleged money

SRINAGAR

laundering case. "There are not enough words to condemn such coercive acts," Gupkar alliance spokesman M.Y. Tarigami said.

#### HC slams Juhi Chawla for not depositing penalty NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday expressed shock over the conduct of Bollywood actor Juhi Chawla and two others of "not willing to gracefully deposit" a penalty of ₹20 lakh imposed on them for filing a 'frivolous' plea against the roll-out of 5G technology in India. Justice J.R. Midha granted them a week to deposit the penalty.

#### Court rejects appeal by Sushant's father

The Delhi High Court on

## Arrested Hizb leader dies in gunfight

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT SRINAGAR

A Hizbul Mujahideen commander, active since 2012, was killed in a gunfight, a day after he was arrested at a checkpoint in Handwara, Kashmir, on Wednesday.

On the disclosure of the militant, identified as Mehraj-ud-din Halwai, a search operation was launched at Pazipora Renan in Handwara. "On reaching the hideout where he had kept his arms, he took his hidden AK-47 rifle and started firing. He was killed in the ensuing gunfight," IGP Vijay Kumar said.



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

An online database on spyware Pegasus' use was recently launched by Forensic Architecture, Amnesty International and Citizen Lab to document attacks against human rights defenders.

In a statement on July 3, Amnesty said the interactive platform – Digital Violence: How the NSO Group Enables State Terror - showed the connections between 'digital violence' of Pegasus spyware and the real-world harms faced by lawyers, activists,



New platform maps Pegasus spread

an attacker can access all details on a person's phone.

and other civil society Amnesty said the NSO

Group, which makes the spyware, was a "major player in the shadowy surveillance company" and Pegasus had been used in some of the "most insidious digital attacks" on human rights activists in the world. The spyware enabled an

attacker to get complete access to a person's phone, it stated.

"The investigation reveals the extent to which the digital domain we inhabit has become the new frontier of human rights violations, a site of state surveillance and intimidation that enables physical violations in real space," said Shourideh C. Molavi, Forensic Architecture's researcher in charge.

**Bhima Koregaon case** 

The platform, available at digitalviolence.org, lists out "targets" of the spyware in India that include activists

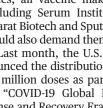
tizen Lab revealed that the spyware was used on nine

tumbde.

Bela Bhatia and Anand Tel-

In 2020, Amnesty and Cihuman rights defenders who were accused in the Bhima Koregaon case.

"The spyware campaign... targeted lawyers and activists Nihalsing B. Rathod, Degree Prasad Chouhan, Yug Mohit Choudhary and Ragini Ahuja; academics Partho Sarothi Ray and P.K. Vijayan; a journalist who prefers to stay anonymous; and a human rights collective - Jagdalpur Legal Aid Group (JA-GLAG), received malicious emails on the group's official ID," a blog post by Amnesty on June 15, 2020, said.



(With inputs from Bindu



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with Iranian President-elect Ebrahim Raisi in Tehran. • TWITTER

# Jaishankar calls on Iranian President-elect

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI In a rare diplomatic gesture, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar travelled to Tehran on Thursday, and called on Iranian President-elect Ebrahim Raisi, a month be-

fore he assumes office. Mr. Jaishankar, who made a transit halt in Tehran on his way to Moscow for bilateral consultations, handed over a personal message to Mr. Raisi from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and also met with Iranian Foreign Mi-

nister Javad Zarif. "Appreciate [Mr. Raisi's] warm sentiments for India.

Deeply value his strong commitment to strengthen our bilateral ties and expand cooperation on regional and global issues," Mr. Jaishankar tweeted after his meeting, which was the first such call on Mr. Raisi by a foreign dignitary since he won the presidential poll on

June 19, Indian officials said. "I am sure this visit will be the basic basis for Iran-India relations during the Presidency of Ayatollah Raisi," said Rasoul Mousavi, a senior diplomat in the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, describing Mr. Jaishankar's meetings.

#### Give details on information panel, says SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the Central government to place on record the latest information on the appointment of Information Commissioners, vacancies and pendency of cases in the Central Information Commission (CIC), the apex adjudicatory body for disputes under the Right to Information Act.

Abdul Nazeer and Krishna Murari directed the government amidst submissions by advocate Prashant Bhushan, for activist Anjali Bhardwaj that "party acolytes" and bureaucrats had been appointed to the CIC in an opaque manner despite a direction from the court in 2019 that the appointment process should be transparent. "Pendency of the cases in the CIC has grown to 36,000. The RTI Act is being destroyed," Mr. Bhushan said.

# rules in Delhi court

India's largest news agency,

**Ethics code questioned** 

# 'Era of fear'

"usher in an era of surveillance and fear, thereby resulting in self-censorship, which results in abridgement/ violation of Funda-

The rules was notified on February 25, 2021.

PTI said the rules enabled the government to "virtually dictate content to digital news portals, and squarely violate media freedom".

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

NEW DELHI

Wednesday refused to stop further circulation of a film purportedly based on the life of late actor Sushant Singh Rajput that was released on a website on June 20. A Bench rejected Mr. Rajput's father's plea against releasing the film Nyay: The Justice on OTT platforms. The HC will hear the case on July 14.



#### 'Health Minister Harsh Vardhan made a victim

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Baneriee on Wednesday said the BJP was not serious about governance and had made a victim of Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, "Do you really think they are serious about governance? All meetings on COVID-19 were chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Now they are making the Health Minister a victim. Had they been serious, the second wave of COVID-19 would not have happened,"

#### Average age of Council of Ministers now 58 years

The average age of the new Council of Ministers has reduced to 58 from 61 previously, following the reshuffle. Nisith Pramanik, 35, Lok Sabha MP from Cooch Behar, West Bengal, is the youngest Minister to be sworn in, while the oldest member in the Council is 72-year-old Som Parkash. There are 77 members in the Council of Ministers now. PTI

#### 'Assam is grateful to PM for inducting Sonowal'

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for inducting Sarbananda Sonowal into the Union Cabinet. He extended his wishes to Mr. Sonowal. "My sincere gratitude to you Aadarniya PM Sri @narendramodi for giving Assam the great honor by inducting Sri @sarbanandsonwal as a Cabinet Minister in Union Cabinet. Assam is elated today as in past 25 years no

#### **Reddy thanks PM for** post as Union Minister

one ever occupied a Cabinet

post since 1996," he said. PTI

HYDERABAD Thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi for elevating him as Union Minister, G. Kishan Reddy on Wednesday said he would make it an endeavour to live up to Mr. Modi's expectations. The Secunderabad MP, who was sworn in as a Cabinet Minister, had previously held key positions in the BJP. "I express my deep sense of gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for the trust reposed in me", he said in an official communication. He also thanked Home Minister Amit Shah for his guidance. PTI

# BJP drawing up its playbook for 2024 battle

Of the 77 Ministers, 48 are from non-upper caste backgrounds; first test of the new equations will be in U.P. in 2022

NISTULA HEBBAR NEW DELH

The massive reshuffle in the Union Council of Ministers on Wednesday has the seeds of the political battle lines to be drawn for the Lok Sabha election in 2024.

The Narendra Modi government now has 27 Ministers belonging to the Other Backward Classes (OBC), 12 to the Scheduled Castes, eight to the Scheduled Tribes and five to minority religious communities, and 11 women, who represent some of the more marginalised regional areas of the country as well.

#### **NEWS ANALYSIS**

Of the 77 members of the Ministry, 48 are from non-upper caste backgrounds. This reshuffle represents the direction in which the Modi government will move the BJP in its social appeal as well, to try and break the public perception of its upper caste moorings. Political scientist Badri Narayan, author of a well-regarded biography of Bahujan Samaj Party founder Kanshi Ram, terms it, "The



New chapter: At the swearing-in ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi on Wednesday. • PTI

widening of the social pyramid via governance by bringing as many communities as possible into the orbit of democratic power."

The first test for it will be the Uttar Pradesh Assembly election in 2022. Currently, the government has 14 Ministers from the State and Wednesday's seven inclusions have three OBC Ministers. three Scheduled Castes and

only one Brahmin.

The Cabinet expansion also points to the large number of inclusions from the east and the northeast, with Ministers from Assam, Manipur and Tripura and four Ministers from West Bengal, sworn in on Wednesday, indicating that the region remains a major political project for the BJP in the coming years.

An interesting point in the

reshuffle are the inclusions from Maharashtra. The four additions from the State, including of powerful Maratha leader and former Chief Minister Narayan Rane, points to the fact that the loss of Maharashtra, of snatching defeat from the jaws of victory that happened subsequent to the 2019 Assembly election in the State, after the alliance with the Shiv Sena

Santosh Kumar

(Independent

**Babul Supriyo** 

**Dhotre Saniav** 

Gangwar

■ MoS

charge)

Mos

Mos

MoS

Sarangi

MoS

MoS

Debasree

Chaudhuri

Shamrao

Rattan Lal

**Pratap Chandra** 

Minister of

and Fertilizers

**Thaawarchand** 

Chemicals

Gehlot

Minister

Justice and

Minister of

Ramesh

broke, still rankles. It does not bode well for a peaceful relationship between the Centre and the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in Maharashtra.

Political scientist Rahul Verma says the axing of Ministers of the departments such as Social Justice and Empowerment, Health, Education, Labour, Information and Technology, and Environment and Climate Change, and the bringing in of technocrats from among the political cohort group "points to the fact that these Ministries will be key in the government going forward".

The exclusions, according to sources, are a combination of a case of individual evaluation and finding the Ministers wanting in performance, but also the failure of these Ministers to explain the major controversies dogging these departments in a way that does not get the government deeper into the mess. With the dropping of se-

ven Cabinet Ministers, including Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad and Labour Minister Santosh Gangwar, only Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi remain flagbearers of the old National Democratic Alliance (NDA) that existed under former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. While much had already changed under Mr. Modi's leadership of the NDA, this rejig is a more comprehensive passing

#### A former CM loses a coveted post

B. S. SATISH KUMAR

The dropping of senior Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda from the Union Ministry on Wednesday marks the constant decline in the political career of a veteran who was once the Chief Minister of Karnataka.

A much younger Shobha Karandlaje, who hails from his region and belongs to his community, has now been chosen to replace him. This is perhaps to send a message to the dominant Vokkaliga community that it has not been ignored.

The party has also accommodated three others from Karnataka – business tycoon-turned politician Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Dalit leader A. Narayanaswamy and Bhagwanth Khuba, who belongs to the Lingayat community.

The party's efforts to project the veteran leader as its face of the dominant Vokkaliga community had not yielded the desired results despite his good im-

# Exclusions and excuses aplenty

Babul Supriyo does a volte-face, Gangwar throws in a suspense

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Among the reasons that some of the 12 Ministers who resigned ahead of the Cabinet expansion on Wednesday cited for putting in their papers were health concerns as well as just "asked to do

Asked for the reason for his resignation, former Labour Minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar told The Hindu: "Ask me in two days". Mr. Gangwar is an eight-time MP from Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh, where the Assembly election is expected in the first half of 2022. During the second wave of the pandemic in May, he wrote to Chief Minister Yogi Adiyanath about the poor response of State officials in handling the pandemic.

Former Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Babul Supri yo first said on social media that he had been asked to resign, but then issued a clarification. In a tweet, Mr. Supriyo said: "Yes, I have resigned from the Council Of Ministers (As I had framed it ear-

Parshottam Rupala

templating to do so.

tidar leader Mahesh Savani

joined the AAP, while sever-

al others are said to be con-

tempt to woo the OBCs, De-

vusinh Chauhan, Darshana

Jordosh and Dr. Mahendra

Munjpara, MPs of Kheda,

Surat and Surendranagar

seats respectively, have

been accommodated as Mi-

nisters of State. Mr. Chau-

han and Ms. Jordosh are

two-term MPs, while Dr.

all 26 Lok Sabha seats in the

parliamentary polls in 2019

and holds eight of the 11 Ra-

nior tribal leader, Mangub-

hai Patel, as Governor of

Madhya Pradesh. Mr. Man-

gubhai has been a six-time

legislator and former Minis-

ter of Environment and For-

est and Tribal Development

The BJP picked up a se-

iya Sabha seats.

in Gujarat.

In Gujarat, the BJP won

Munjapara is a first-timer.

In a move seen as an at-

Out in the cold Union Ministers Ravi Shankar Prasad, Prakash Javadekar were among those Council of Ministers who quit on Wednesday evening ahead of the Cabinet reshuffle. A look at all the ministers who resigned



Dr. Harsh Vardhan Minister of Health

and Family Welfare, Minister of Science and Technology and Minister of Earth Sciences



**Ravi Shankar Prasad** 

■ Minister of Law and Justice, Minister of Minister of Electronics and Information Technology





Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises lier, "Asked to resign" may ter Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishnot be the right way to put it

)..." He said he was "surely sad" for himself, but happy for his colleagues who would be sworn in.

ank resigned citing health reasons. He was diagnosed with COVID-19 in May, and had been hospitalised with breathing difficulties and post-COVID complications

for much of last month. However, Ministry officials note that several key decisions in the recent past have been made by the Prime Minister's Office rather than the Education Minister.

# Vardhan has become the fall guy for Centre's failures: Cong.

'His resignation shows that govt. failed in managing COVID-19'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram said on Wednesday that the resignation of Harsh Vardhan as the Health Minister during the Cabinet reshuffle was an admission that the Narendra Modi government had "utterly failed" in managing the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ministers must realise that if things go wrong they will be the fall guys, he said in a couple of tweets.

The resignations of the Union Health Minister and the MoS Health is a candid confession that the Modi government has utterly failed in managing the pandemic. There is a lesson for Ministers in these resignations. If things go right the credit will go to the PM, if things go wrong the Minister will be the fall guy. That is the price a Minister pays for implicit obedience and unquestioning subservience," the former Finance Minister said on



Harsh Vardhan and wife, Nutan Goel, getting the COVID-19 vaccine in March.

His party colleague Jairam Ramesh tweeted, "Poor Dr. Harsh Vardhan, a good man has been made a scapegoat for monumental failures at the highest level – nowhere else."

Mr. Chidambaram also said since Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank had resigned as the Education Minister, the National Education Policy should also be scrapped. Commenting on the exer-

cise to rejig the Cabinet, party general secretary Randeep Surjewala said it was not a Cabinet expansion, but

"distributing the spoils of power" and "defector adjustment programme". He said if performance and governance were the criteria, then Defence Minister Rajnath Singh should have been sacked, as the Chinese had occupied Indian territory and refused to vacate: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman should have gone, as the economic growth was now minus-8%; and Home Minister Amit Shah should have stepped down as naxal attacks and mob lynchings continued "unabated".

"If performance and governance were the criteria, then the first person to be sacked should be the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, for he has brought the government, the entire country standstill, progress, peace and harmony has been thrown in the dustbin of history and the present Prime Minister would be remembered as an autocrat," he

# **Placating Patidars** before the 2022 poll

BJP braces for Gujarat election

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The elevation of two junior Ministers to the Cabinet rank and the induction of three MPs as junior Ministers from Gujarat in the Union government appears to be part of the ruling BJP's strategy to give representation to the Patidars and the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) ahead of next year's Assembly election.

Parshottam Rupala, both belonging to the powerful Patidar community, were sworn in Cabinet Ministers.

Mansukh Mandavia and

Both are Rajya Sabha members and hail from the politically important Saurashtra region.

In fact, Mr. Mandavia is often seen as a chief ministerial contender if the party decides to replace Vijay Rupani. Both have been openly demanding that the next Chief Minister should be

from the community. Naresh Patel, another community leader with a substantial base, also demanded so. After his statement, several Patidar leaders have joined the Aam Admi Party (AAP), which wants to emerge as an alternative to the BJP.

In Surat, leading businessman and influential Pa-



Former Education Minis-

The ousted president of the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP), Chirag Paswan, on Wednesday registered his protest against the appointment of his uncle, Pashupati Nath Paras, in the Union Council of Ministers. He had also challenged in the Delhi High Court Mr. Paras's appointment as the parliamentary party leader by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

In a series of tweets, Mr. Paswan said Mr. Paras had already been removed from the LJP for anti-party activities. He said Mr. Paras might be a representative of the breakaway faction, but not of the LJP. "I fully respect the Prime Minister's right as to who he includes in his team and who he does not. But as far as the LJP is concerned, Mr. Paras is not a member of our party," he said.

Mr. Paswan has already moved an application seeking a review of Mr. Paras's appointment as the LIP parliamentary party leader with the Speaker. There has been no action on it yet. "The Lok Janshakti Party has filed a petition in the Delhi High Court against the decision of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha," he said.

# Caste and regional balance decided nominees from U.P.

7 leaders from the State were inducted into the Ministry

OMAR RASHID

Seven leaders from Uttar Pradesh were inducted into the Union Ministry, reflecting the ruling BJP's focus on its targeted constituencies of non-Yadav Other Backward Class (OBC) and non-Jatav Dalits ahead of the 2022 Assembly election. The seven who took oath

as Ministers of State include Anupriya Patel, president of the Apna Dal (Sonelal), a key Ms. Patel, 40, is an MP from Mirzapur and hails

from the Kurmi backward caste, one of the dominant non-Yadav OBCs traditionally associated with farming. Apna Dal has nine MLAs and one MLC, her husband Ashish Patel. Mr. Patel was

also a Minister in the first

Modi government.

Her induction, however, did not go well with the BJP's second ally, the Nishad Party, which has for weeks been demanding a promotion in either the State government or the Central government. The Nishad Party claims to be the voice of the riverine

"Our people are already angry and it reflected in the recent panchayat polls result. Some infiltrators [in the



In with the new: President Ram Nath Kovind administering the oath of office to Anupriya Patel. • PTI

BJP] want Nishads to get enraged and the BJP's boat to sink," Nishad Party president Sanjay Nishad told The

"Our community will be compelled to come out on the streets again in a democratic way," he said, adding that the negative reaction among the Nishads would prove to be a setback for the BIP in 2022.

The seven new Ministers reflected caste and regional necessities of the BJP, with the induction of a Brahmin from central-north U.P., two Kurmis from Purvanchal, one Lodh from Rohilkhand, one Kori from Bundelkhand. one Pasi from Awadh and one Dhangar from Braj.

Kaushal Kishor, a two-

time MP from Mohanlagani, heads the party's SC/ST wing and is seen as its Pasi face. Pasis are the second largest Dalit community in U.P. after Jatavs and are numerically concentrated in Awadh and Purvanchal. Mr. Kishor is known for his ground-level activism for Dalits. While congratulating Mr. Kishor, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said the MP has "always been active on issues of social justice".

S.P.S. Baghel, who belongs to the Gaderia-Dhangar community, won the reserved seat (SC) of Agra in Lok Sabha 2019. Six-time Maharajganj MP

Pankaj Chaudhary, a Kurmi, was also inducted to the Union Council of Ministers.

# West Bengal gets its highest share ever

State gets four slots in the Ministry

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The BIP has tried to cater to different regions and ethnicities of West Bengal while inducting four of its MPs in the Union Council of Ministers on Wednesday. This is the highest-ever representation from the State in any go-

vernment of the BJP. The four MPs who were sworn in as Union Ministers are: two from south Bengal, Santanu Thakur and Subhas Sarkar, and two from north Bengal, John Barla and Nisith Pramanik

While Mr. Thakur, MP from Bongaon, is a leader of the Matua sect (Hindu refugees from Bangladesh settled along the bordering regions of the State), Mr. Barla, MP from Alipurduar, is a tribal leader with considerable influence over the tea gardens. A few days ago, he had highlighted the south-north divide by raising the demand of a separate State or Union Territory for north Bengal.

Mr. Pramanik, a young MP from Cooch Behar, represents the Rajbanshi community, while Mr. Sarkar, MP from Bankura and a trained medical practitioner, represents the tribal dominated Jangalmahal region in the southwestern part of the State.

Those inducted in the Union Cabinet from the State are MPs who have been elected for the first time in 2019. The BJP had done combatively well in the regions represented by these MPs in the recent Assembly election. It won most of the Assembly seats in Cooch Behar and Alipurduar district. Compared to other regions of south Bengal, it won more seats in the Matuadominated area of Bongaon subdivision and the Jangalmahal region. The regions represented by the four MPs are economically deprived

Sources in the West Bengal BJP said the MPs had been given a chance where the party thinks its support base has remained intact and there was a likelihood of retaining the seats in 2024. "It is a part of the future planning of the BJP, where MPs representing different regions and ethnicities have been inducted in the Union Council of Ministers," Biswanath Chakraborty, a political observer, said.

The BJP won 18 of the 42 seats in the 2019 general election.

The BJP has dropped Ministers of State Babul Surpriyo and Deboshree Chowdhury from the Council of Ministers.

M ND-NDE













Mughal-E-Azam (1960)

Naya Daur (1957)

# Method actor with an understated elegance

The right blend of star and actor, Dilip Kumar set a template for many generations to come

ANUJ KUMAR

When Marlon Brando was struggling to find a footing in Hollywood, a shy Pathan boy from Peshawar was practising method acting in what was then the Bombay film industry, helping it come out of the Parsi theatre's influence. As Dilip Kumar transcends to a new stage, the pole star of the golden age of Hindi cinema would be remembered for setting a template of acting for generations to come.

A veritable cultural icon who inspired economist Meghnad Desai to draw parallels between his films and the newly independent India's tryst with socialism and capitalism in his seminal work, Nehru's Hero: Dilip Kumar in the Life of India, there is a bit of Dilip Kumar in everyone's life.

Discovered and later renamed by Devika Rani of the famed Bombay Talkies, Dilip Kumar, along with Raj Kapoor and Dev Anand, were part of the discovery of cinema in India as a means of mass communication as we see it today. They had had few examples to follow and perhaps it worked to their advantage as each one carved out his own niche.

#### **Naturalistic style**

Out of the three, Dilip Kumar's naturalistic style never became stale or dated. The right blend of star and actor who could keep both the public and the purist engaged with his craft, he kept his performances subtle, understated but always believable.

Not just his younger contemporaries like Rajendra Kumar, Manoj Kumar and Dharmendra, generations of dependable actors, from Amitabh Bachchan to Shah Rukh Khan and Aamir Khan to Irrfan, built edifices of their performances on the foundation laid by Dilip Kumar. Mr. Bachchan, who played Dilip Kumar's son in Shakti, once said there was such finality to Dilip sahib's performances that once he enacted a scene, there was no alternative to it.

Irrfan once told this journalist that he often wondered when trained actors like him found it difficult to deal with scars left by tragic roles, how Dilip Kumar, who learnt the craft on his own, came to terms with it. Well, he did approach doctors in London, who advised him to consider lighter roles.

Film historians often label the thespian as the tragedy king for his moving portraval of a loner who loses everything in love in a series of films such as Jugnu, Dee-

I start identifying with the character. Often directors leave it to me to interpret the character

DILIP KUMAR IN A BBC INTERVIEW

dar and Devdas, but the eight-time Filmfare Award winner was equally compelling as a winsome romantic in Shabnam, Azaad and Kohinoor. Not to forget his intense performances as a revolutionary in Shaheed and a trade union leader in Paigham.

Be it the lawyer who rapes a village girl in Mehboob Khan's *Amar*, the journalist who becomes black-marketeer in Zia Sarhady's Foot*path*, the atheist in love with a mendicant in Kidar Sharma's Jogan or the wheelchair bound Raja Sahib in Aadmi, a role earlier essayed by Sivaji Ganesan, the Padma Vibhushan awardee constantly lunged for complex characters where he was expected to evoke multiple emotions in a single frame.

He experimented not just with characters but also directorial styles. Both Amar and Footpath deal with moral guilt but while Mehboob Khan visualised a mass entertainer, Zia's treatment was neorealist. With Tapan Sinha's Sagina Mahto, he ventured into parallel cinema and earned praise from his contemporaries.

At the time of Mughal-e-Azam, he was the top draw, but the narrative demanded Kumar to play second fiddle to Prithviraj Kapoor, a senior and a friend of his father. He delivered a restrained performance, a subtle counterpoint to the bombastic Kapoor that is etched in the minds of cinegoers.

Home production The one that stands out and inspired many adaptations is

the dacoit in Gunga Jumna, his ambitious home production where the sophisticated Kumar transformed into an Awadhi-speaking rustic who is forced to pick up the gun. It is this constant urge for variety and chiselling of the craft that the megastar, despite the world at his feet, chose to do only around 60 films spanning over almost five decades.

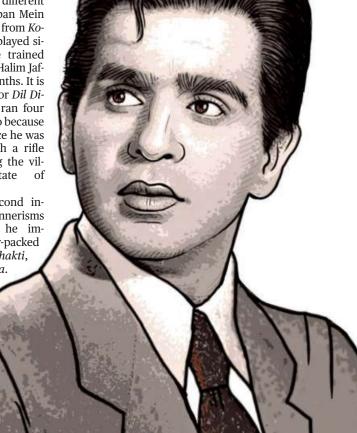
He refused Guru Dutt's Pyaasa for he found the character similar to Devdas. He said no to David Lean for Lawrence of Arabia as he was not keen to commit the amount of time that the director was asking from him.

In a BBC interview, he once said that when the director came to him with a 30-year-old character, he tried to find and build the first 29 years of his life from the script so that, "I start identifying with the character. Often directors leave it to me to interpret character."

Known to help out his colleagues in finding a rhythm that suited the narrative, the actor is said to have ghost-directed many films such as Gunga Jumna, Ram Aur

Shyam and Aadmi. He took the preparation for a character to a different level. For "Madhuban Mein Radhika Nache Re" from Kohinoor, where he played sitar on screen, he trained with sitarist Ustad Halim Jaffar Khan for six months. It is said while filming for Dil Diya Dard Liya, he ran four rounds of the studio because in the next sequence he was supposed to snatch a rifle from Pran, playing the villain, in a state of breathlessness.

Even in his second innings, when his mannerisms became marked, he impressed with power-packed performances in Shakti, Mashaal and Karma.



# A philanthropist who always stepped up

The thespian was among the earliest Indian actors to lend his star status to a cause

RAKHSHANDA JALIL

As tributes tumble out at the passing of Dilip Kumar – with Amitabh Bachchan going so far as to declare that when the history of Indian cinema will be written, it shall always be "before Dilip Kumar and after Dilip Kumar" – we shall leave it to the film critics and the serious student of Hindi cinema to assess his impact on the Hindi film industry. For now, let us see him as the man who always chose to step up and speak up. When the moment come to speak truth to power, here was a superstar who chose not to be content with his superstardom but to put it good use, as and when required.

#### TRIBUTE

Born as Mohammad Yusuf Khan in Peshawar in 1922 in the home of a fruit merchant, he went on to enjoy a career in the movies spanning five decades, blessed with a longevity enjoyed by few of his contemporaries.

Not content with mere stardom, Dilip sahib was possibly among the earliest Indian actors to lend his star status to a variety of causes an early patron of the National Association for the Blind (NAB) who never missed its annual fund-raising train run, he chose to lend his name and face to charitable institutions such as this and the Ali Yavar Jung Institute of Speech and Hearing in Bandra rather than modelling for commercial gain. The film lyricist and director Gulzar remembers Dilip organising donation drives and rallies during the Indo-China war that began at Mumbai's Shivaji Park, wound their way through Crawford Market and the gullies of Bhendi Bazaar, where money would be literally showered at them from rooftops, before ending at Azad Maidan. All through the late 1950s and 1960s, Dilip Kumar, along with Sunil Dutt, also visited troops stationed at border postings for



Dilip Kumar before taking oath as Rajya Sabha MP on April 20, 2000.

morale-boosting interactions

with jawans. Gulzar also recalls Dilip Kumar stepping up for similar interactions for the benefit of the film industry, lending his moral gravitas and serving as a bridge between actors and producers-directors. At a seminal meeting of the Indian Motion Picture Association held at Dilip Kumar's home, several landmark decisions were taken to break the impasse that gridlocked the industry: actors, it was decided, would not take on more than three films (on the floors) at a time, and the directors-producers, on their part, would prune the shift timings to more humane

Appointed Sheriff of Bombay (now Mumbai) in 1980, he worked for the improvement of the city's infrastructure, giving it the iconic Joggers Park, where he himself went for his early morning walks in later years.

As a Member of Parliament irom tne kajya Sabna, he ploughed the MPLAD (Members of Parliament Local Area Development) fund into improving the Bandstand Promenade and the Bandra Fort area.

However, it was the Bombay riots of 1992 that saw Dilip Kumar truly come into his own: turning his home into a command centre for relief work. rescuing those trapped in burning shanty towns, arranging police protection for the most vulnerable and organising food supplies for those who were going hungry for days as communal riots ravaged Bombay. He later mobilised

money and legal aid for those who were unfairly detained under the draconian Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act. Of course he paid a price for this. When Pakistan honored him with its highest civilian award, the Nishan-i Imtiaz in 1998, it was met with outrage in a crosssection of society, with not merely threats and abuses directed against the thespian but regurgitation of the old "Pakistani spy" gossip by his old nemesis, the Shiv Seva.

Javed Akhtar puts it best when he says that there is a virtue that has become obsolete and that is dignity – Dilip Kumar was a personification of that virtue. "Eik tehzeeb thii jo kho gayii hai," he says, ruing a lost culture. "To be cool, happening and contemporary are on the borderline of rudeness. Decency, reserve, measure, these have become un-cool and obso-

(Rakshanda Jalil is a Delhi-based writer, translator *and literary historian*)

# Summer of 1978: when the hero saw his epic

Dilip Kumar watched Mughal-e-Azam (1960) at FTII, Pune

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE

The passing away of Bollywood film legend Dilip Kumar has opened a floodgate of reminiscences - both cinematic memories and private recollections – by people nomic, political and national barriers.

few would However, know that it was in the main theatre of Pune's Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) that Dilip Kumar finally watched one of his defining classics, K. Asif's spellbinding Mughal-e-Azam for the first time in his life – a full 18 years after the film was released.

As the story goes, in the summer of 1978, the legendary actor wanted to see 15 classics during a sojourn in the city. "It was the great P.K. Nair, the country's preeminent archivist and scho-

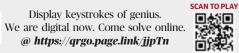
lar and the driving force behind the National Film Archive of India (NFAI), who had arranged the screening of the films at the FTII main theatre. All films were chosen by his actress wife Saira Bano," says current FTII Director Bnupenara Kaintno

Dilip Kumar saw a film a day at the main theatre and Saira Bano was by his side when he finally watched *Mughal-e-Azam* – which he had reportedly never seen since it took the country by storm in 1960. The incident bears an astonishing similarity with the experience of another legendary actor -Peter O'Toole, who reportedly viewed his greatest cinematic role, that of T.E. Lawrence in David Lean's immortal Lawrence of Arabia, almost two decades after that film's initial release

In another visit to the FTII, the actor was chief guest at a convocation ceremony in December 1997. Also present were Mohan Agashe, then Director of the institute, and filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt, who was then

Despite the occasion being somewhat marred by students who chose to air some of their complaints publicly, Dr. Agashe recalls how Dilip sahab's magnificent dignity humbled all those present. "I had organised the convocation which was interrupted by students voicing their complaints. Mahesh Bhatt was very upset. But Dilip Kumar shone through it all with his tremendous and awesome dignity. He told the protesting students that the FTII was a temple and that they ought not to wash their dirty linen in public," Dr. Agashe said.

# TH CROSSWORD + 13294



15 What thespian did when cadet danced? (5) 17 One more time India is after former chief (4,5)

**19** Hound fear complex is little known (7,2) 20 First educated and registered nurse serves and makes money (5)

Display keystrokes of genius.

@ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

21 Yearn for a piece of furniture without Charlie's tresses (4,4)

23 Prohibit King, Queen and financier (6)

27 Kerry Owen is playing for American city dweller (3,6) 28 Roman year mentioned in Roman numerals (5)

29 Move through displayed screen to Supreme Court's list of names (6)

30 Type of output to expect from a money plant or a mint? (8)

1 Volley of shots fired in honour of a member of the Salvation Army in Australia (5)

2 The French suture around beginning of duodenum in eleventh hour

3 Where a baffled person might be when sailing? (2,3)

4 Carve inside Somerset Church (4) 6 Pagan hero constructed an institution for children without parents (9) 7 Process natural gas compound without sugar in South African region (5)

**8** Yes, rook takes fishes between twelve and twenty four months old (9) 9 Sticker if used inside city limits: "Reduce presence of calcium" (9)

**14** Gangster bats an eyelid and cheats (9) 15 A question following which criminal damages guns and underwater

breathing equipments (9) **16** Casualty count for estate tax? (5,4)

18 Build a finer ark for a descendant of a Dutch settler (9) 22 Later version you get when you upgrade and renew production (5)

24 Embarrass a graduate with a short request for silence (5) 25 Chart once again with average returns around opening of equity

#### **SUDOKU**



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#### **FAITH**

## Ashtavakra, great scholar

Prakarana granthas are texts written by preceptors and gurus to introduce beginners to Vedanta study and to clarify Vedanta knowledge to those already familiar with it. For instance, Adi Sankara's Viveka Chudamani, Satasloki, come under this category. Likewise Ashtavakra Samhita, known as Ashtavakra Gita, attributed to one Ashtavakra, a sage with exceptional scholarship, is classified as a Prakarana grantha. This text presents an interesting exposition of self knowledge or atma tatva jnana, and is in the form of a dialogue between the young preceptor and king Janaka of Mithila,

pointed out Sri R. Rajagopala Sarma in a discourse. Janaka is a celebrated Raja rishi and in the Bhagavad Gita, Krishna quotes him as one who is a realised soul and a jivanmukta who is also an example of a karma yogi. Many stories are quoted about Ashtavakra who hails from a family of Vedic scholars. He was born to Sujatha, the daughter of Uddalaka, the famed teacher in the Upanishads, and Kahola, a disciple of Uddalaka. By the age of twelve, he had completed Vedic studies. The name Ashtavakra refers to the crooked frame that he developed in his mother's womb owing to his

sensitive reactions to the slips in his father's Veda chanting. That he impressed people, including Janaka, with his sastra knowledge despite his crooked appearance and young age is evident from the incident at Janaka's court. Janaka, who was immersed in Vedantic thought, used to invite scholars and rishis to his court to engage in debates and discussions on many important and interesting esoteric ideas on Brahman, Self, the path to realisation, and so on. It is held that in one such debate, his father Kahola was defeated by another scholar named Vandi. So, Ashtavakra wished to give a fitting reply to Vandi and did so in a remarkable debate.

5 State loses right to make district (6)

11 Egyptian queen's chaotic palace rot (9)

12 Ancient person's father (3,3)

10 Close second conceals and does not win (5)

ACROSS

perhaps (8)

1 Rescues rookie surrounded by uncultured people (8)

13 Arrange all pearl fragments in the form of an electrical circuit, markets (5)

26 This is expressed in square units; even for circles (4)

Srihari Nataraj and Sajan Prakash's 'A' cut Olympics qualification could herald a new era in Indian swimming

A watershed moment

PRAVEEN SUDEVAN

A year-and-a-half ago, Sajan Prakash, 27, thought he would not make it to the Tokyo Olympics 2020. The swimmer suffered a slipped disc, which also hurt his neck. As he recovered, the pandemic forced pools to close in Thailand, where he was training at the Thanyapura Aquatic Centre in Phuket on a scholarship. Confined to his hostel, he contemplated returning to India. But the situation here was worse.

Then, last August, a reprieve came in the form of a 50-day camp in Dubai organised for top Indian swimmers with national coach Pradeep Kumar. After the camp, Sajan was in a quandary again. He wanted to stay back in Dubai, but that was going to be expensive. That is when coach Pradeep and his wife, Gowri, came to Sajan's rescue. The couple invited him to stay with them in Dubai and ensured he got better in the pool.

On June 26, Sajan clocked 1:56:38 seconds in the men's 200-metre butterfly event at the Sette Colli Trophy in Rome. In doing so, he became the first Indian swimmer to make the Olympic Qualifying Time (also known as FINA 'A' cut), which ensures automatic qualification for the Olympics. Unable to make the 'A' cut hitherto, Indian swimmers had to count on the Olympic Selection Time (also known as 'B' time) or the universality quota less certain ways - to get to the Olympics.

Three days later, Sajan's compatriot Srihari Nataraj, 20, joined him in securing the 'A' cut after his time of 53.77s in a 100-metre backstroke time trial in the Rome event was ratified by international swimming's governing body, FINA.

Srihari, like Sajan, had to overcome obstacles before breaching the qualifying mark. For over six months, he could not swim due to the lockdown. Then, this January, his father passed away. It took about seven months of relentless training to shave half a second off, which determined his entry to the To-

An Olympic medal still remains a distant dream for Indian swimming. But Sajan and Srihari's 'A' cuts could be a defining moment.

Long way to go

Ever since the 1951 Asian Games in which India won six swimming medals, including its only gold, there has been very little success. The country has added just three more medals at the Asian Games and one (in para-swimming) at the Commonwealth Games . In bigger meets – the World Aquatics Championships and the Olympics - qualification itself has been a big deal.

Can the medal drought be attributed to genes? Sports science expert Genadijus So-

kolovas, who has worked with the world's top swimmers like Michael Phelps, says, "Genes matter very little. If this is about size, then, the fastest fish is not the biggest." According to him, a swimmer's success depends on their training, technique and motivation. The US swimmers, he says, win medals because they have access to good coaches, excellent training facilities and a supportive ecosystem; not they because

Srihari and Sajan say they are happy with the coaching and training facilities. India's senior coaches Nihar Ameen and Pradeep are winners of

superhumans.

the Dronacharya award (given to honour sports coaches in India) and have decades of experience. The top Indian swimmers had the chance to interact with Sokolovas in February during a six-day workshop organised by the Swimming Federation of India (SFI). They also have access to world-class facilities at the Padukone-Dravid Centre for Sports Excellence.

"A lot more professionals are involved now. In our days, we never had dieticians, biomechanics experts and physiotherapists at our disposal," says former Olvmpic swimmer Nisha Millet.

Things seem to be improving for Indian swimmers at

the elite level. The problem, Nisha points out, is at the grassroots. "Once you reach the top-level, you get support from the Government, federation and private insti-India's major swimmming medals

rung, there is no one to guide you properly," she says. Girls, for instance,

with

tutions. But when you

are lower down the

have to deal cultural taboo as some parents, Pradeep says, don't want them to wear swimsuits after puberty. And,

according to

learning went digital during

sutras or formulae and 13

sub-sutras to solve mathe-

matical problems. While

some saw it as a new subject

to explore while at home, for

most, it was to get over the

fear of mathematics. "It is an

age-old fear! Several parents,

on their part, make it worse

by constantly reminding

their children about it. So

when you come across a tech-

nique that promises an easy

way of doing calculations, it

was natural for many people

to try it. For parents, it was al-

so about keeping their chil-

dren engaged during the

Saurabh, who calls himself

a "maths magician", points

out that not many people

were aware of Vedic Maths

until schooling shifted to the

lockdown," says Devaraj.

The subject consists of 16

the lockdown.

portunities through swimming than boys. These reasons probably explain why no Indian female swimmer since 2004 has made even the 'B' time; they have only gone to the Olympics via the universality quota. Coach Pradeep says the Government, private institutions and clubs should promote swimming.

Nisha, they get fewer job op-

**Stars of tomorrow** (Clockwise from below)

Maana Patel, Sajan Prakash and Srihari

Nataraj • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The road ahead

Srihari and Sajan's 'A' cut is important because it has lifted a mental block among Indian swimmers. "We used to think 'A' cut was impossible. Now, two people have made it at the same event," says

Chokshi) - are sup-

of the Khelo India academies These academies, however, are not easily accessible.

"Srihari's 53.77 would have won him a medal 15-20 years ago,"

says Sokolavas, "There will be a time, 10-20 years from now when Indian swimmers will be swimming faster than current world records. But we can try to do it much before that."



# Park here for

ANASUYA MENON

Layers of flaky Kerala parotta soaked in spicy gravy are served in a thooku paathram (a traditional steel container with a handle) at Kaasa Kitchen.

The restaurant, serving fusion food in Fort Kochi, is determined not to let the pandemic affect business. A week ago, it launched an in-car dining service that has been drawing a steady stream of customers, all pulling up in front of the restaurant to enjoy their favourite dishes.

Kaasa is just one of a clutch of restaurants across the country that has formally launched an in-car dining service.

Informally, through the last lockdown especially, an increasing number of customers – eager for a drive, change of scene and freshly made food – started eating in their cars as restaurants could only do takeaway.

Even as restaurants reopen across the country, given the ongoing pandemic, some customers are likely to opt to continue to picnic in their cars, adding an interesting new twist to restaurant service.

Kaasa, for instance, has designed an entire ceremony around it – offering finger bowls and a temporary car fumigator to prevent the smell of food from lingering inside.

Food is served on specially-designed elongated trays, which fit in the car in such a way that allows

The classic drive-in sees a revival as restaurants find creative ways to serve customers despite the pandemic, and associated lockdowns

passengers to roll up the windows and switch on the AC. "They can vibe to the music of their choice as they dig into their meal," says Sharon Gafoor, the owner of Kaasa Kitchen.

Classic drive-in

With restrictions on dining-in still in effect, Kerala is reviving the ageold concept of the classic drive-in.

With the Kerala Tourism Development Corporation (KTDC) launching in-car dining services in restaurants operating under it across the State on June 30, the trend is catching on.

At KTDC restaurants set in scenic locations, the experience could



Picnic in the parking lot In-car dining at Kaasa Kitchen, Fort Kochi • THULASI KAKKAT

feel like a micro vacation, says an official, adding that it is especially appreciated by those travelling with elderly people and children. Currently operational at KTDC's restaurants at Kottarakkara, Kayamkulam, Alappuzha, Kuttippuram and Kannur from breakfast till dinner time, food is served on long travs that can be fitted across the front and back seats of the car.

While restaurateurs maintain that in-car dining has its challengover the tough phase, keeping jobs and livelihoods.

Zaatar in Kochi, which serves typically Arabian fare, has also tweaked its menu to suit the cardining experience.

"We cut down on our gravy-heavy Indian dishes and are focussing more on our traditional Arabic fare," says Mohammed Moosa, a founding members of the restaurant. "We cannot say that business is great, but it certainly has helped us stay afloat," he adds.

**Parking facility** 

The availability of parking space has been a huge factor in deciding the trend, say restaurateurs. Most of the places offering in-car dining have the provision to park at least 10 to 15 cars at a time.

This could be a model to follow even in a post-COVID scenario, says Gunasekharan M, senior manager of TTDC Hotel on Azhagar Kovil Road, Madurai.

One of the first restaurants in Madurai to adapt to the COVID situation by offering in-car dining, Gunasekharan says the idea eliminates fear of the disease spreading in a closed, air-conditioned space. "Even after COVID passes, people may prefer to be cautious," he adds.

With dining in set to restart in Tamil Nadu, the restaurant will offer both regular dine-in along with in-car dining. Here, instead of one elongated tray, each passenger is given a tray that is fixed to the door. A large screen placed in the outdoor dining area provides entertainment, too.

Although the trend of in-car dining has not caught on formally in Chennai, despite the legacy of well-loved Woodlands Drive-In, over the past few months it became routine to see customers unfurling ghee roast dosas in the comfort of their cars.

Restaurant dining has restarted in Chennai this week, but we expect to continue to see kerbside pickups, followed by kerbside dining now that people have discovered the joys of filter coffee to go.

# Not just a bag of tricks

Vedic Maths finds more takers during the lockdowns, among parents, children and teachers alike, as classes remain digital

ATHIRA M

Siblings Nanditha D, 15, and Niveditha D, 11, recently led online sessions on Vedic Maths for students of classes VI-X, of their school, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Kottayam. Prior to it, they had presented a paper and held a workshop on the subject at an online conference organised by the Institute for the Advancement of Vedic Mathematics, based in the UK.

During lockdown in 2020, from March to May, they took classes via Skype for over 300 students. In 2021, around 1,000 students had registered for their online sessions. A month ago, they launched a YouTube channel, Maths Made Easy by Nanditha and Niveditha.

The inspiration came from their father, P Devaraj, an automobile engineer and Vedic Maths teacher. "When we started our sessions it was meant to help a few of our friends. We didn't expect it to go this far," says Nanditha.

Meanwhile, in Chennai, Muthuselvi Prabhu, "works round the clock", teaching Vedic Maths to students from the UK, the US, Australia, Canada and West Asia on a oneto-one basis; she also has training sessions for teachers in India. Indore-based 50-year-old

Ravi Asrani, is busy on weekends with students joining from across India and abroad for his Vedic Maths classes. Trainers such as Delhi-based Saurabh Jain and Kota-based Rekha Gupta too have many students attending their sessions these days.

Teachers are happy to observe that there has been an increase in the number of people learning Vedic Maths over the last few months. The

changed now," says Saurabh, adding, "We try to make it entertaining." For instance, instead of paying ₹3,500 per month for just three or four classes, they need to pay between ₹100-₹500 per hour for an online class. Devaraj adds that he charges ₹1,800 for a three-week, 15-hour class.

Rekha takes classes for four or five batches with 12-15 students each on a daily basis. "I have been teaching Abacus and Vedic Maths for 15 years now. While online teaching may not give the desired result in the case of Abacus, it works in the case of Vedic Maths. That was probably one reason why many got hooked to it when learning became digital. It is all about making mathematics fun to learn, with what many call 'tricks'," she says.

Muthuselvi says that the interest is more among students who live abroad. "Here, in India, we have mark-based evaluation and so we stick to the syllabus whereas in many countries all they look at is the students' understanding of the concepts of mathematics," she adds.

**Student becomes master** 

There has also been a rise in the number of people training to become Vedic Maths teachers. Vidhya Vikram from Coimbatore, for instance, has trained over 3,200 people from across the

monster. Make it your best friend and Vedic Maths can help you in that."

digital mode. "Earlier there Nanditha seconds it, saywere live classes once a week ing: "The first thing that we country since tell those who attend our sesand the fee was high. But September scenario sions is that Maths is not a ■ GETTYIMAGES/ISTOCK

One of the immediate goals is to ensure each State has at least three swimming academies under the Khelo India programme. Indian swimming, he explains, follows a two-tier system. The top-tier swimmers have access to high-performance centres like the one in Bengaluru. The junior swimmers about 130 ("a very small

Pradeep believes this will

trigger more 'A' cuts in the

next Olympics. At the 2028

Games in Los Angeles, he

says, India should aim for a

podium finish. For these

long-term goals to material-

ise, there is a lot to be done,

says SFI's general secretary

Monal Chokshi.

number" according to

posed to make use

"While 50% of these trainers

are Maths teachers, the rest

comprise college students,

retired professionals explor-

ing new careers, women

looking for flexible career op-

tions, parents, grandpa-

rents.... I have trained those

in the age group of 23 to 78,"

She adds that but for the

pandemic and the lockdown,

she herself would not have

explored online teaching.

"When I had live classes, only

Maths teachers attended the

sessions, that too very few.

Now I have a webinar-based

training model, where I give a

demonstration and take it to

more people. Over 50,000

people have attended the we-

A flipside is that those with

elementary knowledge in

Vedic Maths are also conduct-

ing classes. "Some of my stu-

dents who have completed

only their first-level sessions

are now trainers. While I take ₹500 for 12 one-hour classes,

they charge ₹2,000 or more,"

Meanwhile, mathemati-

cians continue to be divided

in their opinion over the ori-

gin and efficacy of Vedic

Maths. However, according to

Devaraj, "We never say that it

is the only way to solve a pro-

blem. What we trainers stress

on is that it is a creative, sys-

tematic way of approaching

mathematics and not just a

M ND-NDE

binars," she says.

adds Ravi.

bag of tricks.

says Vidhya.

subject got a boost when



# TALES

Akshaye Khanna plays a special task officer in his OTT debut

PRAVEEN SUDEVAN

This year marks the 20th anniversary of Dil Chahta Hai, a muchloved buddy movie that went on to become a cult classic in Hindi cinema. Among the many fine things in it, Akshaye Khanna's portrayal of Sidharth Sinha – a sensitive, mild-mannered artist who falls in love with a divorcee much older than him – is especially endearing. Asked if it is one of his favourites, Khanna pauses for several seconds before saying

There is already a ton of trivia, interviews and long-form pieces on Dil Chahta Hai. But are there any anecdotes that the world does not know yet? "You are asking the wrong person," he says, over a Zoom call from Mumbai,

"My memory is not that great. But I can tell you it was a very happy time in my life and a very happy shoot."

A lot might have changed in Khanna's career since the film's release but one thing that has not is his feeling of fun when it comes to cinema. "It has always been an enjoyable experience."

Khanna's filmography suggests he is genre-neutral. But he would have liked more action films. It is why he readily agreed to State of Siege: Temple Attack, in which he plays an NSG commando. The film, directed by Ken Ghosh, is inspired from the 2002 terrorist attack on Akshardham Temple in Gujarat.

This is not the first time he is playing a role where he is required to wear a uniform and will stream on Zee5 from July 9.

**Guns and glory** Akshaye Khanna in State of Siege: Temple Attack - SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

handle big guns. In his second film, *Border*, he was a second lieutenant. He later played a lieutenant in LOC Kargil.

So, what is the fascination for uniforms and guns? "It is just something that captures your imagination," he says, "Action movies are hugely popular all over the world. I love watching them repeatedly. Whether it is a police officer or an army officer or anyone in those kinds of professions are attractive on an aspirational level."

Khanna also likes films about real-life incidents. "It adds authenticity. When you're watching it, in the back of your mind, you know that it's something that has happened to real people," he says. But he adds that State of Siege: Temple Attack is different from some of his other based-onreal-life-incident films like The Accidental Prime Minister or Gandhi, My Father. "In this film, we are not claiming to recreate the actual incident. It is a dramatised, fictional account of what

State of Siege: Temple Attack

# FIST OF

Filmmaker Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra talks about his upcoming boxing drama Toofaan and reuniting with Farhan Akthar after eight years

Director's cut A still from Toofaan; (inset) Rakeysh



Vaccine Project. "Through

this partnership, our aim is to offer opportunities to our us-

er base to volunteer and help

verify information about CO-

VID Vaccine Centers (CVCs)

in India," says Papri. Mem-

bers with relevant skill sets

can join the project's tech

team or choose from oppor-

tunities on indiavaccine.in,

helping with creating con-

tent, verifying vaccine stocks

and reducing vaccine hesi-

"There is a lot of data being

shared about the vaccine bet-

ween users," says Rahul Nam-

dev, co-founder of Betterhal-

Intelligence-driven Indian

matrimonial app. While he

believes adding badges is a

good idea, he says his app has

taken a different approach:

"We send a lot of notifica-

tions, emails and pop up

messages to drive awareness." Rahul says around

40%-50% of his users are

He has noticed that wo-

men are adamant not to talk

to people who do not believe in vaccines. "If a guy says he

will be taking his vaccine

maybe after three months.

then that conversation is not

going anywhere," says Rahul.

Sitara agrees that women are

a lot more particular. "At this

point, on our app, 69% of

men and 71% women are vac-

cinated and sporting badg-

vaccinated.

an

Artificial

tancy, among others.

The trust factor

f.ai.

**GAUTAM SUNDER** 

Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra is not a man in a hurry - he has made seven films in 20 years. His latest Toofaan is set for release next week; the same week which saw the release of his first directorial, Aks, two decades ago.

Today, the filmmaker occupies an important place in contemporary Indian cinema as a progressive policymaker – whether it is the jaunty socio-political highs of *Rang* De Basanti or the immersive adrenaline rushes of Bhaag Milkha Bhaag.

A conversation with the 58-yearold is always fascinating; his answers measured, his tone nuanced, and one can even sense his thoughts as he explains what drew him to a boxing drama and casting Farhan Akthar in it.

Excerpts from

departure from 'sports biopics' decade. Is the script a totally fictional story?

> • Well, I have been blamed too for going the biopic route earlier, but Toofaan is a complete work of fiction indeed. However, it draws everything from real life, from anecdotes and people I have seen and heard about, from conflicts and struggles. It is a drama at a family and social level, and a lovely romance. against the back-

> > you pick

drop of boxing, a

sport that has

huge synergy

protagonist.

boxing as the backdrop?

• Boxing is a lonely sport; not a team sport. In it, what is most important is not to hit, but how to take a hit. The person who stands till the end without getting knocked out wins. I see that as a metaphor for life. Life will slap and surprise you in different ways, but you have to stand, deal with it, and make yourself a better human being with the choices you make.

Right from the inception, the script was lending itself to boxing too. The main character is like a bhai in a locality, from the Bhendi Bazaar and Dongri area in Mumbai. His life so far has taught him how to fight, but his talent and mind can go either way.

One's power can be used to better society or it can be misused-...that is the story I wanted to tell. Often, the right path is the difficult one to choose.

> Tell us about your relationship with Farhan...was it like catching up with an old friend to work on this film?

• Our relationship has evolved since Bhaag Milkha Bhaag. We have always had a

sense of mutual respect, and when we came out of our first film together, we felt extremely em-

When you collaborate with someone like Farhan, the energy grows manifold. The important thing is the like-mindedness in what we are doing. When I heard *Toofaan* for the first time – it was narrated to me by writer Anjum Rajabali - I immediately understood its voice, and wanted to do it with Farhan.

I feel both of us have grown a lot since *Bhaag...* and it is exciting to tell a story that dwells deeper into human relationships. This film is not plot-driven, it is character-driven. Which is why I am sure audiences will see their own struggles on screen and be able to empathise.

Toofaan will stream on Amazon Prime from July 16.

#### PRIYADARSHINI PAITANDY

What is your idea of an ideal first date? Martinis at a beach bar? Dinner and a movie? Game night?

Well, for some who just met their partners on dating apps, it is heading to the nearest vaccination centre and getting a jab together. #jabwemet. With new variants of CO-

VID-19 rearing their ugly heads, an increasing number of people are opting for the vaccine. And, they want to ensure potential dates are vaccinated too. Now, dating apps are adding features that educate users, busting myths and allaying fears.

Popular sites like Tinder, Ok Cupid and Woo allow users to display a badge (usually an image of a syringe or plaster) to state they are vaccinated. It does not matter if they have received just one shot or both.

Last November, when vaccines were on the verge of being launched, OK Cupid, a dating app that been in India since 2018 and has over a million members, introduced a set of questions to gauge the mood of users.

"Back then, a lot of them said they were not entirely sure if they would opt for it," says Sitara Menon, senior marketing manager, OK Cupid. She adds that, since then answers have changed to yes, with a substantial number opining that a non-vaccinated person is a deal breaker.

The pandemic has led to a change in conversation pat-

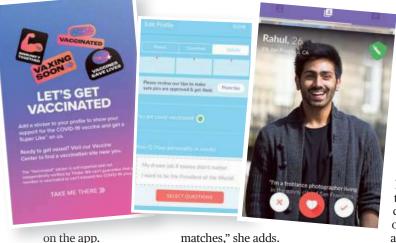
New features, including stickers, are conversation starters, says Papri Dev, senior director, APAC communications, Tinder. She adds, "In May 2021 we noticed the reference to vaccines

in bios went up by 42 times in members' profiles," she says. Sample this: 'Will you hold my hand while I take my vaccine?' Or, 'Let's get the COVID Vaccine together;)'.

When the pandemic began, the team at OK Cupid noticed the word COVID came up a lot in users' self summaries

# Forget pictures. Show me your vaccine certificate

Whether or not you are vaccinated can decide your chances of getting a date, reveals research by Tinder, OkCupid, Woo and other popular dating apps in India



on the app.

Following that, over the last three months, 'vaccination' became the most used term. There has been a 763% increase in the mention of the word vaccine in bios," says Sitara.

She adds that Indians users now want to know if potential partners are vaccinated or want to get vaccinated. Badges on profiles help the others know if the person has taken their jab or not. "People who believe in vaccines,

or got theirs, get 25% more

In a survey conducted in the major metros in the country, Woo, a home-grown dating app with more than 12 million users worldwide, found that 70% of its audience wants to meet people who are vaccinated.

"The survey was based on answers given by 10,000 people in the 24-35 age group,

= IMAGING:

M ARIVARASU

Ritesh Bhatnagar, chief marketing officer-WOO.

"That's why we decided to go on this route and incorporate cine-related features like badges on our app last week."

Tinder launched what they call a 'vaccine centre' last week, on the app. This is an educational re-

source with quizzes and questions, and we have a link to CoWin," says Papri. OK Cupid and Bumble have similar features, with explainers and answers from science and healthcare officials.

Tinder

has es," she says. partnered A word of caution: Althwith India ough users are putting up their vaccine status, the apps are operating on trust alone, and not asking for evidence right now. Woo offers a feature where users can upload

> it is not mandatory. Nevertheless, out of 19% of its vaccinated users, 50% have so far uploaded their certificates. On Betterhalf.ai, the team

> their vaccine certificates, but

keeps reminding the users to take necessary precautions if they are meeting other daters. Says Rahul, "We are encouraging them to request other users to show their vaccination certificate, that way they can be sure and, hopefully, safe."

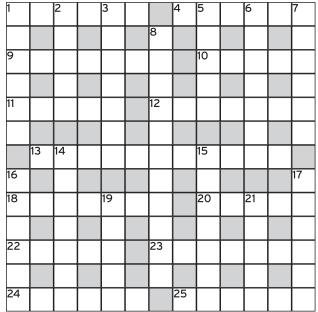
Jabbed Dating apps are providing vaccine themed stickers that let their inocukated users stand out ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

#### Rajesh Selva begins *Irai*

Director Rajesh M Selva, known for Tamil films like Kamal Haasan's Thoonga Vanam and Vikram's Kadaram Kondan, has recently started work on a web-series. Titled Irai (Prey), this series will feature Sarath Kumar in the lead role. It will reportedly be a crime-thriller. Raadhika Sarathkumar of Radaan Mediaworks, which is known for its small-screen offerings, says in a

statement, "Despite it being a crime thriller, the show will encapsulate the essence of family, sentiments, and relationships." Ghibran is the music composer

#### **THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13420**



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Across 1 French port opposite Kent (6)

4 Drug, such as morphine (6)

9 Japanese art form – I'm a giro (rev)

10 Secret store (5) **11** Release (3,2)

12 Cooking utensil (7)

13 A super stick (anag) – North American tree cultivated for its

lightweight timber (5,6) 18 Small pasta cases with savoury

fillings (7)

**20** Arbour (5)

22 Unsophisticated (5)

**23** Irritable (7) 24 Line on a cricket pitch (6)

25 WH Auden's first name (6) Down

1 Absent-minded drawing (6)

2 Be (5)

3 Ornamental fowl (7) 5 Ski slope (5)

6 Lacking in colour or vitality (7) **7** Urge strongly and sincerely (6)

8 US river and state (11) **14** Bill (7)

15 Heist (7)

16 Humorously mocking (6) 17 Ragamuffin (6)

**19** Portents (5)

21 18th-century card game, the forerunner of bridge (5)

The solution will appear on July 15, 2021.

Solution No. 13419

BRANDTCOMBO MORSEL T E A S E S H A E M O R R H A G E P U O P A EMPHASIS OGRE REALLY |O|U|T|F|O|X

M ND-NDE

# Haiti President Jovenel Moïse assassinated, First Lady injured

PM said some of the attackers spoke in Spanish but offered no further details

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gunmen assassinated Haitian President Jovenel Moïse and wounded his wife in their home early on Wednesday, inflicting more chaos on the Caribbean country that was already enduring gang violence, soaring inflation and protests by Opposition supporters who accused the of increasing authoritarianism.

Interim Prime Minister Claude Joseph, who confirmed the killing, said the police and the military were in control of security in Haiti, the poorest country in the Americas where a history of dictatorship and political upheaval have long stymied the consolidation of democratic rule.

Despite Mr. Joseph's assurances that order would prevail, there was confusion about who should take control and widespread anxiety among Haitians. Authorities declared a "state of siege" in



Controversial reign: A file photo of Haiti President Jovenel Moïse with wife Martine. • AFP

the country and closed the international airport.

The normally bustling streets of the capital, Portau-Prince, were empty and quiet on Wednesday. Sporadic gunshots were heard in the distance, public transportation was scarce, and some people searched for businesses that were open to buy food and water.

'Foreign mercenaries' Bocchit Edmond, the Haitian

Ambassador to the United States, said the attack on the sins could have escaped over the land border to the Dominican Republic or by sea.

Haiti appeared to be heading for fresh volatility ahead of general elections later this year. Mr. Moïse had been ruling by decree for more than a year after failing to hold elections, and the Opposition demanded that he step down in recent months, saying he was leading it toward yet another grim period of authoritarianism.

Mr. Joseph said the heavily armed gunmen spoke Spanish or English, but he gave no details on the attack.

The White House described the attack as "horrific" and "tragic", and said it was still gathering information to brief President Joe Biden, spokesperson Jen Psaki

"The message to the people of Haiti is this is a tragic tragedy," she said. "And we stand ready and stand by them to provide any assistance that's needed.'

# Lanka issues coin for CPC centenary

'China is one of our most sincere friends,' says PM Mahinda Rajapaksa

MEERA SRINIVASAN

In a rare diplomatic gesture, Sri Lanka has issued a commemorative coin marking the centenary of the Chinese Communist Party. The country's Central Bank on Tuesday said it has minted two coins in gold and silver, in connection with the Party's 100th anniversary, and 65 years of Sri Lanka-China relations.

"The coins have been issued at the request of the government of Sri Lanka as an accolade for long-standing friendship and mutual trust between the two countries," a statement from the apex bank said.

One of the coins, of LKR 1,000 denomination, bears the words 'Communist Party of China' in Sinhala, Tamil and English, and the years 1921-2021, along with the anniversary year 100, while the other has a view of the China-built Nelum Pokuna Mahinda Rajapaksa Theatre [located in Colombo], with national flags of Sri Lanka and China, and the words 'Sri Lanka-China 65 Years'



**Token of appreciation:** President Gotabaya Rajapaksa receiving the first coin from the CBSL Governor. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

and year 2022 inscribed, according to the statement. Central Bank Governor W.D. Lakshman presented the first coin to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Tuesday.

**Economic help** 

The apex bank's move comes amid substantial economic assistance from China to Sri Lanka. While Sri Lanka already owes China over \$5 billion from past loans, Beijing sanctioned an additional \$1 billion in loan and about \$1.5 billion in a currency swap to help Colombo combat its economic crisis since the pandemic hit the island nation in March 2020. Speaking in a virtual con-

ference to commemorate the Chinese Communist Party's centenary, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa on Wednesday said China was one of Sri Lanka's "most sincere friends". "The Communist Party of China is currently the world's largest political party, which has delivered a very important message to the world on foreign relations for the past 70 years," he said, pointing to bilateral relations since 1957, and relations between the Communist parties of both countries since the 1940s.

"I am aware that it was the foreign policy positions of the CPC that elevated China on the global stage. However, China has never tried to impose its own political views on the world," PM Rajapaksa said. "China has also never felt the need to manipulate the affairs of other countries. China has helped the other countries, keeping them at the same level, which is a very important matter for a country's independence as well as its sovereignty," he said, even as sections within Sri Lanka, including political allies of the Rajapaksas, remain fiercely critical of Western and Indian "interference" that they see as a threat to the country's sovereignty.

Further, commending China on its poverty eradication programme, Mr. Rajapaksa said China always believed that improving infrastructure would "provide new ways and new strengths for the people". "Therefore, we have constantly invited China to help develop the infrastructure,"

# Trump files suits against FB, Twitter and Google

He challenges 'wrongful censorship'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former U.S. President Donald Trump has filed suits against three of the country's biggest tech companies, claiming he and other conservatives have been wrongfully censored.

Mr. Trump announced the action against Facebook, Twitter and Google's YouTube, along with the companies' CEOs, at a press conference in New Jersey on Wednesday. He was joined by other plaintiffs in the suits, which were filed in

federal court in Miami. "We're demanding an end to the shadow-banning, a stop to the silencing and a stop to the blacklisting, banishing and cancelling that you know so well," he said.

Under Section 230 of the 1996 Communications Decency Act, social media platforms are allowed to moderate their services by removing posts that, for instance, are obscene or violate the services' own standards, so long as they are



Donald Trump

acting in "good faith." The law also generally exempts Internet companies from liability for the material that users post.

But Mr. Trump and some other politicians have long argued that Twitter, Facebook and other social media platforms have abused that protection and should lose their immunity - or at least have to earn it by satisfying requirements set by the government

Mr. Trump was suspended from Twitter, Facebook and YouTube after his followers stormed the Capitol building on January 6. The companies cited concerns that he would incite further

# Taliban attack Afghan provincial capital

Fierce fighting in western city of Qala-i-Naw

53-year-old Mr. Moïse was

carried out by "well-trained

professional commandos"

and "foreign mercenaries"

who were masquerading as

agents of the U.S. Drug En-

was in a stable but critical

condition and efforts were

under way to move her to

Miami for treatment, Mr. Ed-

Haiti has asked the U.S.

government for assistance

with the investigation, he

said, adding that the assas-

mond said in Washington.

Mr. Moïse's wife. Martine.

forcement Administration.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE AFGHANISTAN

The Taliban launched a major assault on a provincial capital in Afghanistan on Wednesday, the first since the U.S. military began its final drawdown of troops from the country as insurgents press on with a blistering offensive.

Fierce fighting erupted in the western city of Qala-i-Naw, the capital of Badghis, with the militants seizing police headquarters and offices of the country's spy As news of the morning

assault spread, social media was flooded with videos of clashes – with some showing armed Taliban fighters on motorbikes entering the city of about 75,000, as onlookers cheered. Afghanistan's Defence Minister Bismillah Mohammadi said government forces were in a "very sensitive military situation", adding that "the war is raging" with the Taliban.



**Gun battle:** A smoke plume rising from houses amid fighting between Afghan forces and Taliban fighters in Qala-i- Naw. • AFP

The onslaught came hours after Washington announced that U.S. forces had completed more than 90% of their withdrawal from Afghanistan. The militants have waged a dizzying campaign across Afghanistan since U.S. and NATO forces announced the final withdrawal from the country in early May, seizing dozens of districts and stirring fears that the government is in crisis.

"The enemy has entered the city, all the districts have fallen," Badghis Governor Hessamuddin Shams told reporters in a text message. He attempted to calm the residents in a video message, appearing with a rifle - with

gunfire rattling in the distance. "I assure you that we will, all of us, together defend the city," he said.

The Defence Ministry later said its troops had cleared "most parts" of the city. "In the next few hours all parts of the city will be cleared," Ministry spokesman Fawad Aman tweeted. Afghan Vice-President

Amrullah Saleh tweeted that the bodies of "tens" of Taliban fighters were lying in the streets. "I demand the respected ICRC (Red Cross) and other organizations to transfer the bodies... The weather is hot, and we do not support disrespecting the bodies," he said.

#### Afghan govt. met Taliban in Tehran: Iran

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

An Afghan government delegation met Taliban representatives in Tehran on Wednesday, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said.

Deputy chief negotiator Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai headed the Taliban delegation while former Vice-President Younus Qanooni represented the government, the Iranian Ministry said.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid confirmed Mr. Stanikzai's visit to Tehran to "discuss issues of mutual interest". But he made no reference to any Afghan government delegation, saying only that Mr. Stanikzai was holding talks with "some Alghan perso nalities". "They will discuss and exchange opinions on the current situation of the country and finding a solution through talks," he added.



Megaship heads out of

ASSOCIATED PRESS

nounced the release on Wednesday of a hulking shipping vessel that had blocked the Suez Canal for nearly a week in March after running aground. The m.v. Ever Given left

the canal's Great Bitter Lake, where it had been held for more than three months amid a financial dispute. The development came after its Japanese owner, Shoei Kisen Kaisha Ltd., reached a settlement with canal authorities over a compensation amount following weeks of negotia-

tions and a court stand-off. The settlement deal was signed in a ceremony on Wednesday in the Suez Canal city of Ismailia, after which the vessel was seen sailing to the Mediterranean Sea. The company said the vessel would undergo a dive survey in Egypt's Mediterranean city of Port Said, before resuming her voyage to the next port where her car-



The m.v. Ever Given sailing near the central Egyptian city of Ismailia. • AFP

go will be discharged. Officials did not reveal de-

tails on the terms of the settlement. At first, the Suez Canal Authority had demanded \$916 million in compensation, which was later lowered to \$550 million. In addition to the money, local reports said the canal would also receive a tugboat. The money, according to canal authorities, would cover the salvage operation, costs of stalled canal traffic, and lost transit fees for the six days the ship had blocked the crucial wa-

#### **ELSEWHERE**



U.S. forces in Iraq, Syria come under attack

Rocket and drone attacks targeted bases in Iraq and Syria hosting U.S. forces. Fourteen rockets were fired at an air base hosting U.S. troops in Iraq's Anbar, causing minor injuries to two personnel. It was the latest in a spate of attacks on U.S. military and diplomatic facilities in Iraq, blamed on pro-Iranian armed groups within a state-sponsored paramilitary force. In Syria Kurdish-led forces also reported attempted attacks near a coalition base. AFI

# China fines Internet giants in anti-monopoly cases

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Companies, including Internet giants Alibaba and Tencent, were fined on Wednesday by anti-monopoly regulators in a new move to tighten control over their fast-developing industries.

In 22 cases, companies were fined 5,00,000 yuan (\$75,000) each for actions, including acquiring stakes in other companies that might improperly increase their market power, the State Administration for Market Regulation announced. It said violators include six companies owned by Alibaba Group and five by Tencent Holding Ltd.

China's leaders worry

about the dominance of its biggest Internet companies, which are expanding into finance, health services and

In the biggest penalty to date, Alibaba was fined 18.3 billion yuan (\$2.8 billion) in April on charges of suppressing competition. Other companies have been fined or reprimanded for violating competition, data protection, censorship and othrules. On Sunday, ride-hailing service Didi Global Inc. was ordered to overhaul its collection and handling of customer data.

other sensitive areas. The

ruling Communist Party

says anti-monopoly enforce-

ment, especially in tech, is a

priority this year.

#### Fix anti-LGBT law, EU warns Hungary

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE STRASBOURG

European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen on Wednesday warned Hungary to reverse course on its controversial LGBT law, as pressure mounts on Brussels to cut EU funding to Budapest.

Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban is facing a mounting chorus of protest over the law, which is due to go into effect on Thursday. Mr. Orban insists it is a measure to protect children, but critics say the law conflates paedophilia with homosexuality and generally stigmatises support for the LGBT community.

#### TNPI TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED Kagithapuram - 639 136. KARUR Dist. Tamil Nadu Email: stores.dis@tnpl.co.in, Tel: 04324 - 277001 (10 Lines REGISTRATION OF BUYERS FOR THE ONLINE

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Tender Ref. No.KIHM/Tender-2/2020-21 Last date: 21.07.2021 at 2.00 pm For details, please visit :  $www. kerala tour is m. org, \, www. et enders. kerala. gov. in$ 

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF INCOME TAX
AAYAKAR BHAWAN, M.K.MARG, MUMBAI - 400020
Email: sportscell.itmumbai@gmail.com Phone No.: 022-22057236
Date: 08.07.2021

SPORTS QUOTA RECRUITMENT - 2021 The Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Mumbai, invites applications for recruitment of meritorious sports persons in certain games / sports disciplines. The recruitment will be made in the following posts.

The rest diament will be made in the remaining poster.								
Sr. No.	Name of the post	· vacalicies ·						
1	Inspector of Income Tax	8	Pay level-7 (Rs. 44900 to Rs.142400					
2	Tax Assistant	83	Pay level-4 (Rs. 25500 to Rs. 81100					
3	Multi-Tasking Staff	64	Pay level-1 (Rs. 18000 to Rs. 56900					
The selected candidates would also be entitled to all the allowances as applicable to Central Government Employees.								

Complete details regarding the Sports disciplines earmarked for recruitment educational qualifications, other eligibility conditions along with the terms and conditions and instructions to the candidates are available on the Department's website www.incometaxmumbai.gov.in

The application form available on the website www.incometaxmumbai.gov.in o https://www.incometaxmumbai.in/ should be mandatorily filled ONLINE Incomplete applications will be rejected summarily. The last date for online submission of application is 25.08.2021 by 23:59 Hrs.

(Kartik Saresa, I.R.S.) Deputy Commissioner of Income Tax (HQ) Personnel, Mumbai

07-07-2021 22-07-202:

1.00 p.m.

5.00 p.m.

#### TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS:TIRUPATI Office of the Chief Engineer e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE Adv.No.17/D3/CE/TTD/2021-22 05/07/2021 rited on e-procurement for the following works of TTD Eng End Date & SI. No. NIT Rs. in Lakhs &

**Start Date** for bid Completion Superintending Engineer-I Construction of additional 08-07-2021 23-07-2021 1990.00 floors over existing Harini Hostel Block and 5.00 p.m. 1.00 p.m. Conversion of rooms 3.00 p.m. Srinivasa and Gandhi Hostels in SPW College Campus at Tirupati. Construction of Schoo 760.00 09-07-2021 26-07-2021 Building in S. V. Oriental High School & S. V. Elementary SE-I/ 5.00 p.m. 1.00 p.m. TTD/ School at Tirupati. 3.00 p.m. Superintending Engineer-II

1800.00

88/ Improvements to Employees SE-II/ Staff Quarters, B-Type, Old C TTD/ Type, Old D-Type, New C-Type 2021-& New D-Type Quarters (Tota 22 -437 Nos.) at Tirumala. 3.00 p.m.

Note: For full details log on to the website https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in. or http://www.apeprocurement.gov.in

Roc.No.PR4/13932/Adv.No.75/PR0/2021/Dated:07-07-2021 EXECUTIVE OFFICER PRINCIPAL

as the ruling party tightens political controls and tries to silence groups that might criticise its rule.



# China social media giant

ASSOCIATED PRESS

China's most popular social media service has deleted accounts on LGBT topics run by university students and non-government groups, prompting concern that the ruling Communist Party is tightening control over gay and lesbian content.

shuts LGBT accounts

WeChat sent account holders a notice that they violated rules but gave no details, according to the founder of an LGBT group.

It wasn't clear whether the step was ordered by Chinese authorities, but it comes



The Superintending Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Circle, Cuttack on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites on Percentage rate basis bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Road work as mentioned below.

No. of work 3. Nature of work Road Work 4. Class of contractor

of tender can also be seen in the said web site.

: Special Class & Super Class Tender Paper Cost Rs.10000/- (Online) 6. Available of bid documents : From 22.07.2021 to 16.00 Hours of 06.08.2021

in the web site : Dt. 09.08.2021 at 11.00 Hours. Date of opening of bid 8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation

> Sd/- T.P.Mishra Superintending Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Circle

OIPR-34012/11/0015/2122 =

# MARKET WATCH

	07-07-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	53,055	0.37
US Dollar	74.62	-0.09
Gold	46,903	-1.77
Brent oil	73.13	-2.79

NIFTY 50		
		CHANG
Adani Ports		
Asian Paints		
Axis Bank		
Bajaj Auto		
Bajaj Finserv	. 12374.15.	283.3
Bajaj Finance		
Bharti Airtel	529.60	3.5
BPCL	460.50	2.4
Britannia Ind		
Cipla	965.20.	3.9
Coal India		
Divis Lab	4552.55.	28.3
Dr Reddys Lab	5562.10	22.6
Eicher Motors	2710.85	-0.3
Grasim Ind	1493.85	3.4
HCL Tech	975.35	3.3
HDFC		
HDFC Bank	1539.50	4.8
HDFC Life		
Hero MotoCorp		
Hindalco		
Hind Unilever		
ICICI Bank		
IndusInd Bank		
Infosys		
Indian OilCorp		
ITC		
JSW Steel		
Kotak Bank		
L&T		
M&M		
Maruti Suzuki		
Nestle India Ltd.		
NTPC		
ONGC		
PowerGrid Corp		
Reliance Ind		
SBI Life		
State Bank		
Shree Cement		
Sun Pharma		
Tata Consumer		0.8
		0.4
Products Ltd.		
Tata Motors		
Tata Steel		
TCS		
Tech Mahindra		
Titan		
UltraTech Cement.		
UPL	816.90	13.6

EXCHANGE RATES							
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on July 07							
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL					
US Dollar	74.42	74.74					
Euro	87.95	88.33					
British Pound	.102.85	103.29					
Japanese Yen (100).	67.18	67.49					
Chinese Yuan	11.52	11.57					
Swiss Franc	80.52	80.91					
Singapore Dollar	55.24	55.48					
Canadian Dollar	59.83	60.12					
Malaysian Ringitt	17.88	17.96					

532.15.....-0.45



**Vistara introduces Delhi-Tokyo flights** 

Vistara inaugurated non-stop flights between Delhi and Tokyo Haneda, Under the air bubble agreement between India and Japan, Vistara will fly once a week between the two cities using its Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner.

#### PNB asks arm to mull rejigging Carlyle deal

PNB Housing Finance on Wednesday said its promoter Punjab National Bank has asked it to consider restructuring the proposed ₹4.000-crore capital infusion deal led by Carlyle group. The housing financier also said it would await the Securities Appellate Tribunal's order before taking a final decision. It said it received a letter from PNB on July 4. The state-owned lender took a legal opinion and deliberated the matter in its board meeting, it said. PTI

# Fitch cuts GDP growth estimate to 10% on slower recovery

'Disruption in key centres hit expectations of a rebound to pre-pandemic levels'

Fitch Ratings has cut its projection for India's real GDP growth in 2021-22 to 10%, from 12.8%, citing a slower recovery due to renewed CO-VID-19 restrictions and warned that medium-term growth hopes of about 6.5% could suffer if business and consumer activity were scarred from the pandemic.

The ratings agency also warned that banks' asset quality challenges have increased and will remain under threat due to mobility restrictions, medical exigencies and rising job losses, with MSME and retail loans to low- and moderate-in-



Not so fast: Fitch pared its earlier estimate of 12.8% growth citing curbs that have damped resumption of activity. •PTI

come borrowers most likely

lockdowns "Localised during the second wave kept economic activity from stalling to levels similar to those during 2020 (Q1 2020-21 real GDP growth: -24.4%), but disruption in several key business centres has slowed the recovery and dented our expectations of a rebound to

pre-pandemic levels by 2021-22," the agency said in a note on Indian banks. "Our moderately worse 2021 outlook for Indian banks factors in muted prospects for new business due to our expectation of weak corporate and consumer confidence. banks' continuing high-risk aversion and below-trend credit demand," it added.

"Fitch expects banks' exposure to stressed MSME and retail borrowers to rise further with the increasing relief outlay.... [and] impaired loans to peak after 2022-23 since stress is likely to manifest from this pool over a fairly protracted time frame," the agency stressed.

#### 'Bank GNPAs to fall in FY22 on recoveries'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The banking system's gross non-performing assets are set to decline to at least 7.1% by March 2022, from 7.6% at FY21-end, a domestic ratings agency said on Wednesday.

The NPAs will go lower on higher recoveries and upgrades, and also faster credit growth, ICRA said,

Fresh accretion to the NPAs will be higher in FY22 due to the absence of any regulatory dispensations such as moratoriums, the agency said.

The Reserve Bank's financial stability report had said GNPAs as at March 2021 were 7.6% and estimated they would rise to 9.8% by FY22-end under its base-case assumptions.

# IMF chief warns of U.S. inflation risk

Fund sees response spurring outflows

The International Monetary Fund on Wednesday said further fiscal support in the United States could fuel inflationary pressures and warned that the risk of a sustained rise in prices could require raising interest rates earlier-than-expected.

Higher U.S. interest rates could lead to a sharp tightening of global financial conditions and significant capital outflows from emerging and developing economies, IMF MD Kristalina Georgieva said in a blog published Wednesday.

The IMF's assessment of U.S. inflation risks comes amid sharp criticism by Republican lawmakers of President Joe Biden's multi-trillion-dollar plans to boost spending on infrastructure, child care, community college tuition and expanded coverage of home care for the elderly and disabled.

Ms. Georgieva said an accelerated recovery from the pandemic in the U.S., where growth is seen reaching 7% in 2021, would benefit many countries through increased trade, but rising inflation could be more sustained than expected. The IMF forecasts global growth of 6%.

Other countries face rising commodity and food prices, which are now at their highest level since 2014, putting millions of people at risk of food insecurity, the IMF said in its report.

#### M&M recasts business in Turkey

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Mahindra and Mahindra (M&M) announced that its subsidiary Erkunt Traktor Sanayi A.S. will acquire the Agriculture Machinery business from its subsidiary Hisarlar Makina Sanavi ve Ticaret Anonim Şirketi, as part of its restructuring of business in Turkey.

Also, in a reverse deal, Mahindra Overseas Investment Company (Mauritius) Ltd. (MOICML), a wholly owned subsidiary of M&M, and Erkunt, have agreed to sell their entire stake of 94.3% in Hisarlar, for an aggregate consideration of Turkish Lira 6.6 million (about ₹5.6 crore).

# 'IT sector to

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Indian IT industry will stage a 'strong recovery' in 2021-22 with a revenue growth of up to 11%, ratings agency Crisil said on Wednesday.

The recovery will be led by increasing outsourcing and accelerating digital transformation services mainly in sectors such as banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI), healthcare, retail and manufacturing, Crisil said.

According to Nasscom, billion in last fiscal year.

Crisil said higher business levels, and more profitable digital deals will also help IT services players maintain healthy operating

# see 11% growth in revenue'

the IT services industry grew 2.7% to \$99 billion in 2020-21. The wider industry including e-commerce, business process management and global back offices had grown 2.3% to \$194

margins.

# Auto segments set for double-digit growth: SCL

'Firm well-placed to leverage opportunity'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Auto components manufac-Sundaram-Clayton Ltd. (SCL) has said that all automotive segments are expected to return to strong double-digit growth in the short to mid term on account of low base.

"Increase in industrial activity, need for personal mobility [and] improved availability of funds, will drive the growth of the domestic auto industry," chairman Venu Srinivasan said in the an-

nual report. In the long term, he said, due to stringent emission norms, fuel economy regulations and adoption of alternative drive-train technologies, the thrust towards 'light-weighting' was bound to increase, leading to high-



Indent No.

MCC/HS/CR-57

2020-21

No

Venu Srinivasan

er aluminium content in all vehicles. Asserting that SCL was well-placed to leverage these emerging market opportunities, he said these would enable the company to fast track growth, since it was already a preferred source for aluminium castings to major original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) in India and abroad.

# 'Second wave to retard rural FMCG growth'

E-com share rising: Wipro Consumer

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Wipro Consumer Care & Lighting (WCCL) on Wednesday said the second CO-VID wave is expected to slow down growth in the rural FMCG market in the current fiscal and that the situation was challenging for the business in the June quarter.

The company expects growth to be almost equal in both rural and urban markets for FMCG products this fiscal unlike last financial year when the rural markets recorded higher growth.

WCCL is not anticipating any further increase in the price of Santoor soaps, as prices of palm oil have cooled down. Palm oil is a key ingredient for making soaps. The company also said about 14% of India sales now come via e-commerce.

"The e-com portion of sales is on the rise. However, this would exclude Santoor, which was mostly a rural-focussed brand," said CEO Vineet Agrawal. "In seating and office portfolio, e-com share was

zero until April 2020, but this year 20% of our sales from the segment are coming via e-commerce. We also see 8% of sales coming online for lighting in the domestic market," he added. (With inputs from Mini

service abroad PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI Airbus India's technical ad-

'Airbus liable

for 18% GST on

visory and procurement services for its Francebased holding company are 'intermediary services' and liable to 18% Goods and Services Tax (GST), the Authority for Advance Ruling has said.

Airbus Group India had approached the Karnataka bench of the AAR, seeking a ruling on whether the services rendered by it to its holding company Airbus Invest SAS, France, would qualify as 'export of service' under the Goods and Services Tax law and hence construed as a 'zerorated supply'.

# EU forecasts higher growth in eurozone

Commission flags risk of virus variants

REUTERS

The eurozone economy will grow faster than previously thought both this year and next, the European Commission said on Wednesday, despite rising concerns the fast-spreading Delta variant could lead to new curbs.

The EU's executive arm also expected higher inflation this year for the 19-nation bloc than previously fobut estimated growth in consumer prices would slow next year.

The EU arm predicted the eurozone will grow by 4.8% this year, much faster than the 4.3% expansion it had forecast in May.



The upward revision is largely due to the reopening of the bloc's national economies in the second quarter which benefited the services sector and is expected to boost tourism within the EU, the Commission said. It noted economic activity in the first quarter had also exceeded initial expectations.

#### Natco slumps 6.7% after U.S. firm gets relief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD

Natco Pharma shares fell 6.7% to ₹1,087.30 on the BSE on Wednesday, after the company said the Delhi High Court had allowed an application of U.S.-based FMC Corp. challenging the use of the insect control active ingredient chlorantraniliprole (CTPR).

While Natco signalled it would review all options, the U.S. firm said the interim injunction restrains Natco from manufacturing, using, distributing or selling any product that contains CTPR.

FMC had filed the lawsuit for potential infringement of patents on CTPR.



Tejaswi in Bengaluru)

#### M.Sc., Public Health Entomology

(Affiliated to Pondicherry University)

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#### ICMR-VECTOR CONTROL RESEARCH CENTRE

Department of Health Research.

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India Indira Nagar, Puducherry - 605 006. Tel: 0413-2279072/2272396

> Last date for submission of applications Open, General & In-service: 23rd July 2021

(The date given above is tentative & subject to COVID- 19 situation)

Candidates selected under Category I & IIA (Indian Nationals) are eligible for Scholarship.

For application and other details, please visit our website: https://vcrc.icmr.org.in Director

**EXAMPLE NADU WAREHOUSING CORPORATION** (A Govt. of Tamil Nadu Sponsored Undertaking) 82, ANNA SALAI, GUINDY, CHENNAI - 600 032. **NOTICE INVITING TENDER** e-Tenders are invited by the Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Warehousing Corporation, Chennai-32 under TWO BID SYSTEM for appointment of H & T Contractor(s) to carry out Handling and Transportation of Food grains, Fertilizers, Sugar, Cement and o notified commodities at 31 Warehouses

The entire details of Tenders and the list of Warehouses are available in the Government Website https://tntenders.gov.in

Tender Documents available place, cost and due Available in the website https://tntenders.gov.in (free of cost) 08.07.2021 to 09.08.2021 09.08.2021 by 05.00 P.M. Due date for submission of Tender through online Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Warehousing Corporation, Chennai-32.

#### MANGALURU 🐉 CITY CORPORATION

ADDRESS: Post Box No:756, Lalbagh Mangaluru- 575003, Dakshina Kannada Phone: Office: 0824-2220313-318, Fax:0824-2220310 Dated: 07-07-2021

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

#### Mangaluru City Corporation (MCC) invites e-tenders (online tenders) from the eligible, reputed and established agencies / company (ies)/ firm for "Bio-Mining of Legacy Waste and Recovery of Land at the Pachanady Dumping Ground, Mangaluru" Interested bidders may obtain required details from the E-Procurement website of Karnataka (www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in) Tender **Last Date** Name of Work **Amount** Period (Rs. in Lakhs) Submission

5078.22

Ground, Mangaluru I) Availability of Tender: **09-07-2021** on <a href="https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in">https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in</a> ii) Pre bid meeting is scheduled on 26-07-2021 at 3:00 PM in MCC, Lalbagh, Mangaluru. For Further details regarding the tender contact Environment Engineer, MCC, Mangaluru during office hours or over phone 0824-2220313-18 and also from website www. mangalurucity.mrc.gov.in

**Bio-Mining of Legacy Waste** 

and Recovery of Land at the

**Pachanady Dumping** 

Commissioner Mangaluru City Corporation, Mangaluru

4 Years

09.08.2021

#### जवाहरलाल स्नातकोत्तर आयुर्विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्था JAWAHARLAL INSTITUTE OF POSTGRADUATE **MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH**

(स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के अधीन राष्ट्रीय महत्व का संस्थान) (An Institution of National Importance Under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare) भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA धन्वंतरि नगर, पुदुच्चेरी / Dhanvantari Nagar, Puducherry - 605 006 (Mentor Institute for AIIMS, Madurai, Tamil Nadu) Phone: 0413 - 2296022 Fax: 0413 - 2272067 - 2272735 Website: www.jipmer.edu.in

No. JIP/Admn-I/Rect.1(30)/AIIMS-MDU/2019

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Madurai, an Autonomous Institute of National Importance is one of the new AIIMS and an apex healthcare Institute

established by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY). JIPMER, Puducherry has been designated as the Mentor Institute for AllMS, Madurai (Tamil Nadu). Application are invited from eligible officers for filling up the following Group 'A' posts for AIIMS, Madurai on DEPUTATION BASIS given as under:

No.	POST	LEVEL	VACANCY
1.	Medical Superintendent	Level-14	01
2.	Financial Advisor	Level-13	01
3.	Superintending Engineer	Level-13	01
4.	Executive Engineer (Electrical)	Level-11	01

The format of the application, other details regarding pay scale, age, qualification, experience and other conditions of eligibility etc. for the posts are available on

The last date for receipt of filled-in application is 06.09.2021 (Monday) till 4.30 P.M.



#### **National Rail and Transportation Institute**

NAIR Campus, Lalbaug, Vadodara, Gujarat-390004

#### **RECRUITMENT TO TEACHING & NON TEACHING POSITIONS**

The National Rail and Transportation Institute (NRTI), India's first Institute focused on transport-related education, multi-disciplinary research and training, invites applications from eligible candidates for the following positions:

Teaching	Advertisement No: NRTI/RECT/02/2021 Dated 14/06/21 Teaching Positions - on Regular scale							
SI. No.	Position	Vacancies	Category	Pay Level, 7th CPC				
1	Professor	3	UR-03	Level 14				
2	Associate Professor	9	UR-08 SC - 01	Level-13A				
3	Assistant Professor	15	UR-06, OBC(NCL)-05, SC-02, ST-01, EWS-01	ACADEMIC-10				
Α	Advertisement No: NRTI/RECTT/NT/03/2021 Dated 30/06/21							

SI. No.	Position	Vac.	Category	Consolidated monthl compensation Rs.
1	Chief Admission and Outreach Officer	1	UR	1,67,900
2	Director - Executive Education	1	UR	1,67,900
3	Director - Skill Development	1	UR	1,67,900
4	Chief Technology Officer	1	UR	1,67,900
5	Human Resource Officer	1	UR	78,800
6	Student Activities Officer	1	UR	78,800
7	Communication Officer	1	UR	78,800
8	Deputy Warden	2	UR	40,900
9	Admin Assistant	3	UR -02, OBC(NCL) -1	49,100
10	Physical Instructor/ Yoga Trainer	1	UR	49,100
11	Laboratory Assistants	1	UR	30,900
12	Laboratory Technician	7	SC -01, OBC (NCL) -02, UR -04	30,900

Last Date for online Application: 08.08.2021 (17:00 hrs) For detailed advertisement and to apply, please visit our website: www.nrti.edu.in

BRC-73 M ND-NDE

# Hurkacz torpedoes Federer's quest for a ninth title at SW19

The Pole blows away the off-colour Swiss in straight sets, including a bagel in the third; Shapovalov edges Khachanov in an engrossing battle

#### **WIMBLEDON**

AGENCIES LONDON

Wimbledon Eight-time champion Roger Federer lost 6-3, 7-6(4), 6-0 to 14th-seeded Hubert Hurkacz of Poland in the quarterfinals at the All England Club on Wednesday, a surprisingly lopsided finish to his 22nd appearance in the tournament.

Federer was given an ovation, but none quite like this one, which felt more like a "Thank you" or - just in case – a "Goodbye." As he stepped up to the baseline to serve in the last game, he needed to wait while fans in the full-to-capacity stands

applauded and cheered. Soon enough, it was over, only the third 6-0 set lost by Federer in his Grand Slam career and his 14th defeat in 119 matches at Wimbledon.

"I don't know what to say," Hurkacz said. "It's super special for me. Playing on this special court against Roger – it's always, when you're a kid, it's like a dream come true to play him."

This was not the Federer the world was used to watching. He simply never was able to summon the serving and shot-making that have carried him to 20 Grand Slam titles overall, tied with

Spain game hardest of

my career: Bonucci

Italy defender Leonardo

Bonucci said Spain gave him

the hardest challenge of his

career in the semifinal on

Tuesday night. "It was the

toughest game I have ever

played. I congratulate Spain

for what they showed, but once again this Italy showed

heart, determination and the

difficult moments," Bonucci

said. "Now there is one more

centimetre to go." REUTERS

**UEFA invites Eriksen** 

**UEFA** has invited Denmark

with the medics who helped to

save his life. Eriksen collapsed on

to Euro 2020 final

COPENHAGEN

ability to push through

I don't know. I really don't know. I've got to regroup. My goal was always to try & play another Wimbledon. I was able to make it this year, which I'm really happy about. Everything that comes after we'll have to sit down and talk about it

Federer appeared flat and

was quickly down 0-2 in the

third set before Hurkacz

wrapped up the decider in

iust 29 minutes in front of a

Earlier in the day, Cana-

reached his first Wimbledon

semifinal on Wednesday

beating Russia's Karen Kha-

chanov 6-4, 3-6, 5-7, 6-1, 6-4

in an engrossing tussle that

lasted 3 hours and 26

Shapovalov will next play

defending champion Novak

Djokovic after the World No.1

made short work of Hungar-

ian Marton Fucsovics 6-3,

lov took the first set after

breaking Khachanov at 4-4.

The latter, like Shapovalov

appearing in his first Wim-

bledon quarterfinal, hit back

content to largely stay at the

back, playing some delight-

ful groundstrokes, especially

on his backhand, Shapovalov

varied his game more, with

Whilst Khachanov was

by taking the next two sets.

The 22-year-old Shapova-

6-4, 6-4 on Centre Court.

Denis Shapovalov

stunned Centre Court.

Nadal for the men's record.

"I barely made it for this year," Federer said later. "It was a long hard road, but I actually kind of enjoyed it. It was always uphill, as slow as it was, but it was always moving forward."

"I did not have any setbacks, but clearly there are things missing in my game," the Swiss added.

#### Quick off the blocks

Hurkacz, boosted by having defeated World No.2 Daniil Medvedev in five sets in the last 16, was quickly up a break on a sluggish-looking Federer in the sixth game of the opening set and took it with ease.

The Swiss star, who underwent two knee surgeries in 2020 and was bidding to be the oldest man in the Wimbledon last-four in over a half a century, carved out a break

for 2-0 in the second set. But he couldn't hang on, and Hurkacz was back on serve by the seventh game after being 1-4 down and went on to dominate the tiebreak.

his drop shots highly effective.

However, it was the Russian who wilted as Shapovalov romped through the fourth to take it into the deciding set. The decider looked a tight affair but in reality Khachanov was hanging on, saving his service on a couple of occasions.

Finally, the Russian, who had been involved in a record 13 breaks of serve in the fifth set of Monday's win over Sebastian Korda, was broken in the ninth game and Shapovalov served out the match with aplomb.

#### THE RESULTS

Quarterfinals: Men: 1-Djokovic (Srb) bt Fucsovics (Hun) 6-3, 6-4, 6-4: 14-Hurkacz (Pol) bt 6-Federer (Sui) 6-3, 7-6(4), 6-0; 10-Shapovalov (Can) bt 25-Khachanov (Rus) 6-4, 3-6, 5-7, 6-1, 6-4.

■ Matteo Berrettini reached his second Major singles semifinal with a 6-3, 5-7, 7-5, 6-3 victory over Felix Auger-Aliassime. The Italian will play Hurkacz next

#### Women's semifinals

- 1-Barty vs 25-Kerber
- 2-Sabalenka vs 8-Pliskova



#### Sania-Bopanna lose a marathon

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rohan Bopanna was solid with his serve and net play as usual, but Sania Mirza's serve was consistently put under pressure as the Indian pair bowed out of The Championships with a three-set defeat in the third round of the mixed doubles event on Wednesday.

The match resumed with the 14th seeds, Jean Julien-Roger and Andreja Klepac, having a one-set lead and they finished on the right side of the result with a 6-3, 3-6, 11-9 scoreline.

Sania has not played much competitive tennis post her comeback and is struggling to get her serve

It was Sania's last tournament before the Tokyo Games where she will compete in the women's doubles with Ankita Raina.

#### Thakur replaces Rijiju as Sports Minister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Anurag Thakur replaced Kiren Rijiju as the country's sports minister with just over two weeks left for the Tokyo Olympics.

The 46-year-old former BCCI president was given charge of sports along with the IB ministry after he took oath as a cabinet minister.

#### Mixed day for Anand

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

Viswanathan Anand had a mixed day on his return to competitive chess on Wednesday.

He defeated Jorden Van Foreest of the Netherlands in the opening round of the Croatia Grand Chess Tour at Zagreb before going down to Frenchman Maxime Vachier-Lagrave in the second. Anand then drew with Russia's Ian Nepom-

machtchi. The standings (after three rounds): 1. Nepomniachtchi (Rus) 2.5 points; 2-8. Alexander Grischuk (Rus), Anton Korobov (Ukr), Jan-Krzysztof Duda (Pol), Shakhriyar Mamyedarov (Aze), Anand, Vachier-Lagrave (Fra) and Ivan Saric (Cro) 1.5; 9-10. Anish Giri (Ned) and Van Foreest

# Ice-cool Italy shades Spain on penalties

La Furia Roja left to rue missed chances; Morata tumbles from hero to villain

#### Spain captain Sergio Busquets

REUTERS

said the team will return stronger after gaining vital experience during its run to the Euro 2020 semifinals. "It's a shame, we would have liked for our tournament not to end today but that's football," Busquets told Radio Marca. "With lots of young players it will serve to give them confidence. This team will be back," said Busquets. AFF

We will be back,

says Busquets





the field during his team's opening match against Finland on June 12 after suffering a cardiac arrest. He had to be resuscitated with a defibrillator. The final is scheduled for Sunday. AP

#### **EURO 2020**

Italy reached the Euro 2020 final after keeping its nerve from the penalty spot to edge Spain 4-2 in a shootout following a compelling 1-1 draw after extra time on Tuesday. Jorginho coolly rolled the

decisive kick past Spain keeper Unai Simon after Alvaro Morata had been thwarted by Gianluigi Donnarumma and Dani Olmo had blasted his effort over Spain's twin misses bailed

out Manuel Locatelli, who had his strike saved by Simon with the first kick of the shootout and Italy's substitutes and coaching staff poured on to the pitch to celebrate in front of their jubilant supporters behind the

Italy, which will play in Sunday's final in its first showpiece since being thrashed 4-0 by Spain in Euro 2012, is looking to win the



active men's player after

100 wins each on Hard,

Grass and Clav

Federer and Murray to record

denied Spain. • REUTERS

tournament for the first time since 1968.

Roberto Mancini's side took the lead on the hour through a sensational curler from Federico Chiesa to complete a sweeping counter-attack which began with keeper Donnarumma catching a Spain cross and rolling the ball out.

Morata levelled for Spain with 10 minutes left, calmly slotting home into the bottom corner after bursting forward and exchanging a one-two with Olmo.

The result:

Semifinal: Italy 1 (Chiesa 60) drew with Spain 1 (Morata 80) (aet, Italy wins 4-2 on penal-

## The shootout

ITALY		!	SPAIN	
Locatelli	×	0-0	×	Olmo
Belotti	$\overline{\checkmark}$	1-1	$\overline{\checkmark}$	Moreno
Bonucci	$\overline{\checkmark}$	2-2	$\overline{\checkmark}$	Thiago
Bernardeschi	$\overline{\checkmark}$	3-2	×	Morata
Jorginho	$\overline{\checkmark}$	4-2		

By The Numbers

appearances

1 - Spain has failed to

progress from a semifinal of

a major tournament for the

first time, having previously

reached the final in each of

its previous five semifinal

3 - Morata is the second

player in Euro history to

score 3+ goals in two

editions (2016 & 2020)

■ 33 - Italy's unbeaten run,

and now just two away

from the all-time record

held by Spain and Brazil

TOUR DE FRANCE

from the top of the second

climb of the famed Ventoux,

and never looked back.

Trek-Segafredo teammates

Kenny Elissonde and Bauke

REUTERS

Mont Ventoux.

- Jorginho's interceptions

v Spain, a record in a single

match in the last two Euros

#### Liton revives Bangladesh innings

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

reer-best 95 on Wednesday to play a pivotal role in Bangladesh reaching 294 for eight on the first day of the one-off Test against Zimbabwe on Wednesday. With their team strug-

Liton Das struck a Test ca-

gling at 132 for six, Liton and Mahmudullah added 138 for the seventh wicket. Liton's previous highest was the 94 against Sri Lanka at Chattogram in 2018. The scores: Bangladesh 294-8 in 83 overs (Mominul Haque 70, Liton Das 95, Mahmudullah 54 batting, Blessing Muzarabani 3-48) vs Zimbabwe. Toss: Bangladesh.

#### Ashwin could play for Surrey

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

India off-spinner R. Ashwin could play a First Class game for Surrey as early as July 11 ahead of next month's Test series against

If he is able to get a work visa in time for Surrey's game against Somerset, Ashwin will get valuable match practice before the five-Test series against England starting August 4.

# Mathews opts out of series against India

#### INDIA IN LANKA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Sri Lankan all-rounder An-

gelo Mathews on Wednesday pulled out of the upcoming limited-overs series against India citing personal reasons, as Sri Lanka Cricket announced that 29 of the 30 players shortlisted for the assignment have signed their contracts.

The 34-year-old Mathews was not part of the squad that toured England recently and last played the Test series against Bangladesh in

The India series compris-



Angelo Mathews. ■FILE PHOTO

ing three ODIs and as many T20s begins here on July 13. "Mathews requested SLC

to relieve him from National duty, owing to personal reasons, until further notice," a statement from SLC said.

# Mace to tour New Zealand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The victorious Black Caps squad will carry its ICC World Test Championship Mace on a week-long, nationwide tour of the country, starting July 26, New Zealand Cricket (NZC) said on Wednesday.

Kane Williamson's men won the inaugural WTC, beating India by eight wickets in Southampton. The tour is set to start in

Whangarei on July 26 and will cover Auckland, Tauranga, Hamilton, New Plymouth, Palmerston North, Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin and Invercargill so that members of the public have an opportunity to be



Victory parade: The Mace tour will involve selected players and staff assembling at each of the cities on the route. • AFP

photographed with the unique trophy and collect autographs and a team poster.

"It's quickly become apparent that Kiwis want an opportunity to be part of, and to share in this historic

"We've been inundated with requests to do something so that New Zealanders can

# achievement," NZC chief executive David White said.

Tony Martin out of Tour join in with the team and after second crash share the moment."

against India at a strike rate

of 85.50. All-rounder Rana

also had a memorable Test

debut at Bristol with her un-

beaten 80 off 154 deliveries

helping India stave off defeat

against England after they

#### AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE man on debut. She also aggregated 59 runs in two ODIs

stage 11 on Wednesday after suffering face and leg injuries when tumbling into a deep roadside ditch, having been at the centre of a crash-marred opening day that saw a fan knock half the peloton down.



Wout van Aert. • AP

van Aert wins 11th stage

Mollema completed the topthree. Slovenian Tadej Pogacar, who was fourth, retained the yellow jersey.

# Shafali and Sneh nominated for ICC 'Player of the month'

MALAUCÈNE (FRANCE)

German rider Tony Martin exited the Tour de France by ambulance early on

Martin was the rider who collided with a roadside fan brandishing a sign last week that caused a spectacular mass pile-up

Wednesday's stage saw the Jumbo rider fall into a ditch just outside the Provence town of Sorgues, shortly after the departure for a double ascent of the Tour's most famous climb,

the Mont Ventoux.

Atlantic port city of Brest.

on stage one from the

stage 1 and was vocal in calls for the hapless roadside fan that day to be severely punished, not for causing the crash, but for failing to stick around and

Martin was also hurt on

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ry. The nominees among the men are New Zealand bat-India's teen batting sensation sman Devon Conway and Shafali Verma and all-roun-

der Sneh Rana were on Wednesday nominated for for ICC women's 'Player of the Month' award for June following their standout performances in the ongoing series against England. stunning Test debut against Besides the Indian duo,

England's left-arm spinner Sophie Ecclestone has also Bristol match. been nominated for the hobecame the first Indian wonour in the women's catego-

pacer Kyle Jamieson along with South Africa wicketkeeper Quinton de Kock. The 17-year-old Shafali, who had already impressed everyone in the shortest format of the game, made a

England and was named Shafali Verma. ■ GETTY IMAGES Player of the Match in the man and fourth from any The flamboyant teenager country to score half-centuries in both innings of a de-



but Test, notching 96 and 63. Her first innings score was the highest by an Indian wo-

fali Verma (Ind).

#### The nominees: Men: Devon Conway (NZ), Quinton de Kock (SA) and Kyle Jamieson (NZ). Women: Sophie Ecclestone (Eng), Sneh Rana (Ind) and Sha-

were made to follow on.

# Olympic great Keshav Datt, 95, passes away

The two-time gold medallist was the last surviving member of the historic 1948 London Games team

#### HOCKEY

Y.B. SARANGI KOLKATA

Two-time Olympics gold me dallist Keshav Chandra Datt, the last surviving member of the Indian hockey team in the historic 1948 London Games, passed away here early on Wednesday, according to a Hockey Bengal (HB) statement. He was 95.

An HB official said Datt's last rites would be performed after the arrival of his daughter Anjali from abroad in a few days' time.

A product of the famous Government College, Lahore which also produced Olympians like Syed Jaffar, Commander Nandy Singh and Munir Dar – Datt, born in Lahore on December 29, 1925, participated in the 1948 London and 1952 Helsinki Games respectively.

Some claim that he could not take part in his third Olympics, in Melbourne in 1956, due to "professional commitments with Brooke

Datt - who migrated to India after the partition and played in Bombay and then in Bengal – was part of the Dhyan Chand-led Indian squad that toured East Africa in 1947. As a half-back, he played in 22 matches and scored two goals.

In 1949, Datt had the honour of playing against hockey wizard Dhyan Chand, who led the Rest of India squad, in two exhibition matches here.

First, Datt was part of the

Tour de France: Eurosport

Wimbledon 2021: SS Select

2 (SD & HD), 5.30 p.m.; SS

England vs Pakistan: 1st

ODI: Sony Six (SD & HD), 5.30

selected to Tokyo relay

American sprinter Sha'Carri

4x100-metre relay team for

the 2020 Olympic Games in

Tokyo after she accepted a

one-month ban for testing

expected to be one of the

biggest draws at the Games

Paris St. Germain has signed

defender Achraf Hakimi from

Italian Serie A side Inter Milan on a five-vear deal for an undisclosed fee, the French

Ligue 1 club announced on Tuesday. French media reported that PSG paid

around €60 millionfor the

versatile right back. REUTERS

Sumit Nagal

SPORTS BUREAU

positive for cannabis.

The 21-year-old was

**PSG signs Hakimi** 

from Inter Milan

Morocco international

in Japan. REUTERS

Richardson will not be

selected to the U.S.

team: USATF

Select 1 (SD & HD), 6 p.m.

TV PICKS

(SD & HD), 5 p.m.



Impact player: Keshav Datt was rated as one of the finest half-backs of his time by Dhyan Chand. • THE HINDU ARCHIVES

1948 Olympics squad and in the second he was a member of the Bengal team.

In his autobiography Goal, Dhyan Chand rated Datt as one of the finest halfbacks of that time.

#### **Best moments**

Defeating host Great Britain 4-0 in the final at the Empire Stadium, Wembley, London,

to win Independent India's first gold in 1948 on the British soil and then thrashing the Netherlands 6-1 four years later in Helsinki to bag the second consecutive Olympic Games title were the finest moments of Datt's

By the age of 26, he had the prized possession of two

# He was my hero, says Gurbux

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

**Hockey Olympians** recalled their association with two-time gold

medallist Keshav Datt. Gurbux Singh, an Olympics gold medallist in 1964 and who was close to Datt, remembered the legend.

"When I began my career in hockey, Datt was my hero. I came to Bengal in 1956 and was fortunate to see him turn out for Mohun Bagan. I played briefly against him as he was on the last leg of his career. "He was a tall and

handsome person and had a simple game. He used to pass the ball to others or hit it hard. He did not dribble too much," Gurbux told The Hindu.

He was among the last

ones to witness India's mo-

nopoly in the Olympics as it

faced some challenge in the

1956 Games where it expe-

rienced tight matches - in-

cluding 1-0 wins over Germa-

ny and Pakistan in the

Datt shone in his club ca-

"While playing for Calcut-

ta Port Commissioners, he

impressed famous actor and

and

Keshav Datt. ■FILE PHOTO

He fondly remembered Lahore-born Datt's insistence on writing his surname correctly. "He loved to speak in Punjabi or Hindi. He was very particular in writing Datt as his surname. If you wrote Dutt, he used to get annoyed and said, 'No, I am Datt'."

Bir Bahadur Chettri, a

tary of that time, Jahar Gan-

guly. He joined Mohun Bagan

in 1951 to respect the wishes

of Ganguly and played till

achieved the first double in

hockey when it lifted the

Beighton Cup for the first

time along with the Calcutta

Hockey League (CHL)," the

and the Beighton Cup three

times in his 10-year Bagan ca-

Datt won CHL six times

Bagan website said.

"In 1952, Mohun Bagan

1980 Olympics hockey gold medallist from Bengal, said Datt was a fine gentleman. "We used to call him Guruji. And he used to treat us like his children. He was a very friendly person and a thorough gentleman who never used any foul language. During my playing days, he used to encourage us and his words inspired us."

"Datt never found fault with anyone. He used to say, 'mistakes happen. Just keep working hard", said Chettri.

#### Mamata's tribute

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, in a tweet, paid tributes to Datt, describing him as one of the "true legends" of hockey.

football sportsperson to be conferred the Mohun Bagan Ratna, in 2019. Datt represented Punjab

(in undivided India), Bom-

bay and Bengal in the National championship. **Badminton player** 

He was also an accomplished badminton player and was Bengal No.1 of his times.

Datt's passing away snaps the only living link with Independent India's first sporting

finished from a tight angle to

complete a surprise counter

Argentina is now unbea-

ten in 19 games, with its last

loss coming to Brazil in the

semifinal of the 2019 Copa

America. It was also the last

team to beat Brazil, in No-

vember 2019 when Messi got

the only goal of the game in a

The result: Semifinal: Argenti-

na 1 (Lautaro Martinez 7) drew

with Colombia 1 (Diaz 61) (Ar-

friendly in Saudi Arabia.

attack.

# Vidhaata bhi, Har Andaz ka Leader Dilip Kumar 1922-2021

Ganga bhi, Jamuna bhi, Aadmi bhi,

# Paul shines as the Suns draw first blood

Antetokounmpo's return boosts Bucks



Shining brightly: Chris Paul, left, led the way for Phoenix Suns with a game-high 32 points on Tuesday. • AP

#### **NBA FINALS**

REUTERS

Chris Paul scored 32 points, Devin Booker 27, and Deandre Ayton 22 as the Phoenix Suns defeated the Milwaukee Bucks 118-105 in Game One of the NBA Finals on Tuesday.

The Suns got contribu-tions up and down the lineup, with six players scoring in double figures, and made 25 of their 26 free-throw attempts while the Bucks connected on just nine of 16.

Bucks' forward Giannis Antetokounmpo, who was playing his first game since hyperextending his left knee

in the previous series, did not appear to be suffering any lingering issues from the injury. However, the Suns' defence stood tall to limit the two-time league MVP to 20 points in his 35 minutes of action.

Booker notched 16 points to help the Suns to a 57-49 lead at the half, and while an Antetokounmpo shaved the Suns' lead to seven in the second half, the Bucks did not threaten

#### The result:

Phoenix Suns 118 (Paul 32, Booker 27, Ayton 22) bt Milwaukee Bucks 105 (Middleton 29, Antetokounmpo 20). Suns lead the Finals 1-0.

# Emiliano Martinez does the star turn for Argentina

semifinals

respectively.

reer as well.

Goalkeeper excels against Colombia in penalty shootout with three crucial saves

#### COPA AMERICA

REUTERS

Emiliano Martinez was the hero for Argentina as he saved three times in a shootout to take his team into a Copa America final against Brazil after Tuesday's semifinal against Colombia finished 1-1 after 90 minutes. Martinez, who tried to dis-

tract Colombia's players in the shootout with a barrage of trash talk, saved from Da vinson Sanchez, Yerry Mina and Edwin Cardona. Lionel Messi, Leandro Pa-

redes and Lautaro Martinez scored for Argentina. "I'm speechless," said Ar-

gentine keeper Martinez. "They took us to penalties and that's a question of luck, today it was my turn for glory."

#### Intense match

Both sides had chances to win in an intense, end-toend match punctuated by 46 fouls and 10 yellow cards.

Argentina is seeking to win its first major international title since lifting the



ment to add to his four goals.

Giovani Lo Celso after six mi-

nutes. Messi rolled the ball to

Taking a superb pass from

Flying across: Emiliano Martinez guesses correctly and dives perfectly to stop Davinson Sanchez's attempt. • GETTY IMAGES

#### The shootout

COLOMI		ARGENTINA		
Cuadrado	$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$	1-1	$\overline{\checkmark}$	Messi
Sanchez	×	1-1	×	De Paul
Mina	×	1-2	$\overline{\checkmark}$	Paredes
Borja	$\checkmark$	2-3	$\overline{\checkmark}$	Martinez
Cordona	×	2-3		

Copa America in 1993 and once again Lionel Messi was the star man, notching up his fifth assist of the tourna-

Lautaro Martinez to fire home a low shot and give Argentina the lead. Colombia found its feet

soon after and hit the woodwork twice in a minute towards the end of the first half when Wilmar Barrio's deflected shot struck the post and then Mina watched his header hit the bar from the resulting corner.

Tight angle

Its equaliser came on the hour mark when Luis Diaz

#### Jesus out of final

ASSOCIATED PRESS RIO DE JANEIRO

Brazil striker Gabriel Jesus is out of the final because of a red card he received during his team's quarterfinal win over

South American football body CONMEBOL said in a statement on Tuesday it suspended Jesus for two

# Japan considers ban on all spectators

REUTERS

Japan is considering banning all spectators from the Olympic Games, several sources told Reuters on Wednesday, as officials weigh extending novel coronavirus restrictions to contain infections just over two weeks before Games begin.

The Tokyo 2020 organising committee said restrictions on spectators would be based on the content of Japan's coronavirus state of emergency, or other relevant measures.

Toshiro Muto, the chief executive of the organising

committee, said on Wednesday the Games are striving to ensure safety for all participants by taking effective public health measures against COVID-19.

The issue of spectators is due to be decided at fiveway talks on Thursday, which will include the Tokyo governor and International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach.

In another blow to the Games, organisers had announced on Tuesday they would ask the public not to gather on the streets to watch the marathon.

Lahiri is currently placed 119

in the FedExCup standings.

**Key differences** 

# It hasn't yet sunk in fully, says Udayan Mane

His PGTI performances came to the player's rescue as regards making the cut

#### GOLF

crashes out

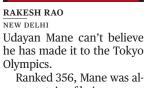
BRAUNSCHWEIG (GERMANY) Seventh seed Sumit Nagal was beaten 6-3, 1-6, 6-2 by wild card Marvin Moeller of Germany in the pre-quarterfinals of the €66,640

ment here on Wednesday. The results: €66,640 Challenger, Braunschweig, Germany: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Igor Sijsling & Glenn Smits (Ned) bt Teymuraz Gabashvili (Rus) & Arjun Kadhe 6-4, 7-5; Sandro Ehrat (Sui) & Lucas Gerch (Ger) bt Luca Margaroli (Sui) & Sriram Balaji

Challenger tennis tourna-

6-4, 7-6(7). \$15,000 ITF men, Almada, Portugal: First round: Simon Carr (Irl) bt Terence Das 6-3,

\$15,000 ITF women, Monastir, Tunisia: Doubles (prequarterfinals): Ayumi Koshiishi & Michika Ozeki (Jpn) bt Emma Van Poppel (Ned) & Humera Baharmus 6-1, 6-1.



most certain of being among the 60 qualified golfers on June 24 when Argentina's Emiliano Grillo withdrew. A reserve against Grillo's name, Mane's anxiety ended with an official confirmation on Tuesday evening. "In fact, I'm still pinching

myself as it hasn't yet sunk in fully. With a great 2020-21 season on the domestic PGTI, I felt that I had almost sealed my qualification but the lockdown in India this year put some doubts in my mind whether I could actually make the cut for Tokyo.

"The only tours operational are the PGA Tour and European Tour and I thought the players from those Tours had a real chance of pushing through



Clear thinking: Udayan Mane says he will not the scale of the Olympics affect him but focus on the preparation. ■FILE PHOTO

and qualifying for the Olympics," said Mane, a member of Indian team in the 2014 Asian Games at Incheon, South Korea.

Looking back, the Official Golf Rankings (OWGR) Board's decision to consider the PGTI performances for world rankings in 2019, came to Mane's rescue. Winner of two titles in 2019 and three in succession during the 2020-21 season,

saw Mane earn valuable OWGR points.

**Bonding with Lahiri** 

Mane, 30, joined his friend Golf

Anirban Lahiri as the last two players among the qualifiers. Interestingly, they share the same coach, Vijay Divecha. Both grew up training under Divecha at the Ea-Resort, Bengaluru.

"Anirban is not only a my imagination."

good friend but also a great golfer and a role-model. More than that, he is an amazing human being. He teaches us on and off the golf course. He's the best person to emulate," said Mane.

Chennai-born Mane, who grew up in Bengaluru and now resides in Pune, has a connection with Japan, too. "I had plaved in Japan during the 2014 Eisenhower Trophy when I shot a 14-under for the week and finished 13th at the event. Until 2018 that was the best finish and score by an Indian at the

event," recalled Mane. Talking of his approach in Tokyo, Mane said, "It will be that I'm playing just another golf course. The key is not to let the scale of the event bother me but instead focus on how I prepare to do my best. I'm sure the Olympics are unique. So it'll be something for me to experience first-hand and something that is well beyond

# Playing for an Olympic medal is part of my priorities: Lahiri

RAKESH RAO

Anirban Lahiri opted for Olympics instead of looking for points to stay inside the top-125 of the FedExCup standing on the PGA Tour and retain his full playing rights for the next season.

Lahiri revealed this while addressing a virtual press conference on the eve of the \$6.20 million John Deere Classic on Wednesday.

"It was a difficult decision and an easy one, too. I know it sounds contradictory but that's the truth.

"When I saw my name among the qualifiers, I was excited. But a decision had to be made. I sat with myself and asked, "Why do I play the game?" I saw that among my priorities is playing for a medal in the Olympics. I could not let go of this opportunity.'

In 2016, when golf returned to the Olympic Games, Lahiri and S.S.P. Chowrasia represented In-



He has two top-10 finishes

Asked about the difference between playing in the Olympics and pro events, Lahiri said, "In Olympics, you have a smaller field with no 'cut' involved. You usually play on a course which you are not familiar with. On the Tour, if you come fourth it is a very good result and you draw confidence from it for the next week. Even a

dia. This year, Lahri will be in the company of Udayan Mane.

In the current PGA Tour season, Lahiri has made nine 'cuts' from 18 appea-

and four times ended in the top-25 bracket. With earnings of \$706,101 this season,

reach the podium." Lahiri, who made a comeback on the PGA Tour in early May following a bout of Covid, revealed that Bengaluru-based golfer S. Chikkarangappa would caddie for him in Tokyo. "Chikka is a very good friend and knows what I do when I play well,"

said Lahiri.

top-25 finish is considered a

decent result. In the Olym-

pics, coming fourth means

nothing. In short, it is all or

nothing. You play only to