



Piyush Goyal appointed Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha, will have to navigate political challenges in the House where BJP doesn't have a majority

Iran says it could enrich uranium up to 90% purity — weapons grade — if its nuclear reactors need it, but adds it still seeks revival of the 2015 deal

UAE becomes the first Gulf state to open an embassy in Israel as its envoy says closer ties will bring trade & investment opportunities

A single dose of Sputnik V vaccine may be enough to elicit strong antibody response against SARS CoV-2 in already infected people, according to a study

Poll Strategist Prashant Kishor is learnt to be in talks with Congress leadership for joining the party. Sources say the brass is open to the idea of Kishor being a card-carrying Cong member



Centre hikes DA from 17% to 28%

The Union government announced an increase in the dearness allowance for central government employees and dearness relief for pensioners to 28%, from the current 17%, lifting the 18-month suspension to cover inflation due to Corona-virus outbreak. **P 5**

Most info requests from India: Twitter

India is the single largest source of government information requests, accounting for 25% of the global volume, Twitter's transparency report said. The requests jumped 258% between July and December 2020, most of them pertaining to Delhi riots and the pandemic. **P 5**

LeT commander killed in Pulwama

Three Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists, one of them a commander from Pakistan, were killed in an encounter in J&K's Pulwama on Wednesday. The Pakistani, Abu Huraira, was wanted in a series of terror cases and was instrumental in luring J&K youths to pick up arms. **P 6**

Malaria, dengue cases surge in city

Wards in the island city are seeing a malaria and dengue surge, with BMC recording 357 malaria cases in June and 230 in the first 11 days of July. Since June, the city has seen 20 dengue cases and locals claim it is due to the excavation for the Metro work before monsoon. **P 3**

Suvendu moves SC over poll plea

Leader of opposition in the Bengal assembly Suvendu Adhikari on Wednesday filed a petition in the SC seeking transfer of the Nandigram poll petition by the CM, pending in Calcutta HC—which has issued him a notice in the matter—to any HC outside the state. **P 5**

ED seizes 2 floors of Ceejay House

ED took possession of two floors of Ceejay House at Worli in a money laundering case against late drug smuggler Iqbal Mirchi and his family members. Mirchi's wife Hajra, along with her two sons owned office space of 14,500 sqft on the 3rd and 4th floors. **Opp P 3**

Retail investors lap up Zomato IPO

Retail investors lapped up the shares of food-delivery major Zomato on the first day of bidding in its Rs 9,375-crore IPO. While the retail portion of the offer was subscribed 2.7 times, overall it was subscribed 1.05 times. The IPO will close on Friday. **P 13**

*PLUS 4 PAGE SOMBAY TIMES
The Times Of India is also available as a standalone copy for Rs 500

*The TOI Combo offer and Bombay Times Supplement are available in Mumbai, Thane and Raigad districts while Education Times will be circulated in Mumbai Metro Region only.

Times Interact | P 6 & 8

Salt pan owners wait for justice 50 years on

Umesh K Parida

Navi Mumbai: Almost five decades after their nearly 3,500 acres of salt pan land spread across Uran, Panvel, Ailbaug and Pen talukas in Raigad district were acquired by government agencies to set up the Navi Mumbai township, private landowners are still fighting to get their properties back despite two Supreme Court orders in their favour.

"These salt pan lands have been illegally grabbed by builders in connivance with state revenue officials, as per RTI documents and court orders," alleged Rajeev Mishra, an RTI activist. While Cidco MD Dr Sanjay Mukherjee did not respond to calls and text messages from TOI, PRO Pri-

Explain how UP is allowing kanwar yatra, SC tells govts

Takes Suo Motu Cognizance Of News Reports

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New Delhi: Noting PM Narendra Modi's statement that "we cannot compromise even a bit" on the pandemic as the third wave is lurking, the Supreme Court on Wednesday said it was a "little disturbed" as it to-

TIMESVIEW: P 10

ok suo motu cognizance of news reports that the UP government was going to allow kanwar yatra from July 25 and sought responses from the state and Centre.

Taking into account contradictory voices, including the Uttarakhand government's decision to call off the yatra, the bench of Justices R F Nariman

HC: No SC stay, so won't defer pleas on IT Rules

Chennai: The Madras HC on Wednesday made it clear that it would not defer hearing of pleas challenging the validity of the new IT Rules in the absence of any stay on the high court proceedings by the Supreme Court.

The first bench of Chief Justice Sanjiv Banerjee and Justice Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy made the observation as the Centre said that a petition has been filed in the SC to transfer similar petitions pending before various HCs challenging the rules. "There is no stay on the proceedings. We can go ahead with the matter and decide. The SC will have the benefit of the opinion of the high court," the bench said. **TNN**

► **Counter affidavit, P 8**

SSC results to be out within a wk: Board chief

Pune: SSC (Class X) results will be declared within a week, while compilation of HSC (Class XII) results, which was to start on Wednesday, will begin on Friday due to technical issues related to the portal, said Dinkar Patil, chairman of Maharashtra State Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary.

► **In a first, NEET-UG to have optional questions, P 3**

Education. "The results from all divisional boards are already in. If there are any remaining results, we are collecting them too and collating the data. The SSC results will not be released on Thursday (as planned earlier), but will be declared within a week," he added.

Ardhra Nair reports.

► **HSC portal, Opp P 2**

Given the disparate political voices, all speaking at the same time, it is important that the relevant secretary, Union of India, respond to this news report... As this yatra is to take off from July 25, it is necessary to fix a short time period. Affidavits will be filed by Friday morning, July 16 —SC

and B R Gavai directed the UP and Uttarakhand governments to file their response within two days and posted the next hearing for July 16.

The Uttarakhand government on Tuesday decided to cancel the kanwar yatra, ending speculation that the Pushkar Dharni-led government may reverse his predecessor's decision to cancel the yatra.

"The headline just above this headline speaks about the PM's statement when he met

Home secy to states: Worry over 'R' factor

Union home secretary Ajay Bhalla has written to all states and UTs expressing concern over "blatant violation" of curbs, especially crowds at hill stations, and said states must be aware that increase in R (reproduction) factor above 1 is an indicator of Covid spread. **P 10**

the northeastern CMs that when people ask about the third wave of the Covid-19 virus striking the citizenry of India, it's up to us to stop it and we cannot compromise 'even a bit'. Given the disparate political voices, all speaking at the same time, it is important that the relevant secretary, Union of India, respond to this news report," the order said.

The bench said: "Given the fact that this yatra is to take off from July 25, it is necessary to

SC seeks AG help to study PIL against sedition law

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New Delhi: The Supreme Court Wednesday sought attorney general K K Venugopal's presence for examining the merits of a PIL filed by a retired Major General, requesting a fresh examination of the constitutionality of the sedition provision under Section 124A

► **Tribunal post tenure: SC quashes govt decision, P 5**

of the IPC, unhindered by a five-decade-old SC judgment that upheld the section.

Maj Gen (Retd) S G Vombakere said a statute criminalising expression based on unconstitutional vague definitions of "disaffection towards government" was an unreasonable restriction on the fundamental right to free expression guaranteed under Article 19(1)(a) and causes constitu-

SC: Should stay clear of executive domain

Courts should be restrained while dealing with policy decisions, the SC said on Wednesday. "We've to respect the demarcation (between the judiciary and executive)," the SC said while hearing a case against Allahabad HC for passing Covid management directions. **P 5**

nally impermissible "chilling effect" on speech.

A Supreme Court bench of Chief Justice N V Ramana and Justices A S Bopanna and Hrishikesh Roy directed Vombakere's counsel P B Suresh to give a copy of the PIL to the attorney general and posted the matter for a fresh hearing on Thursday.

► **Social media boost, P 8**

Covid deaths study shows multi-organ damage, clots

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Mumbai: During the first wave in Mumbai in 2020, when little was known about Covid-19, doctors in state-run JJ group of hospitals carried out 51 autopsies on victims using minimally invasive techniques instead of cutting open bodies to understand how the SARS2 virus

► **Retirement age for med officers raised to 62, Opp P 3**

affected various organs. On Wednesday, their findings were published in an indexed medical journal, 'Surgical and Experimental Pathology'.

The study establishes that minimally invasive methods are as effective as open methods to find out the cause of deaths, and showed clots and inflammation in various organs other than the lungs.

Of the 51 victims (29 men

'LARGEST IN WORLD'
51 minimally invasive autopsies on Covid victims held last year
44 patients showed lung damage, heart muscles were affected in the case of 39
24 victims had kidneys affected, 29 showed liver changes
► Study shows Covid a multi-organ process, say doctors
► Virus also accelerates progression of other diseases in victims, shows study

and 22 women), 43 patients were over 40 years of age and 44 needed ventilator support. Most of them had comorbid conditions such as diabetes, hypertension and chronic kidney disease. In 90% (44) of the patients, the study team found lung damage, and evidence of heart muscles being affected by the virus in 39 patients.

► **Disease progression, P 2**

Don't file cases under Sec 66A: Centre to states

A week after the Supreme Court said it was "terrible and shocking" that people were still being booked for social media posts deemed "offensive or menacing" under Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, scrapped by it in 2015, the home ministry on Wednesday wrote to all states and UTs asking them to instruct their police not to register fresh cases under the section.

They were also told to immediately withdraw all cases filed after the section was rendered defunct for being violative of right to free speech guaranteed under Article 19 of the Constitution. The MHA also asked states and UTs to sensitise law enforcement agencies so that they comply with the order.

► **Vague, arbitrary, P 8**

Let eateries run till 10pm, with riders: Panel

Pune: The state task force has recommended allowing eateries to run till 10pm in districts with under 5% positivity rate for 2 weeks, as long as staff and preferably customers, too, are fully vaccinated, reports Neha Madaan.

The task force and state's technical advisor on Covid, Dr Subhash Salunke, have recommended that the hospitality industry, which has been under duress due to restrictions, should be allowed to open with the right precautions. "However, the most important protocol is that even those who are vaccinated should follow Covid-appropriate behaviour, including masking," Dr Salunke said.

► **Top: State may relax curbs as cases flat for a month, P 2**

commented that the hospitality industry, which has been under duress due to restrictions, should be allowed to open with the right precautions. "However, the most important protocol is that even those who are vaccinated should follow Covid-appropriate behaviour, including masking," Dr Salunke said.

► **'Move illogical, P 2**

RBI clamps down on Mastercard over local data storage norms

Bars Issuance Of New Cards From July 22

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Mumbai: Flexing its muscles on the issue of data localisation, the Reserve Bank of India on Wednesday barred Mastercard from onboarding any new domestic customer from July 22. The directive bars the US-based network from issuing either prepaid, credit or debit cards to new customers in India.

Mastercard is the second-largest credit card issuer (after Visa) in India and the central bank's tough stance could have implications on foreign relations. The RBI has been pushing all regulated entities to store data relating

INDUSTRY SHOCKED

► RBI has been pushing all regulated entities to store data relating to Indian customers on Indian soil since April 2018

► Mastercard is the second-largest credit card issuer (after Visa) in India and the move could impact foreign ties

► Mastercard is the third US company to face an RBI ban after American Express and Diners Club

to Indian customers on Indian soil since April 2018. "Notwithstanding lapse of considerable time and adequate opportunities being given, the entity has been found to be non-compliant with the directions on storage of payment system data," the RBI said in a statement.

► **Co 'disappointed', P 13**

Af turmoil: SCO reflects India's concern on terror

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New Delhi: Pledging support for an Afghanistan free of terrorism, war and drugs, the SCO foreign ministers on Wednesday condemned in a joint statement, the ongoing violence and terror attacks in the country, the victims of which are civil-

► **Af pullout a mistake, say Bush, Petraeus, P 11**

ans and officials, advocating an early end to the violence.

Reflecting India's concerns over terrorism, the joint statement issued after the Afghanistan Contact Group meeting stated that the activity of international terrorist organisations remains one of the key factors of instability in the country.

► **JS calls for steps, P 11**

WhatsApp chats have no evidential value: SC

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New Delhi: 'Popularity is not a measure of reliability' appears to have played on the minds of the Supreme Court, which, on Wednesday, said messages exchanged on social media platform WhatsApp have no evidential value and that the author of such WhatsApp messages cannot be tied to them, especially in business partnerships governed by agreements.

A bench of Chief Justice N V Ramana and Justices A S Bopanna and Hrishikesh Roy said, "What is the evidential value of WhatsApp messages these days? Anything can be created and deleted on social media these days. We don't attach any value to the WhatsApp messages."

At present, there are several cases where such messa-

India, China agree to hold military meet

India and China agreed to hold an early meeting of military commanders to "seek a mutually acceptable solution" to the LAC issue while refraining from any unilateral action that could escalate the standoff. They added that troops should complete disengagement "at the earliest". **P 9**

9 Chinese among 12 dead in Pak bus blast

Nine Chinese workers were among 12 people killed when a bus fell into a ravine in northwest Pakistan after a blast, prompting Beijing to ask Islamabad to thoroughly investigate the incident and severely punish the perpetrators. **P 14**

Sood's hotel in Juhu to again turn residential

Actor Sonu Sood's 6-storey Juhu building that he had turned into a hotel will now be converted back into a residential building with the BMC chief, Iqbal Chahal, okaying a proposal from Sood's architects on the restoration. Sood had allegedly converted the building into a hotel without permission from the civic body. The BMC's K ward has given the actor two weeks to remove all unauthorised constructions and alterations and restore the structure as per its order. Sood said he would comply with the order. Chaitanya Marpakwar reports. **P 3**

State frames rulebook for adventure sports

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Mumbai: The state cabinet on Wednesday cleared an 'adventure tourism policy', under which a regulatory framework will be drafted for such activities keeping in mind the safety of tourists. Fatal accidents of tourists during paragliding or trekking with unverified operators have prompted the tourism department to come up with the policy, officials said.

According to the policy, operators of adventure sports in the state who want to conduct these activities will have to register themselves with the state tourism department by fulfilling several criteria.

A senior official from the state tourism department

Betrayed in '14 polls, will go it alone: Patole

Mumbai: A week after NCP president Sharad Pawar dismissed his remarks that the Congress would contest future elections on its own, state Congress president Nana Patole on Wednesday targeted the NCP, saying it had "betrayed" the Congress in the 2014 assembly elections. As a result, he reiterated, the Congress had now geared up to

► **Not a candidate for Prez elections in 2022: Pawar, P 4**

contest the 2024 general and assembly elections on its own, reports Prafulla Marpakwar.

"Keeping in mind the experience of 2014, we have now geared up for the 2024 Lok Sabha and assembly elections, which we will contest on our own... So far as the MVA government is concerned, it is firmly in the saddle and routine issues are sorted out by the coordination committee," Patole told TOI.

► **Rally in Baramati, P 4**

Ex-home min's wife skips ED summons

The ED had on Wednesday summoned former state home minister Anil Deshmukh's wife Aarti for questioning in the money laundering case, but she did not turn up. She informed the ED through her lawyer that since she was 66 and suffering from various ailments, she will be unable to go in person and can instead join via video conferencing. Her lawyer also said that she was a housewife and had no connection with the case. The ED had earlier summoned Anil Deshmukh and their son Hrishikesh. **TNN Opp P 2**

TOI IMPACT State set to sack corrupt city cop

The state home department is in the process of dismissing police inspector Anand Bhoir, an official said, following a TOI report on Wednesday about the officer being reinstated despite being caught by ACB accepting a bribe of Rs 22 lakh in 2019, reports S Ahmed Ali. **Opp P 2**

ACB gets nod for open inquiry against Param Bir

The Anti-Corruption Bureau has got the state government's approval to begin an open inquiry against former Mumbai police chief Param Bir Singh on corruption charges made by police inspector Anup Dange. In his complaint, Dange, suspended by Singh, had sought a probe into Singh's "links to criminal elements" besides alleging that a person claiming to be the ex-top cop's relative had sought Rs 2 crore to get him reinstated. The ACB had been holding two discreet inquiries against Singh, including one related to Dange. S Ahmed Ali reports. **Opp P 2**

Island city gets a ton of rain; brace for more, flooding over next 3 days

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Mumbai/Pune: Mumbai witnessed heavy overnight rainfall, with the island city recording over 100mm in a 24-hour period for the first time this July. The IMD's Colaba observatory recorded 111.2mm in the 24 hours ended 8.30am Wednesday, while the Santacruz observatory recorded 89.2mm rain.

IMD said isolated extremely heavy rainfall is "very likely" on the west coast and the adjoining inland areas for the next three days. A Central Water Commission official said, "In Mumbai, a watch has to be kept for a possible urban flooding situation." IMD, too, sounded off a moderate to high flash flood risk over several watersheds and neighbourhoods of Konkan till Thursday evening.



T-RAIN TRIP: Mumbai and adjoining areas experienced rain through the day

CWC cautioned moderate to high risk of flooding due to expected persistent rainfall till Thursday in the coastal districts of Thane, Palghar, Raigad, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg. The official said, "Due to strengthening of the monsoon

current and formation of a low pressure area over Saurashtra, IMD has predicted increased rainfall activity over the west coast and neighbourhood of peninsular India."

► **Stocks low, Opp P 2**

Safety of tourists is the topmost priority... We want these activities to be conducted legally by registered operators with all safety guidelines in place
Aaditya Thackeray | STATE TOURISM MINISTER

said that since the policy is new, the state will provide provisional registration for these operators, after which they will have to ensure that the final registration is obtained by fulfilling all requirements that have been listed.

"This is being done to ensure there are no fly-by-night operators conducting such activities without adequate safety protocol," he said.

► **Registration must, P 4**

State pvt hosps use 75% doses, Delhi seeks report on slow pace

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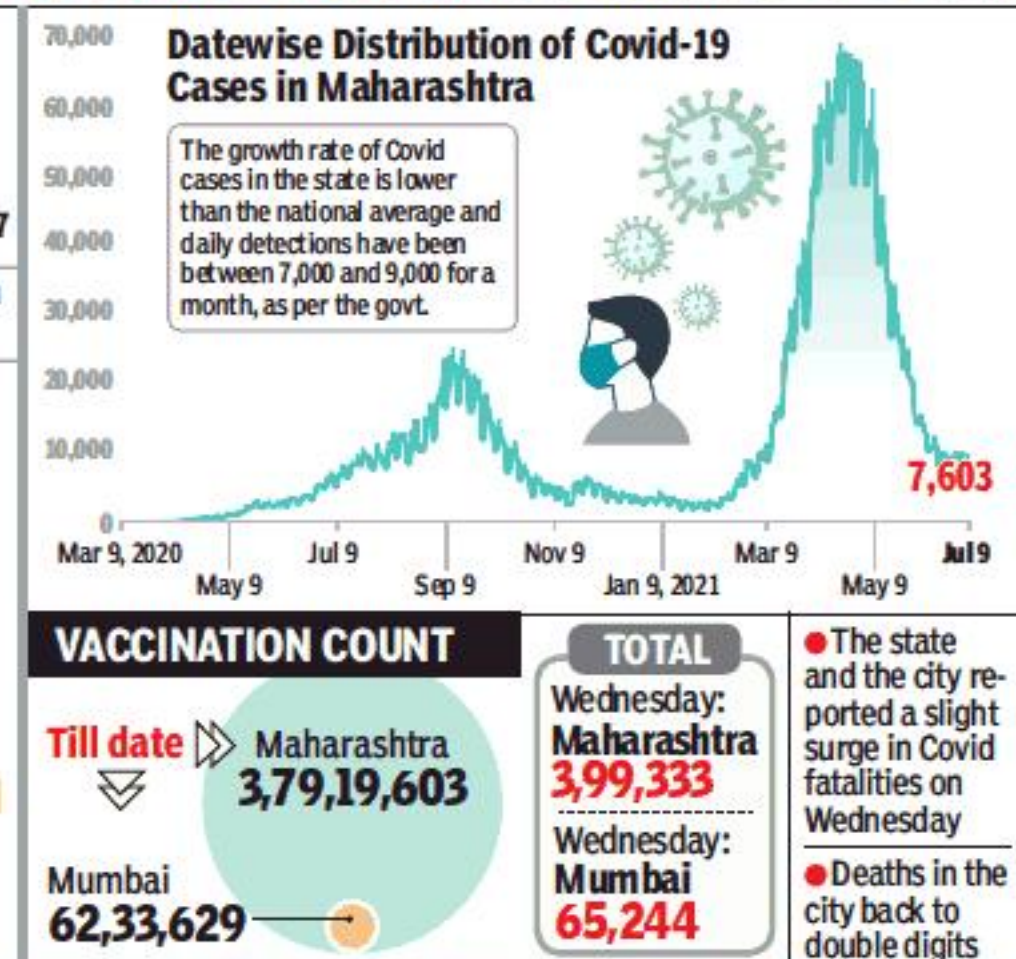
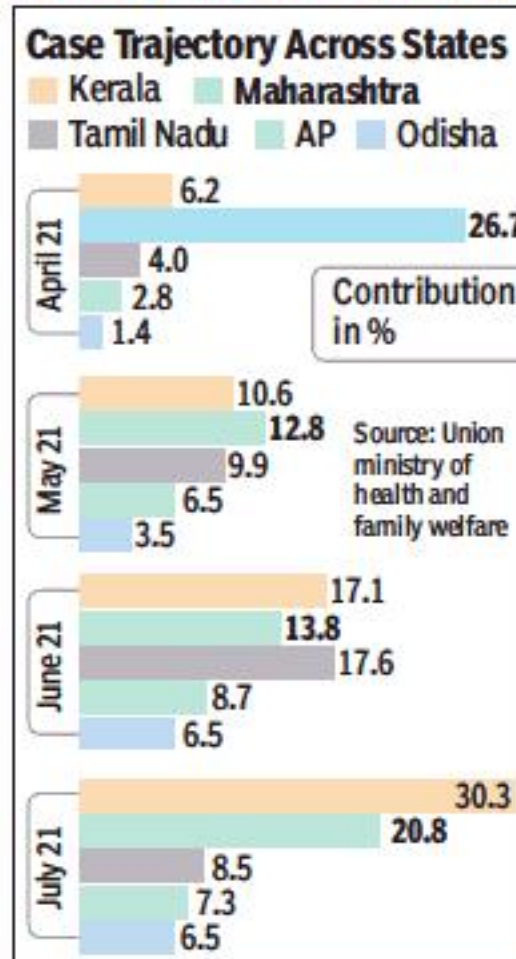
Mumbai: Private hospitals in Maharashtra procured 61 lakh doses of Covid vaccine in May and June but have managed to administer only 46 lakh, a little over 75%. The Centre on Wednesday called the slow pace of private vaccination a matter of "serious concern" and asked states to review the procurement and use of vaccines daily. Around 300 private hospitals are a part of the vaccine drive in Maharashtra. Figures show private hospitals from the state have ordered the maximum doses of Covid vaccine compared to any other state, though they have not managed to utilise it all. The question of hoarding has been whispered, more so on days when public vaccination centres have not been able to immunise at all due to shortage.

Union health secretary Rajesh Bhushan chaired a high-level meeting with senior immunisation officials of 15 states, including Maharashtra, where it was pointed out that many private centres have not placed any orders, while some haven't completed payments. In some states, vaccines paid for has not been picked up, and in some, the actual administration of doses is lesser than doses ordered.

Dr Dilip Patil, head of immunisation for Maharashtra, insisted there was no hoarding of vaccines in Maharashtra. "Of the 3.7 crore doses administered in the state, around 46 lakh have been at the private sector. For July, private hospitals have already demanded 50 lakh doses, of which 28 lakh has been indent,," he said. In Mumbai, private vaccination accounts for more than 42% of nearly 62 lakh doses administered.

From July 1, the Centre allowed private hospitals to di-

SLIGHT RISE IN ACTIVE CASES IN STATE & CITY



Covid-19 Update: July 14

	Maha	Mumbai
New Cases	8,602	619
Deaths	170	10
Total Cases	61,81,247	7,29,263
Total Deaths	1,26,390	15,654
Discharged	59,44,801	7,04,259

Case fatality rate (in %)

MAHARASHTRA: 2.04

MUMBAI: 2.1

Active cases

MAHARASHTRA: 1,06,764

MUMBAI: 11,088



rectly place orders through CoWin. Depending on the quantity ordered, the hospitals can either get it directly from the manufacturer or get it delivered at the state-owned depots. A senior official from Pune believes that private hospitals are sitting on thousands of doses and hence are not placing fresh orders.

A few private hospitals, however, told TOI of a sharp drop in demand for paid vaccination and slowdown of camps due to multiple scams. "We have seen a dramatic drop in footfall since the Centre announced that states would be flush with doses from July," said the CEO of a south Mumbai hospital. "We see a huge rush now

only when the public centres are out of doses," said another private chain head. A crucial reason for the slowdown, feels another hospital head, is that the population willing to pay is vaccinated already. Yet, hospitals are hopeful that demand will soar from July 24 when the 18-44 group become eligible for the second dose.

Tope: State could relax restrictions as daily detection of cases flat since a mth

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Mumbai: Considering that daily Covid-19 detections in Maharashtra have been stagnant for a month now, the state government may relax the second wave-induced restrictions, said health minister Rajesh Tope.

Tope was speaking after a cabinet meeting on Wednesday where the state's Covid-19 situation and unrest among traders and business owners due to the restrictions was discussed.

"The growth rate of Covid cases in the state is lower than the national average and daily detection is stagnant between 7,000 and 9,000 since a month. Currently, there are Level Three and above restrictions in the state and there is demand from



various sectors to relax these. Chief minister Uddhav Thackeray is reviewing the situation too and will take an appropriate decision soon," said Tope. According to the presentation made in Wednesday's state cabinet meeting, 92% of the 1

lakh active cases in the state are concentrated in 10 districts and the remaining 8% are spread across 26 districts. Senior officials said the state government is working on giving certain relaxations and a decision to the effect will be taken in consultation with the state task force.

Tope said there is a demand for extending timings of shops and dine-in at restaurants.

"Traders who are fully vaccinated and have vaccinated their staff have been demanding they be allowed to keep their shops open for longer hours," said Tope. He added the MVA government is hopeful of getting nearly 4.2 crore doses in August based on the state's population, as the Centre will get 42 crore doses from manufacturers. "The vaccine supply is still not as adequate as we would like it to be. We are still going 2-3 days without vaccine doses and are under-utilizing our capacity," said Tope, adding he will speak to union health minister Mansukh Mandaviya on streamlining it.

Falling trend in positivity in 8 districts with high cases

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The state and the city reported an upswing in Covid cases on Wednesday, which officials attributed to increased testing. However, fatalities in the state reported a dip — 170 against 196 on Tuesday.

The state saw nearly a 20% rise in detections while in the city, the jump was 36% over Tuesday. Maharashtra reported 8,602 cases against 7,243 cases on Tuesday, taking the caseload to 61.8 lakh and fatalities to 1,26,390.

The daily detections in Mumbai rose to 619 on Wednesday compared to 454 the day before. BMC officials said this was possibly because more tests (35,968) were done. With the daily posi-

Covid patient in Alibaug hits doc

Dr Swapnadeep Thale, 24, on duty at the Covid ICU of the civil hospital in Alibaug, was hit by a steel saline stand at around 4 am on Wednesday by local resident and patient Shantaram More (55) as he was pulled up for removing his oxygen mask. More has been booked for hurting the doctor's head and eye, reports Umesh K Parida.

Positivity below 2% (1.6% as per Wednesday's update), they said there is no cause for worry. Further, the number of critical patients in Mumbai dropped below 700 (657).

Daily deaths in the city, which rose above 20 two weeks ago, are back in the range of 10. The city's tally is 7.3 lakh cases and 15,654 deaths.

In Delhi, the INSACOG updates said there are "no indications of rising trend in any of the four clusters (in Ramnagar and Jangpura in Maharashtra, Bhopal in MP, and Chennai in TN)". It added that Delta sub-lineages AY1 and AY2 are declining globally and continue to be below 1% in available sequences from June in India.

Health minister Rajesh Tope said the government continues to be concerned about the eight districts where cases are high but there is a declining trend in the positivity rate.

Hospitality industry says move is illogical, not feasible

► From P 1

If the restaurant does not have proper open air circulation, then it should not be allowed to function. We recommended open-air dining or keeping doors and windows open even if the air-conditioning was on," Dr Salunke said. He added the system should allow customers who had taken both doses of the vaccination. Dr Salunke said fully vaccinated persons, even if they have contracted Covid, are expected or likely to have



less viral loads, leading to reduced virus transmission. Currently, restaurants

can run dine-in services only for limited hours. In Mumbai and Pune, which have level 3

BMC's free Covid-19 vaccination for pregnant women from today

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The BMC will roll out free vaccination for pregnant women from Thursday, even as private centres started on Wednesday by vaccinating eight women.

The public drive will initially start at 36 centres that routinely offer ante-natal care. Vaccination will be held for three hours on Thursday from 2pm to 5pm, said the BMC. An estimated 1.5 lakh pregnant women will benefit from this. The corporation had started the vaccination of lactating mothers on May 19 following a go-ahead from the Centre. Additional municipal commissioner Suresh Kakanal said that women will be given every information about the risks if they get infected with Covid-19 and the benefits of vaccination. The Centre has said that they can get vaccinated anytime during pregnancy, although the corporation has stated that women should make an informed choice about vaccination.

Women who have developed Covid-19 or have been treated with monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma can get vaccinated after 12 weeks, the BMC said. It has cautioned that after vaccination, some may experience mild fever, pain at the injection site or feel unwell for one to three days. In rare cases, they may experience severe symptoms lasting up to 20 days after vaccination.

Dr Mangala Gomare, BMC's executive health officer, said that they have chosen medical colleges, suburban hospitals, maternity hospitals and some government hospitals that routinely offer maternal care. "Necessary training has also been imparted to all the concerned staff on Covid vaccination and counselling of pregnant women. We are also ensuring that when pregnant women come for ante-natal check-ups they are counselled as well," she said.



The union health ministry had on July 2 allowed the vaccination of pregnant women based on recommendations of the National Vaccination Technical Advisory Group. The Centre had found that pregnant women are more likely to have severe infection with Covid-19. The rate of pre-term delivery was higher. Around 90% of pregnant women affected by Covid-19 do not need hospitalisation. In 10%, who have gestational diabetes, obesity, chronic respiratory diseases, or heart disease, the risk of acute Covid-19 infection increases.

Some of the centres that will start vaccination are: Cama in Fort; Nair in Mumbai Central; Jagtivanram in Byculla; JJ Hospital; Central Railway Hospital, Byculla; Mumbai Port Trust, Wadala; LTMG Municipal College, Sion; KEM in Parel; MGM Hospital and Nalgaon Maternity in Parel; Mahim Maternity Hospital; ESIS, Worli; VN Desai, Santacruz (E); KB Bhabha Hospital, Bandra; Cooper, Juhu; Shirodkar Maternity Hospital, Vile Parle; and Bhabha Kuria.

Gomare said the city received a lakh doses on Wednesday, but most centres will be collecting these in the morning. On Wednesday, footfall improved as 65,244 people came for the shot. The city has administered 62.33 lakh doses so far. A special drive was held to vaccinate 81 female sex workers and transgender persons on Wednesday.

State to ask pvt schools to try to reduce fees by 15%

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Mumbai: The school education department will ask private schools in the state to try to reduce their fees by 15% fees, based on a Supreme Court directive from May 2021. The SC order in a fee-related matter from Rajasthan, where it had directed reduction of 15% fees in lieu of unutilised facilities, will be circulated to private schools. The department's recommendation, however, will not be imposed.

In a related development, the school education department's draft ordinance, which will give powers to the state to regulate fees in private schools during a crisis situation such as the pandemic, was tabled in the state cabinet on Wednesday. However, a few senior ministers suggested reconsidering the draft and seeking legal opinion from the advocate general before issuing such an ordinance.

The state plans to amend the Maharashtra Educational Institutions (Regulation of Fees) Act through this draft ordinance.

During the cabinet meeting, a few ministers raised questions about whether the ordinance will stand in the court of law in case private schools challenge it. Finally, CM Uddhav Thackeray, who was chairing the meeting, directed that a legal opinion from the advocate general be sought on the issue. He also asked the school education department to circulate a copy of the SC order directing private schools to reduce fees by 15%.

Covid accelerates disease progression, says study

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Mumbai: Doctors in JJ group of hospitals carried out 51 autopsies on Covid-19 victims to understand how the SARS2 virus affected various organs. The virus affected the kidneys of 24 victims, while 29 showed liver changes. "Our series of minimally invasive autopsies on Covid-19 patients is the largest in the world so far," said the study's main author, Dr Ajay Bhandarwar, head of JJ Hospital's general surgery department.

When Dr Bhandarwar, along with pathology head Dr Sanjay Bijwe and radiology head Dr Shilpa Domkundwar, started the study in August 2020, only doctors in Italy had carried out similar autopsies and announced that Covid-19 triggers clotting in blood vessels that leads to death. A few autopsies have been done in teaching hospitals in Bhopal, Ahmedabad and New Delhi (the Indian Council for Medical Research advises against open autopsies of Covid victims due to the higher risk).

"The pathological involvement of multiple organs on microscopic analysis supports our finding that Covid-19 infection is a multi-organ process that involves the lung, kidneys, liver, heart and spleen, and may, in fact, produce pathological changes in other organ systems which were not examined within our study," said Dr Bijwe.

The team carried out the autopsies in St George's Hospital, which was a Covid hospital, while the main JJ Hospital in Byculla was a non-Covid hospital. "Within two hours of a death occurring, we had to contact the victim's family and seek permission for the autopsy," said

DOCS DID NEEDLE BIOPSIES

AUTOPSIES & COVID-19

► As Covid-19 is highly contagious, few invasive (open) autopsies have been conducted on Covid-19 victims

► The ICMR doesn't support invasive or open autopsy because of the high-risk exposure to doctors and mortuary staff

BUT...

► Autopsies help understand how a disease affects various organs

► It was only after Italy's doctors conducted autopsies on 22 Covid victims that Covid's role in causing thrombus (clots) emerged

► Role of blood thinners/coagulants in treatment increased



WHAT THE JJ STUDY SAYS

► JJ Hospital & St George's Hospital conducted 51 autopsies using minimally invasive ways

► It is possibly the world's largest series on Covid post-mortems

► The doctors conducted needle biopsies, gathering fluid and tissues from main organs

► The bodies were not cut open

► Doctors wore special suits to reduce risk of exposure

► They found Covid not only affected lungs but other organs such as heart, kidney, liver etc

► It hastened the progression of disease (worsened diabetes or kidney failure)

id one of the authors, Dr Nikhil Dhimole.

While the families of victims were initially hesitant, the fact that the body wouldn't be cut open helped change the minds of 51 families. The autopsy was carried out in a side room of the Covid ward, with doctors from the radiology and surgery departments collecting tissues from various organs using biopsy needles under ultrasound guidance.

More important, the study found Covid-19 accelerated disease

progression. In four patients who were recently diagnosed with a kidney problem, the autopsies found the Covid-19 infection had worsened their kidney functions.

Incidentally, when the study was being carried out between August and November 2020, 38 doctors from the general surgery department were affected by Covid-19. "There is no way to link the autopsies to our contracting the disease as we would work in Covid wards for long hours every day," said a doctor.

A TICKET TO TRAVEL CORONA CLASS



HC: Give info on pilots who got home Indians amid pandemic

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Bombay high court on Wednesday sought an additional affidavit with "facts and figures" from the Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP) about the work pilots did and are doing in operating Vande Bharat flights, the pay structure and other information within two weeks and it would then hear their public interest litigation for 'adequate compensation' and priority for Covid-19 vaccination.

Their senior counsel, Prasad Dhakephalkar, pointed to work being done by the pilots in ferrying people, medicines and other necessities and in operating Vande Bharat flights to bring back stranded Indians, with many losing their lives to Covid-19 while doing their work, and said, "they are almost like frontline workers".

The HC bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice Girish Kulkarni said, "We want facts and figures to come before us on record in two weeks with salary structure, their duty, how many flights they flew on Vande Bharat mission etc and then we will hear and decide."

The high court posted the public interest litigation to July 28 with permission for an additional affidavit from FIP.

Student gets bail after attack over tobacco 'lockdown cess'

Mumbai: A student accused of attacking a shop-keeper with a knife for demanding Rs 15 extra for tobacco as "lockdown charges" got bail on Tuesday after 37 days behind bars.

The paanwala had been admitted to hospital and Vishal Kale, 20, was arrested under the attempt to murder charge.

Grating bail to Kale, the court said, "I take into account the fact that the victim survived and there is no prospect of the offence being escalated to higher counts... Bail is the rule and jail is the exception."

On May 7, around 8pm, Kale went to buy tobacco and cigarettes from the victim's shop and an argument ensued after the Rs 15 demand. Kale claimed that the victim's sister slapped him, but the prosecution alleged he attacked the victim with a knife.

Kale in his bail plea said he was falsely implicated and pointed out he, too, was assaulted and taken to hospital. He alleged that despite a counter complaint by him, no action was taken.

"No useful purpose will be served by keeping him behind bars till the filling of the chargesheet. Due to the pandemic, I am of the opinion he can be released on bail," the court said.

No pre-arrest bail for travel in lockdown with forged letter

Rebecca Samerivel
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Mumbai: Observing that illegally transporting people from the state during lockdown when the pandemic was at its peak last year threatened the lives of many, a sessions court rejected the anticipatory bail plea of a man accused of trying to take 36 persons to UP in a tempo.

Raghuraj Gupta has been booked under sections of the Indian Penal Code, the Disaster Management Act and The Epidemic Diseases Act.

The tempo was stopped at a nakabandi in Vakola on May 9 last year. The prosecution said they showed a letter of permission to go out of the state taken by one Ajay Gupta. But it was found to be forged. Ajay said Raghuraj, who is his maternal uncle, had given it to him.

In his plea, Raghuraj claimed he was in UP and was not connected to the matter. He denied preparing the fake letter.

The court said Ajay had disclosed Raghuraj as the creator of the forged letter. "In view of this, even if the present accused was not there when the tempo was intercepted, it is inconsequential," said the court.

Malaria & dengue surge in island city, fingers point at Metro digging

Richa Pinto & Sumitra Deb Roy | TNN

Mumbai: Wards in the island city are reporting a surge in malaria and dengue cases and it seems to be reflected in a corresponding rise in admissions due to vector-borne diseases in south Mumbai hospitals.

In times of the pandemic, many people who feared they had contracted Covid after developing fever, cough and headache are finding out it was malaria or dengue.

BMC figures show there have been 357 malaria cases in June and 230 in the first 11 days of July. Overall, nearly 2,000 cases have been reported this year. Since June, the city has seen 20 confirmed dengue cases. Most of these cases are being reported from wards such as A (Colaba, Cuffe Parade,

Churchgate), E (Mazgaon, Byculla) and G-South (Worli, Lower Parel).

A resident of J Tata Road in Churchgate, whose four family members have been affected by dengue, recalled the excavation of a large pit for the Metro just before the monsoon. "Now, the pit is left open with no work going on and rainwater has been collecting there," he said. Another resident, Lolita Shivdasani, said many of those recently hospitalised due to Covid are worried they might contract malaria of dengue and hospitalised again.

Bombay Hospital in Marine Lines has admitted nearly a dozen cases of malaria in the last few weeks. Around seven dengue patients and a few leptospirosis patients are also undergoing treatment. "Malaria cases have increased but we haven't seen any compli-

cation or death," said Dr Gautam Bhansali, physician at the hospital.

Dr Samrat Shah, consultant internist at Bhatia Hospital, said in the last 20 days, around 10 patients have been admitted at the Tardeo hospital—five with falciparum malaria, three with vivax malaria, and three with dengue and vivax malaria.

Physician Pradip Samdani is treating six to seven cases of dengue and malaria, mostly from pockets in Khetwadi, Napean Sea road and Parel. "We are seeing both falciparum and vivax," he said. "A distinct difference between dengue and Covid is that the former comes with high fever, retro-orbital pain and not so much with breathing difficulties," he said.

Rajan Narangrekar, BMC insecticide officer, said they have been told of

surges in E and G-South wards, but not so much in Churchgate. "Some of these wards have always seen a higher incidence due to construction projects. Metro work, too, has led to increased breeding in some parts, including the suburbs. But we are regularly treating the breeding spots and destroying them," he said.

Churchgate corporator Harshita Narwekar said many cases are being reported from J Tata road, M K road and areas of Marine Drive. Mumbai VI MLA Amin Patel said B (Dongri) ward saw a rise in malaria cases last month. "There was a problem with the availability of diesel and that had hit fogging, but it has been resolved now. The massive infrastructure projects are providing the perfect breeding ground for mosquitoes," he said.

Restore Juhu building status to residential in 2 weeks: BMC to Sood

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Mumbai: The BMC has directed actor Sonu Sood to restore the six-storey Shiv Sagar building in Juhu from a hotel to residential premises within two weeks. Sood said he will comply with the order.

The BMC's K-West ward issued a letter to the actor asking him to revert the building status to residential and remove all unauthorised constructions and alterations. The action comes after municipal commissioner Iqbal Chahal approved a proposal from Sood's architects to restore the change of user of the building back to residential, which the actor had allegedly converted into a hotel without necessary permission from BMC.

"The deputy chief engineer of the building proposal department, western suburbs, said the municipal commissioner has approved the proposal... the commissioner further said that the assistant municipal commissioner be told to take action against unauthorised constructions, if any. You are instructed to remove the unauthorised work... within 15 days, else this office will take further action without any further intimation," stated the June 29 letter to Sood and his architects, Paarth Architectural Consultants.

Sood told TOI, "Our restoration proposal has been approved and we are following all orders... We will continue to follow all rules in the future too. The recent letter is about some structures that do not belong to us in the same building. But if anything has to be done on our end, we will do it as advised."


Activist Ganesh Kusmudu, who had filed a complaint with Lokayukta against Sood, said the police must register an FIR against the actor. "The BMC and police have tried to delay the matter. The illegal construction must be demolished and an FIR filed immediately. I will move the Lokayukta against those who fail to take action if Sood and his architects do not demolish the structures within 15 days as per the letter," he said.

THE CONTROVERSY

Jan: BMC files complaint against actor Sonu Sood for converting a 6-storey residential building in Juhu into a hotel without nod. Asks Juhu police to take cognisance of offence under MRTPT Act for illegal additions, alterations and change of user

Feb: Following a rap from Bombay HC and after withdrawing his plea before SC, Sood agrees to restore hotel to residential premises. His architects submit proposal to BMC to restore change of user

April: BMC chief OKs proposal, but asks for removal of illegal constructions and alterations



CYBER COPS WARN AGAINST SPOOF CALLERS 'CUT SUSPICIOUS CALLS, DON'T REVEAL INFO'

The cybercrime cell of the state police has warned against call spoofing, a practice in which scammers impersonate genuine agencies on the phone with an objective to extract personal information and defraud people. V Narayan reports

HOW TO BE ALERT AND SPOT FRAUDULENT CALLS

Generic greetings | Be skeptical if the caller addresses you with a "dear customer" instead of your name

Unknown numbers | Avoid answering them as scam callers regularly use unknown numbers

Tone of voice | Seemingly pushy or demanding is a tactic employed by scammers to make matters appear urgent, with the intention to manipulate

Reason offered | Be wary if the caller seeks personal information mentioning something that you have not previously heard of

Spoofting cases reported in Mumbai

Year	Cases
2017	5
2018	30
2019	26
2020	14

NATIONAL MENACE

India was placed ninth among countries affected by spam calls in 2020, according to Truecaller Insights

The majority of spam calls received are from domestic numbers


Spoofting is on the rise. We have written to app platforms to remove such apps that scammers use. It is a serious offence and is covered under the IT Act and IPC sections are also applicable. Stern action is initiated against offenders

Yashasvi Yadav | SPECIAL INSPECTOR GENERAL (CYBER)

ACTION YOU MUST TAKE

1 Just hang up | Don't stay on the call if your instinct leads you to doubt the legitimacy of the caller

2 Call the police | Approach the authorities immediately if you feel you have become victim to a spoof racket



₹170cr fraud accused paid ₹7cr for edu app Insurance Co's Assistant Manager Booked 72 Flats, Commercial Premises For ₹100Cr: EOW

Mateen Hafeez | timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Officials probing the Rs 170-crore cheating case involving a couple, both assistant managers with United India Insurance Company Ltd, have found that Khushal Singh had paid more than Rs 7 crore to a software development firm to create an educational software which he planned to use for business purposes. Police also alleged that he had booked 72 flats and commercial units and paid Rs 100 crore to developers in Gurgaon, Noida, Delhi, Ghaziabad and Jaipur.

On June 28, the economic offences wing (EOW) had arrested Khushal (38) and his wife Neelam (33)

from Pune. Khushal worked in the accounts department, while his wife was assistant manager in the IT department of the insurance firm. Jaideep Sinha, deputy general manager of United India Insurance, had lodged a complaint against the Singhs and others with Marine Drive police. The case was later transferred to the EOW.

Investigators have created an escrow account for recovery of the money that Khushal had transferred to the developers and others. "The recovered money will be returned to the complainant's firm," said an officer. Till date, Rs 10 crore has been returned to the escrow account by four Gurgaon developers.

Police said it has found more than Rs 11 crore in a single account where Singh had transferred money. "The account has been frozen," added the officer. Around 70 bank accounts have been frozen so far.

While Khushal allegedly booked dozens of properties, Neelam had signed on several property documents. "Khushal was the signatory authority for three accounts of the insurance firm and he allegedly transferred around Rs 170 crore to various accounts. Neelam is one of the beneficiaries," said a police source. The couple is currently in judicial custody.

A police team, headed by joint commissioner of police (EOW) N-

ket Kaushik and senior inspector Mandar Lad, is probing the case.

Advocate Aashutosh Srivastava, lawyer for the Singhs, said, "There are negligible and insignificant allegations against Neelam in the FIR. As Khushal is concerned, the matter is still under investigation and nothing has been proven so far and it seems he has been made a scapegoat. The chances of a conspiracy against him by the higher management cannot be ruled out at this stage considering the fact that all such online money transfers were approved by the two higher authorities after Khushal and he had no such absolute power to transfer funds solely."

Vax scam: Arrested Kandivli hosp doctor tests positive, hospitalized

Nitasha Natu | timesgroup.com

Mumbai: A key accused held in the fraudulent vaccine scam has tested positive for Covid-19.

Dr Shivraj Pataria (61) owns Charkop-based Shivam Hospital which is at the centre of the scam and has been sealed. Pataria has been admitted to a government hospital while his wife, Neeta, remains in Borivali police's custody.

Fourteen people have been held and 12 FIRs registered in connection with the scam. "The police have already seized phones of the Pataria couple, sealed their hospital and frozen their bank accounts. We argued befo-

re court on Wednesday that keeping them in police custody further serves no purpose," said their lawyer Kshitij Mehta. The court sent them to police custody till Saturday.

Police have pieced together how the gang got hold of login IDs and passwords of private hospitals for generating vaccine certificates. "One of the accused, Nitin Mode, said he stole the login ID and password of Nanavati Hospital during a genuine vaccination drive at Powai. The employees of a nationalized bank were inoculated at this camp," said an investigator. Mode allegedly handed over the information to his associate,

Chandan Singh, who used it for keying in Aadhaar data of beneficiaries at fraudulent vaccine camps. This is how some of the beneficiaries got certificates with Nanavati Hospital's name on them. Mode had procured the login ID and password of Lifeline Hospital, which was similarly used for generating certificates.

Both men were reportedly paid Rs 40,000 for their role by the alleged mastermind, Mahendra Singh.

Police have begun gutting the firm that was responsible for picking up biomedical waste from Shivam Hospital. Investigators suspect the hospital did

not discard some of the used vials while it functioned as a private Covid vaccination centre (PCVC). These vials were later refilled with saline water and used for fraudulent camps.

"One of the fake camps at a Borivali-based stocks advisory was organized by two travel agents at the behest of Mahendra. From the money charged from beneficiaries of this camp, the duo handed over Rs 3.8 lakh in cash to Mahendra and transferred Rs 1.8 lakh to the bank account of KCEP Group, a placement institute, on Mahendra's instructions," said an investigator. KCEP is run by a key accused, Dr Manish Tripathi.

Thane dy civic chief 'molests' nurse at hosp

Thane: A senior official of Thane municipality has been booked for allegedly molesting a nurse at a Covid hospital. A case has been lodged against deputy commissioner Vishwanath Kelkar.

The 38-year-old nurse had been inducted about a year ago on a contractual basis. A few months ago, the nurse alleged that Kelkar had made advances and passed lewd comments at her. Her police complaint has also cited "comments made on her physical appearance". In February, he allegedly misbehaved with her, and got angry when she resisted, the nurse has alleged. —Nishikant Karlikar

Senior citizen duped at ATM, two arrested

Mumbai: A duo from Navi Mumbai has been arrested for duping a senior citizen at a bank ATM in Malad recently. The accused, Ramesh Devanagao, a driver, and Firoz Pathan, a chicken shop owner, have been booked for theft earlier.

On July 7, Kishorilal Bissa, 60, had gone to an ATM to deposit Rs 99,000 cash into the account of the private company where he worked. One of the accused came up to him and advised him to insert only one bundle of notes at a time. Bissa did as suggested. No acknowledgement for the deposit was printed, and the man suggested Bissa should check with the manager. While Bissa was gone, the accused is believed to have hit the "cancel transaction" button and collected the cash from the slot.

In a first, NEET-UG to have optional questions; students seek more clarity

Yogita Rao | timesgroup.com

Mumbai: In a first, the question paper for NEET-UG 2021 for admissions to medical courses will give options to students. Till last year, the paper had 180 compulsory questions. This year, the National Testing Agency (NTA) will give a total of 200 questions, of which 180 will have to be attempted.

Each of the four subjects—physics, chemistry, botany and zoology—will be divided into two sections A and B, where A will have 35 compulsory questions and B 15, of which students will have to attempt any 10. While students and parents have welcomed the move, they have called it a last-minute change and have written to

PRACTICE QUESTION PAPERS SOUGHT

SEPTEMBER 11 | NEET-PG exam for admission to MD/MS courses

Exam is usually held in January. This year, was scheduled in April and then postponed again during 2nd wave

More than 1.7 lakh MBBS doctors take the exam across the country

NEET-UG PATTERN

Each of 4 subjects—physics, chemistry, botany and zoology—to be divided into sections A and B

Section A will have 35 compulsory questions

Section B will have 15, of which students will have to attempt any 10

NTA to seek more clarity. NEET-UG exam date, September 12, was announced two days ago.

The total marks will remain 720 and test duration three hours long. "Reading 20 extra questions to choose the best ones is likely to consume more time," said Meet Shah, an aspirant from KES College.

Sudha Shenoy, a parent representative, said students mark the right answers in the OMR (optical marking recognition) sheets, which had 180 compulsory questions. "Now, with

the additional questions, which 10 answers in Section B will be considered for marking if students have attempted all 15?" asked Shenoy. She said most invigilators do not even give the question paper 10 minutes before the exam, which is a rule. For the new pattern, those 10 minutes will be crucial, she added.

Students have never practised the new pattern, said Manisha Shetti of Palak Shikshan Sangh. "For two to three years (in case of a second NEET attempt), students have practised by solving 180 questions in 180 minutes. This sudden change will affect their time management," said Shetti. The organization has written to NTA seeking at least 10 model question papers with OMR sheets to practise.

HIT

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BMC invites bids for Powai lake's upkeep

Mumbai: The BMC on Tuesday floated a tender for the upkeep of the Powai lake surface by collecting and removing hyacinths, vegetation and garbage by using a harvester or an amphibious machine. It has proposed to spend around Rs 16.5 crore on it.

Ajay Rathod, chief engineer of BMC's hydraulic department, said work may start after monsoon. Environmentalist Debi Goenka said, "The sewage in the lake is acting as a fertilizer. So, first stop its discharge." Atul Rao, chief engineer, Mumbai Sewage Disposal Project, said desilting of sewer lines has been a regular process. — Richa Pinto

HC lets Mirchi aide take his bail plea back

Mumbai: The Bombay high court on Tuesday allowed Humayun Merchant, an alleged close aide of Iqbal Mirchi, to withdraw his bail plea and move the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) special trial court first, after its disinclination to grant him the relief. Arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) last year, Merchant had filed a second bail application before the high court after the first was rejected in September. **TNN**

HC banishes foolscap in favour of A4

Mumbai: The Bombay high court on Wednesday replaced foolscap and made A4 the paper size for all internal communication as well as the paper for filing, petitions, affidavits and other documents in all its benches and in all courts in the state. The move brings uniformity, saves paper and is environmentally friendly, as sought by a lawyer's PIL. The PIL by advocate Ajinkya Udane sought orders to introduce the A4 size. He and his lawyers P R Kateshwarkar had cited the introduction of the A4 size papers by a few other high courts already. **TNN**

Patole to address party rally in NCP chief's hometown

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Mumbai: State Congress chief Nana Patole has accused the NCP of betraying Congress in 2014. A week ago, Sharad Pawar had declined to comment on Patole's "going solo" remarks, saying he would respond "only to statements made by Congress president Sonia Gandhi." Incidentally, Patole is scheduled to address a party workers' rally at Baramati, Pawar's hometown, on July 29.

In 2014, when Congress leader Prithviraj Chavan was the CM, there were serious allegations of corruption and irregularities against then deputy CM Ajit Pawar and water resources minister Sunil Tatkare. Following a white paper on the status of irrigation projects, it was revealed that less than 1% area had been brought under irrigation. This was followed by supersession of the NCP-controlled Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank and charges of corruption against Chhagan Bhujbal over construction of the Maharashtra Sadan in New Delhi. These developments prompted the NCP to withdraw support to the government, and as a result, President's rule was imposed in the state. Later, the NCP decided to terminate its alliance with Congress and contested the assembly elections independently.

Patole said in view of the NCP's unilateral decision to terminate the alliance, the Congress had to pay a heavy price as it was not prepared to contest the 2014 elections independently. The BJP was the biggest beneficiary as it won 122 seats and with the outside support of NCP, it formed the government. The NCP had extended its support to BJP at that time even before final results were declared, even when the BJP had not sought NCP's support for formation of government.

Patole said in view of the changing political situation and the fact that the Congress had suffered heavily in the past, its strategy for the 2024 ge-

neral elections was being finalised. "As head of the party at the state level, my job is to expand the party at all levels and ensure that we reach out to every individual. I have been given the task of attacking the BJP", he said.

Known for making controversial statements, Patole reiterated that the government and party are two different entities. "As a head of the party, I have different responsibilities. I will have to ensure that the party expands in all parts of the state, while the government has to provide better ad-

Won't contest Prez poll, says Sharad Pawar

Mumbai: NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Wednesday indicated he won't be a candidate for the presidential election. ANI reported that Pawar said, "It is absolutely false that I will be a candidate for the Presidential election. I know what will be the result, given the party that has more than 300 MPs. I will not be a candidate for the Presidential election."

PTI reported that sources said Pawar feels the election result for someone contesting against the candidate of a party which has overwhelming numbers in Parliament will be a foregone conclusion. The sources said the speculation about Pawar being in the fray for the presidential poll followed his meetings with political strategist Prashant Kishor.

ministration. Problems faced by the administration are resolved by the coordination committee comprising cabinet members of the Congress, Shiv Sena and NCP," he said.

On his Baramati rally, Patole said he was not challenging Pawar but was going to visit that place on the demands of party workers. "Congress workers are insisting on a rally in Baramati, and I have accepted the invitation. It will be an interaction with our workers," Patole said.

Salt pan land ownership issues complex, says Uran tehsildar

Umesh K Parida

Navi Mumbai: Private landowners have been running from pillar-to-post to get back their salt pan lands spread across Uran, Panvel, Alibaug and Pen talukas of Raigad district that had been acquired to set up Navi Mumbai in 1973.

"Our lands in Navi Mumbai and Raigad were illegally grabbed. These salt pan lands were in our possession for over three centuries," claimed Alim Bhaiji (53), a Bhaiji family litigant in Uran. "The problem started with a government land acquisition notification issued in 1973 for CIDCO's Navi Mumbai. The land parcels were illegally taken over on 'Nil award', 'No Right' basis," he added.

Bhaiji told TOI that some of the salt pan lands in Uran were illegally given on rent to private and public sector oil storage tank companies. "The Supreme Court judgments of 2002 and 2016 as well as high court and lower court orders in our favour have not been acted upon by the revenue department officials, who fear they will be exposed," Bhaiji added.

A power of attorney holder of Khan Bahadur Hormasji Maneckji Bhiwandi-

FIGHTING FOR THEIR LAND

The private landowners who lost over 3,500 acres of salt pan land spread across Uran, Panvel, Alibaug and Pen talukas in the 1970s include...

Tungekar family
1,000 acres
Bhiwandiwala (KBHMB) trust-Mumbai
807 acres

Sarvodaya Trust-Uran
330 acres
Bhaiji family
350 acres
Jama Masjid Trust-Uran
76 acres

➤ **Sir Mohammed Yusuf Trust-Mumbai** | Data not available

➤ **Affected Uran villages** | Sheva, Sonari, Bokadwira, Jaskhar, Bhendkhal, Funde, Navghar, Kaladhandra, Sawarkhar



wala (KBHMB) Mumbai, alleged: "Large tracts of salt pan lands of our trust have been illegally grabbed by builders in connivance with government officials. Neither the 12.5% nor 22.5% land compensation was awarded to us for the acquisition. Every time we approach the court, the authorities do not act to resolve the issue under the influence of the builders' lobby. Some family members of trustees even illegally obtained 12.5%

land compensation by producing fake documents claiming ownership."

Sir Mohammed Yusuf trust-Mumbai trustees were unavailable for comment. A Tungekar family member and Jama Masjid trust-Uran trustees did not respond to calls and text messages, while Sarvodaya trust-Uran could not be contacted.

Uran tehsildar Bhausaheb Andhare said, "The salt land ownership issues are complex and various litigations are on. Some of the in-

dividual members have been given land records. The claimants should approach us with documents and court orders whatsoever with them."

Dr Vivek Vartak, a scientist at Panvel's Kharland Research Centre, a government agency which conducts research on salt pan land in the Konkan region, said: "The land issues are being dealt with by the revenue department and if there are mangroves on it then it's the forest department. We are only into research."

State yet to take any action against 204 officials caught for corruption by ACB

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Mumbai: There are 204 officers in the state government who have been trapped by the ACB for engaging in acts of corruption, but no departmental action has been initiated against any one of them yet. The ACB has even secured convictions for 29 of them, but even that has not resulted in moving the state to act against them.

In a letter to uplokayukta Sanjay Bhatia and chief secretary Sitaram Kunte, former central information commissioner and RTI activist Shal-

TIMES VIEW: The data clearly reveals the government's disinterest in acting against corrupt officers. One of the most blatant cases in recent times has been the reinstatement of dismissed cop Sachin Waze, who is now in prison. The state's inaction gives rise to suspicion that there is a mala fide intent and quid pro quo to allow tainted and convicted officers to go unpunished.

lesh Gandhi, who obtained the ACB data, has said that if the ACB's information is true, it would imply that the state government or some of its officials were complicit in encouraging corruption and protecting the corrupt. He has written in the letter that these cases need to be taken to their logical end.

A majority of the tainted

officers are from Nagpur and Nanded divisions and mostly belong to the rural development, education and sports, revenue, police, and cooperatives departments.

"It appears that the law requires action to be taken against such public servants, and the ACB has taken the step of putting this information suo motu on its website. This

refusal to take punitive action appears to be an attempt to make the ACB toothless," Gandhi wrote in his letter. He has requested that he be informed about specific action taken before August 15 in this regard.

IPS officer-turned-lawyer YP Singh said the ACB is a caged parrot. "These are all small cases of clerks and peons, as in all big cases of civil servants and politicians, it has either issued clean chits or closed cases. It's an uninspiring performance," he said.

Chief secretary Kunte did not respond to TOI's calls and messages regarding the issue.

State govt to implement 7th pay commission

Mumbai: The Maharashtra government took a policy decision of implementing seventh pay commission for employees working in the state public undertakings. On Wednesday, the state cabinet decided to set some criteria for the implementation of pay scale as per the recommendation of seventh pay commission, with retrospective effect from July 1, 2021. **TNN**

Forward PIL copy to Nitin Raut: HC

Mumbai: The Bombay high court on Wednesday directed the state pleader's office to forward a copy of a public interest litigation filed by BJP media cell chief Vishwas Pathak to state cabinet minister Nitin Raut and sought affidavits in reply from him, the state and others by July 28. Pathak is seeking orders for reimbursement to MSEB and three other state units of amounts spent on charter flights for the energy minister.

The bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice Girish Kulkarni directed the PIL copy be sent to Raut in a week. **TNN**

Complaint against Kareena, 2 others

Beed: A Christian group on Wednesday lodged a police complaint against Kareena Kapoor Khan and two others in Beed against her recently released book, accusing them of hurting the community's religious sentiments. In the complaint, Alpha Omega Christian Mahasanth president Ashish Shinde referred to the book 'Pregnancy Bible', authored by Khan and Aditi Shah Bhimjani and published by Juggernaut Books. **PTI**

2,200 extra MSRTC services to Konkan

The Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) will be operating 2,200 extra buses to Konkan for Ganapati festival starting from September 4. Booking for these buses to start from 16th July. Buses will be sanitised and it will be compulsory for passengers to wear a mask during the journey. **TNN**




National Dairy Development Board
PB No. 40, Anand 388001, Gujarat, India
Tel: 02692-260148/260149/260160 Fax: 02692-260159
Website: www.nddb.coop, Email: purchase@nddb.coop

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)/ LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (LCB)

Bids are invited from eligible bidders for carrying out the following job:

Sr.No.	Description/Bid Reference	Duration	Event Start/Close Date	Bid Submission/Opening date & Time
1	Rate Agreement for establishment of pregnancies using bovine IVF embryos under Accelerated Breed Improvement Programme in animals of farmers from identified milk unions / Producer Companies under Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM) scheme of Govt. of India (Estimated pregnancies: 66667) NDDB/PUR/RGM/LCB/33/2021 (ET/33)	12 months	15/07/2021/12/08/2021	12:00 hrs. / 15:30 hrs.

For further details pertaining to IFB and for downloading the bid document, please visit these websites: www.nddb.coop and https://www.msccommerce.com/eprocurement/nddb/ For any clarification please contact DGM (Purchase), NDDB, Anand-388001, Gujarat, India.
NB: Any corrigendum/modification etc. will be posted only on these websites. Issued by: National Dairy Development Board, Anand, Gujarat



NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

E-Tender Notice No.: 07/2021
Dated: 12.07.2021

Office of the Sr.DSTE/Agra
N.C.Railway, Agra

Sr. DSTE/North Central Railway, Agra acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites "Open Tender" through Online only (E-Tendering) for the following work.

Sr. No.	E-Tender No.	Name of Work	Approx. Cost of Work	Tender Closing Date
1	AGRA-ST-2021-15	Various S&T works in connection with - Agra Fort - Tundia & Raja Ki Mandi-Yamuna Bridge - Provision of FOB with ramp and raising of platform from RL/M/L to high level at E-category stations.	₹ 1720197.02	13.08.2021
2	AGRA-ST-2021-16	Various Signalling works in connection with BAAD-Raising & extension of existing RL platform (PF - 2/3) to high level platform.	₹ 4345001.59	13.08.2021
3	AGRA-ST-2021-17	Strengthening and Modification in 2004 IPS (Statcon Make) as per RDSO guidelines over Agra Division.	₹ 462000.00	13.08.2021
4	AGRA-ST-2021-18	Strengthening and Modification in 2004 IPS (Amara Raja Make) as per RDSO guidelines over Agra Division.	₹ 1428000.00	13.08.2021
5	AGRA-ST-2021-19	Annual Maintenance Contract for Ansoldo make SSI systems installed at New Junction Panel, Jamuna Bridge, Chhalesher, Kuberpur, Etmadpur (AF, IDH - TDL Section), Papra (BTEBKI Section) & Agra City (AGC-JAB Section) of Agra division for a period of 36 Months.	₹ 8864110.08	13.08.2021

For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railway Website www.ireps.gov.in Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids through web portal www.ireps.gov.in up to 15.00 hrs. on above mentioned date. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRO NCR 801/21 (A)



Karnataka State Building & Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board
Kalyana Suraksha Bhavan, ITI College Compound, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru-560029 Ph: 080-29753350 email: karbuildworkerswelfare@gmail.com

S.N: KBOWWB/FD-04/T6 to T9/CR-04/2021/22 Date: 13.07.2021

E-AUCTION NOTIFICATION

Board is inviting competitive rate of interest through e-Bidding on the e-Procurement portal of Govt. of Karnataka from the Regional / Zonal / Head offices of the Nationalized Banks for Non-callable Fixed / term Deposits of 'Surplus funds' for one year.


Sl. No.	E-Auction Notification No.	Term	E-Auction	Last Date for Submission
1	DOL/2021-22/AUCTION13	Term-6	Board's Surplus funds approximate of Rs. 500.00 Crore	16.07.2021 up to 4:00 PM
2	DOL/2021-22/AUCTION14	Term-7	Board's Surplus funds approximate of Rs. 500.00 Crore	16.07.2021 up to 4:00 PM
3	DOL/2021-22/AUCTION15	Term-8	Board's Surplus funds approximate of Rs. 500.00 Crore	17.07.2021 up to 4:00 PM
4	DOL/2021-22/AUCTION16	Term-9	Board's Surplus funds approximate of Rs. 500.00 Crore	17.07.2021 up to 4:00 PM

E-Auction documents should be submitted electronically through e-Procurement portal (<https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>). For further information please contact Deputy Secretary (Admin) of the Board Phone: 080-29753350 / 54 / 56, Mob: 9886608641 during office hours.

Sd/-
Joint Secretary, K.B.O.C.W.W.B
DIPR/DDCL/827/2021-22

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.




CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No.: PCMM/CLW/Dankuni/E-Procurement/21-22/20 Dated: 12-07-2021. PCMM/CLW/DKAE on behalf of the President of India invites electronic bids from established reliable manufacturer for supply of the followings. The following E-Tenders is/are for supply of materials for manufacture of Electric Locomotive. The Prospective/ likely suppliers are requested to look up the website www.ireps.gov.in. These are E-Tenders; only electronic offer bids shall be accepted. For detailed instructions please refer to website. Sl; Tender No.; Description of Stores; Qty.; Due On; Tender Cost: [83]; 34212590; TRANSFORMER MODULE PRIMARY VOLTAGE TO CLW SPECN.NO.CLW/ES/3/0083/B or latest; As Per Tender Doc.; 18.08.21; 0.00. [84]; 34212670; FIRE RESISTANCE CEMENT as per CLW's Drg./Specn. No. CLW/ES/3/ 0168/2 (SHELF LIFE - 24 MONTHS); As Per Tender Doc.; 19.08.21; 0.00. [85]; 34212503; 1)MULTIPLE CORE CABLE 9 X 0.5 TWIST AS PER SPECN. NO. CLW/ES/3/0459/C or latest. 2)MULTIPLE CORE CABLE 25X0.5 TWIST AS PER SPECN. NO. CLW/ES/3/ 0459/C or latest; As Per Tender Doc.; 20.08.21; 0.00. [86]; 34212747; SNUBBER CIRCUIT TO SPECN. NO. CLW/ES/3/0067/B; As Per Tender Doc.; 24.08.21; 0.00. [87]; 34212978; PANTOGRAPH FOR AC FREIGHT ELECTRIC LOCOMOTIVES (WITH 5% EXTRA THROTTLE VALVES AS MANUFACTURING SPARES) TO SPECN. NO. RDSO/2008/EL/SPEC/0066, REV. '0' AMENDMENT NO.1 DATED 31.12.08 WITH AMENDMENT NO. 2 TO MODIFICATION SHEET NO.ELRMS/MS/0333 REV '0' DATED 20-12-2004 & RDSO/ELRMS/EL/MS/0389 Rev '0' DATED 31-08-10; As Per Tender Doc.; 06.09.21; 0.00. [88]; 34212684; 1)SET OF CONNECTOR FOR PANEL FOR WAG-9 LOCO AS PER CLW SPEC NO.CLW/ES/3/ 0124/O or latest. 2)SET OF CONNECTOR FOR LOCO EXCEPT PANEL FOR WAG-9 AS PER SPEC NO.CLW/ES/3/ 0124/O or latest; As Per Tender Doc.; 13.09.21; 0.00. [89]; 34212692; HIGH VOLTAGE BUSHING FOR 3 PHASE LOCO AS PER CLW'S SPECN. No. CLW/ES/3/0052/D OR LATEST; As Per Tender Doc.; 28.09.21; 0.00.

Principal Chief Materials Manager,
CLW, Dankuni
PR2-140

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MORADABAD SMART CITY LIMITED

Office of the CEO/ Municipal Commissioner,
Water Works Compound, Pili Kothi, Civil Lines, Moradabad-244001
Contact No. : 0591-2971001
E-Mail: moradabadsmartcitylimited@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER No.

Open Tender : 890/MSCL/2021 Dated: 14.07.2021

The C.E.O. of Moradabad Smart City Limited (MSCL) invites Re-e-tenders for the following works:

(1) **Name of the Work:** Request for Proposal for Design, Engineering, Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning and Operation & Maintenance of E-Kiosk at Zonal Offices of Moradabad for Improved Citizen Services under the Moradabad Smart City (NIT No. (890/1)/MSCL/2021).
Tender Fee Rs. 29,500/- (Rs. Twenty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Only/-)
Start Date and time for downloading of bid 15th of July 2021 and 16:00 Hrs.
Period of Last date and time for submission of bid 29th of July 2021 and 16:00 Hrs.

(2) **Name of the Work:** Request for Proposal for Design, Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning and Operation & Maintenance of Mini Clinics in Moradabad City (NIT No. 890/2)/MSCL/2021).
Tender Fee Rs. 29,500/- (Rs. Twenty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Only/-)
Start Date and time for downloading of bid 15th of July 2021 and 16:00 Hrs.
Period of Last date and time for submission of bid 29th of July 2021 and 16:00 Hrs.

The bid forms and other details are available on website <https://etender.up.nic.in/> and can only be submitted through <https://etender.up.nic.in/>. Any corrigendum regarding this would be published only on the above mentioned website.

C.E.O./ Municipal Commissioner
Moradabad Smart City Limited

Unregistered agencies cannot operate now

► From P1

Safety of tourists is the topmost priority," said state tourism minister Aadiya Thackeray. "We want these activities to be conducted legally by registered operators with all safety guidelines in place."

Thackeray added that separate regulations have been drawn up for sports activities relating to land, air and water.

Thackeray also said that with the Covid-related restrictions imposed in the state, these activities are still not allowed, but the department is completing all administrative procedures so that the full potential of tourism in the state is realised once the sector opens up.

"Detailed guidelines like having trained staff, medical aid, quality of safety equipment will be cleared before the final registration is given," said the official.

Committees at the divisional- and state-levels have been created. These committees will monitor the implementation of the policy. "Agencies which are not registered will not be allowed to operate. And if they are found to be operating illegally, police action will be initiated against them," said the official.

Officials also said that the policy would not be applicable to competitions, professional expeditions and jungle and wildlife activities as they are governed by the forest department.

Lakdawala won't get English chargesheet

Mumbai: Rejecting alleged gangster Ejaz Lakdawala's plea seeking an English translation of a chargesheet in a murder case, a special court has said in its order that Marathi is the official language of the court. The court clarified that there was no provision in law to direct the investigating officer to provide copies of the chargesheet in the language known to the accused.

The court said that Lakdawala could take assistance from the Legal Services Authority in this regard. Lakdawala said that since he was accustomed to English, he was unable to read the document written in Marathi.

The case dates back to 1996. A murder case was registered against Lakdawala and extradited gangster Chhota Rajan. They absconded. After Rajan was brought back to India, the CBI took over more than 70 of his cases and submitted supplementary chargesheets. While the older police chargesheet was in Marathi, the CBI submitted its document in English.

The prosecution opposed Lakdawala's plea, submitting that he had spent a majority of his life in the city and there was nothing to show he did not understand Marathi. It also contended that the application was an attempt to create nuisance. **TNN**

Mithi bridge runs into rough weather

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Corporators at BMC's standing committee meeting on Wednesday opposed a proposal to pay MMRDA Rs 51 crore for construction of a bridge over Mithi River in Kurla.

The bridge construction was allotted to a contractor in 2017. The Rs59-crore project was to be completed in

2019. With the work still not completed, the BMC has decided to appoint MMRDA. Opposition leader in the BMC, Ravi Raja, said the contractor has been paid Rs16 crore. Paying Rs51 crore to MMRDA will escalate costs. Congress corporator Asif Zakaria, also a standing committee member, said they had sought more clarity from the BMC.



GULSHAN NAZIR, MOTHER OF MEHBOOBA MUFTI, SKIPS DATE WITH ENFORCEMENT DIRECTORATE

AFTER UTTARAKHAND AND PUNJAB, KEJRIWAL PROMISES FREE ELECTRICITY IN GOA AHEAD OF POLLS



SC: Courts shouldn't step into executive's domain

Remarks After Courts Took Up O₂, Vax Issues

AmitAnand.Choudhary
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Just a day after Supreme Court Judge D Y Chandrachud took some credit in the court bringing about a revision in the Centre's vaccination policy, a bench of Supreme Court on Wednesday observed that constitutional courts should be restrained in policy decisions and even said it will consider setting out norms.

Hearing a plea filed by Uttar Pradesh government against the Allahabad High Court which had passed a slew of directions on management of the pandemic in the state and passed adverse observations against the government, a bench of Justices Vineet Saran and Dinesh Maheshwari asked whether the HC should have entered the arena.

The bench said the intention of the court could not be questioned and there was no doubt it wanted to improve the situation but the issue was whether interference was at all needed during the period of crisis which should be left to be handled by government and experts. The SC bench's views co-



An empty cafe in Varanasi on Tuesday. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, very few tourists and pilgrims are visiting the holy city

me in the wake of the court and several high courts taking up issues like oxygen supply and vaccination.

"Howsoever good (is the) intention and objective, when there is demarcation, then we have to respect the demarcation. We have to be very careful..." the bench said, referring that the judiciary should not interfere in the domain of the executive as per the principles of separation of power. "Everybody needs to be conscious about what is to be done by whom. How far the constitutional court goes into such matter. We want to lay down on that aspect," it said.

The difference of opinion among different SC benches on various issues showed up with Justice Chandrachud on Monday saying the state is empowered to take policy decisions on the pandemic but if this infringes

on the constitutional rights of the people, the validity of the policy is amenable to judicial review. However, since the Indian Supreme Court sits in smaller and co-equal benches, it gives way to contestations about the interpretation of same socio-economic rights and the level of deference that is shown to the executive on issues of policy, he said. He also cited that a bench of the SC refused to entertain a PIL for payment of minimum wages for migrant workers during lockdown but another bench took suo motu cognisance and passed directions.

"While the above examples show how the Supreme Court differed in its approach to intervene in the actions... it also indicates how smaller and co-equal benches of the Court provide a possibility of reading law differently," he said.

SC quashes govt decision on tribunal members' term

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday quashed the Centre's decision to fix a four-year tenure for members and chairpersons of tribunals and restored its earlier verdict by which their tenure was fixed at five years. A bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao, Hemant Gupta and S Ravindra Bhat, by majority, set aside various provisions of the ordinance brought by the Centre after the apex court passed a slew of directions on selection and appointment of chairpersons and members of tribunals.

"The insertion of Section 184(11) prescribing a term of four years for the chairpersons and members of tribunals by giving retrospective effect to the provision from May 26, 2017 is clearly an attempt to override the declaration of law by this court. Therefore, Clauses (1) and (11) of Section 184(11) are declared as void and unconstitutional," Justice Rao said in his judgment which Justice Bhat also agreed with.

Centre lifts freeze, hikes DA for staff to 28% from 17%

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The government on Wednesday announced an increase in the dearness allowance for central government employees and dearness relief for pensioners to 28%, from the current 17%, lifting the 18-month suspension to cover inflation. The freeze that had been imposed in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak was expected to help the Centre save Rs 38,000 crore—a little more than the Rs 35,000 crore budgeted for the current fiscal year for vaccinating against coronavirus.

"The increase reflects the additional instalments arising on 1 January, 2020, 1 July, 2020 and 1 January, 2021. The rate of dearness allowance/dearness relief for the period 1 January,

..BUT LARGE SECTION IS NOT PLEASED

2020 to 30 June 2021 shall remain at 17%," an official statement said. The development that was being closely watched by central government employees, immediately saw them pulling out calculators to work out the impact on their salaries and allowances. A large section, however, was not pleased with the announcement. Some argued that "their contribution" in helping the Centre fight Covid-19 should be recognised by the government.

Others said that those who retired during the last few months would have lost out on some leave encashment and pension-related benefits.

Besides, many viewed the increase for the last six-month period to be inadequate, arguing that retail inflation had shot up and the price of auto fuel, edible oil and several pulses had soared to record levels. Government officials had justified the freeze on DA, arguing that central government employees and pensioners too needed to contribute during a health emergency, which had resulted in companies slashing salaries.

India single largest source of govt info requests: Twitter

Swati.Mathur@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: India is the single largest source of government information requests, accounting for 25% of the global volume and 15% of the global accounts specified, social media company Twitter's latest transparency report released on Wednesday, said.

India replaces US at the top slot, which now accounts for the second highest volume of information requests comprising 22% of global information requests. Between January and June 2020, US was on top, while India was Number 2, with 21% of the global information requests and nearly 25% of global accounts specified. The volume of government information requests from India, however, swelled between July 1 and December 31, 2020.

Requests for account in-



According to Twitter's latest transparency report, requests for account information from India jumped a whopping 258% between July & December 2020

formation from India, Twitter said, jumped a whopping 258%, while the number of accounts specified grew by 120% between July and December 2020, most of them pertaining to the Delhi riots and the coronavirus pandemic.

While Twitter does not share its user-base by country, India is likely among the top subscribers of the

social media platform.

The 18th transparency report released since 2012 also said India is now among the Top 5 in the world pushing legal demands for taking down content along with Japan, Russia, Turkey, and South Korea.

India alone accounts for 18% of global legal demands (backed by 15 court orders between July and December 2020), with the number of accounts specified in requests from India increasing by 45%. Twitter also said its compliance against legal demands raised in India in this period was 73.3%.

Alongside its biannual global transparency report, Twitter on Wednesday released its inaugural monthly compliance report for India in accordance with the newly-minted Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

BJP MP Rudy pilots DMK MP to Chennai

D.Govardan@timesgroup.com

Chennai: DMK Lok Sabha MP from Central Chennai Dayanidhi Maran had a surprise encounter on a flight from Delhi on Tuesday evening, when the captain of an Indigo flight (Delhi-Chennai) greeted him inside the aircraft. Maran was returning to Chennai and boarded a late evening flight, after attending a meeting of the Parliamentary Estimates Committee in New Delhi earlier in the day.

"So, you are traveling in this flight as well?" the captain asked Maran, after all the passengers boarded. Despite being a frequent traveler, Maran could not recognize the captain since he was wearing a mask, though the voice sounded familiar.



Rajiv Pratap Rudy (L) and fellow MP Dayanidhi Maran

Soon, his smile gave him away. The captain was none other than fellow MP Rajiv Pratap Rudy. Just two hours prior to that, the two MPs were involved in intense discussion in a Parliamentary Estimates Committee meeting. "I was pleasantly surprised and told Rudyji that I couldn't believe that he was going to be the captain flying us from Delhi to Chennai," Maran tweeted.

Centre: Welfare schemes for minorities valid

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Justifying its welfare schemes for people of minority communities, the Centre has told the Supreme Court that the schemes are legally valid and as per the enshrined principles of the Constitution to reduce the inequalities and to achieve inclusiveness.

Opposing a PIL for winding up of welfare schemes for minority communities, the ministry of minority affairs contended that the schemes do not violate the rights of members of other communities and are legally valid.

It also clarified that the schemes are meant only for the economically weaker sections/underprivileged children/ candidates/women of the minority communities.

Suvendu approaches SC, wants case shifted out of Calcutta HC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari filed a petition in the Supreme Court on Wednesday, the day the Calcutta High Court issued him a notice on Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee's election petition challenging the Nandigram assembly poll result. Adhikari urged the Supreme Court to transfer the election-related case to any of the high courts for the "ends of justice".

In his petition, Adhikari quoted portions of Justice Kausik

HC notice to Suvendu on Mamata's poll plea, asks EC to preserve Nandigram docus



The Calcutta High Court on Wednesday issued a notice to leader of the opposition in Bengal assembly, Suvendu Adhikari, on an election petition filed by Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee challenging the Nandigram assembly poll result, reports Subrata Chatteraj. Justice Shampa Sarkar admitted Banerjee's petition and held that it was in order. The court will hear the case on August 12.

The court also issued notices to the Election Commission, the state electoral officer and the returning officer with a direction to keep all election-related records, including documents, elections papers, devices, video recordings etc, intact till the court heard the case.

Chanda's order while recusing himself from hearing the matter in which the judge noted

that "chronology of events" suggested "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".

The BJP leader invoked the apex court's powers under Article 139A (2) of the Constitution under which the court, if it deems it expedient to do so for the ends of justice, may transfer any case, appeal or other proceedings pending before any high court to any other high court.

Adhikari pointed to efforts to "influence" decisions in the Calcutta HC as grounds to seek transfer of the Nandigram election-related case to any other high court.

10 feared dead as trawler capsizes in WB

Kolkata: A trawler laden with fish capsized about 100 nautical miles from Bakkhali harbour, West Bengal, early on Wednesday, reports Monotosh Chakraborty. Ten fishermen, all residents of Bakkhali and Frasergunj, are feared dead. Only the captain and a fisherman were able to jump into the water before the *FB Haimabati* turned turtle. They were rescued by another trawler an hour later.

Captain Shankar Sasmal said the mishap occurred at around 5 am a few miles from Raktswari Chawr, a sand bank. "There was no forecast of a storm. But suddenly I felt a strong rolling in the sea. The trawler began to tilt dangerously and turned turtle. It happened within a split second," he said.

Since it was early morning, 10 fishermen were sleeping inside the cabin. Saikat Das, a fisherman, was lucky as he came out onto the deck.

HC: There may be illegitimate parents, but no illegitimate kids

Vasantha.Kumar
@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: "No child is born in this world without a father and a mother. A child has no role to play in his/her birth. Hence, law should recognise... there may be illegitimate parents, but no illegitimate children," the Karnataka high court has observed on a plea from a son, seeking compassionate appointment following the death of his father, a Bescom lineman.

The court quashed a circular issued by the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) on September 23, 2011, which said under no circumstances would the second wife or her children be eligible for appointment on compassionate grounds, if the marriage has taken place during the subsistence of the first marriage. Allowing the writ

The high court said it is necessary to protect rights of all such children in all religions, vis-a-vis compassionate appointment

appeal filed by K Santhosha, a resident of Kanakapura taluk in Ramanagara taluk, a division bench headed by Justice BV Nagarathna directed the authorities to consider his application for compassionate appointment in two months' time. The bench also noted that the provisions of Special Marriage Act, 1954 is a piece of legislation bringing about uniformity in the law relating to marriages and an example of legislation which is driven towards Uniform Civil Code as envisaged under Article 44 of the Constitution of India.

Referring to Supreme Court's judgment in VR Tripathi case, the court said it is necessary to protect rights of all such children in all religions, vis-a-vis compassionate appointment. "It is for the Parliament to bring about uniformity in law vis-a-vis legitimacy of children. Thus, it is for the Parliament to determine in what way protection could be extended to children born outside a valid marriage," the bench said in a judgment on June 24.

Santhosha's father Kabbalal, a lineman grade-2 in Bescom, died on June 10, 2014. In March 2015, authorities cited the KPTCL circular and rejected Santhosha's application for appointment on compassionate grounds, after which he moved the high court. A single bench dismissed his petition in December 2018 and he filed a writ appeal.

Spiralling cost of fuel may spell doom for the hilsa in Bay of Bengal

Monotosh Chakraborty | TNN

Kolkata: The ceaseless spike in fuel prices isn't just burning holes in pockets—it has also stalled the engine of hilsa growth in the Bay of Bengal.

As fishermen skimp on fuel and cast fine nets in shallow waters along the coastline instead of venturing deep into the sea, more juvenile hilsa are getting caught than the full-grown ones that are prized for their taste.

While hilsa fish live in saline waters, they migrate to rivers to lay eggs before returning to the sea. Shoals of young hilsa making their way back to the sea



As fishermen cast nets in shallow waters along the coastline instead of venturing deep into the sea, more juvenile hilsa are getting caught

are now getting caught in the fine nets laid close to the shoreline. Catching hilsa under 500gm was banned in India, Bangladesh and Myanmar nearly three decades ago to protect the fast-depleting fish population. Bangladesh has been successful in enforcing the ban and reviving the hilsa population in its

waters, but India and Myanmar have had moderate success.

With the price of diesel increasing by over 30% in the past 12 months, enforcing the ban on catching juvenile hilsa is proving to be a challenge. Last week, a raid by the fisheries department netted one tonne of juvenile hilsa from a trawler that

had returned to Bengal's Kakdwip. The fishermen admitted their catch was from shallow waters close to the shore.

A year ago, a round trip for deep-sea fishing by a trawler used to cost Rs 1.5 lakh, including the salaries and food of the 15-16 fishermen on board. "We would spend 1,200 litres of fuel for a 15-day trip and the expense came to around Rs 84,000. Now just 800 litres of fuel costs us Rs 75,000 and since other expenses have also increased, we are fishing along the coastline," said Rabin Das, who owns multiple trawlers.

Full report on www.toi.in

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Pak LeT commander, 2 other ultras killed in J&K

Terrorists Told To Surrender, But They Opened Fire

Srinagar: Three Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists, including a commander from Pakistan, were killed in an encounter in south Kashmir's Pulwama district on Wednesday, reports Saleem Pandit. The security forces took extreme care and avoided collateral damage by safely eva-

uating civilians from the area before the anti-terror operation began. The slain terrorists were identified as Aijaz alias Abu Huraira from Pakistan, and two local terrorists — Javed Ahmad Rather from Pulwama and Shah Nawaz Nazir Ganle from Awantipora.

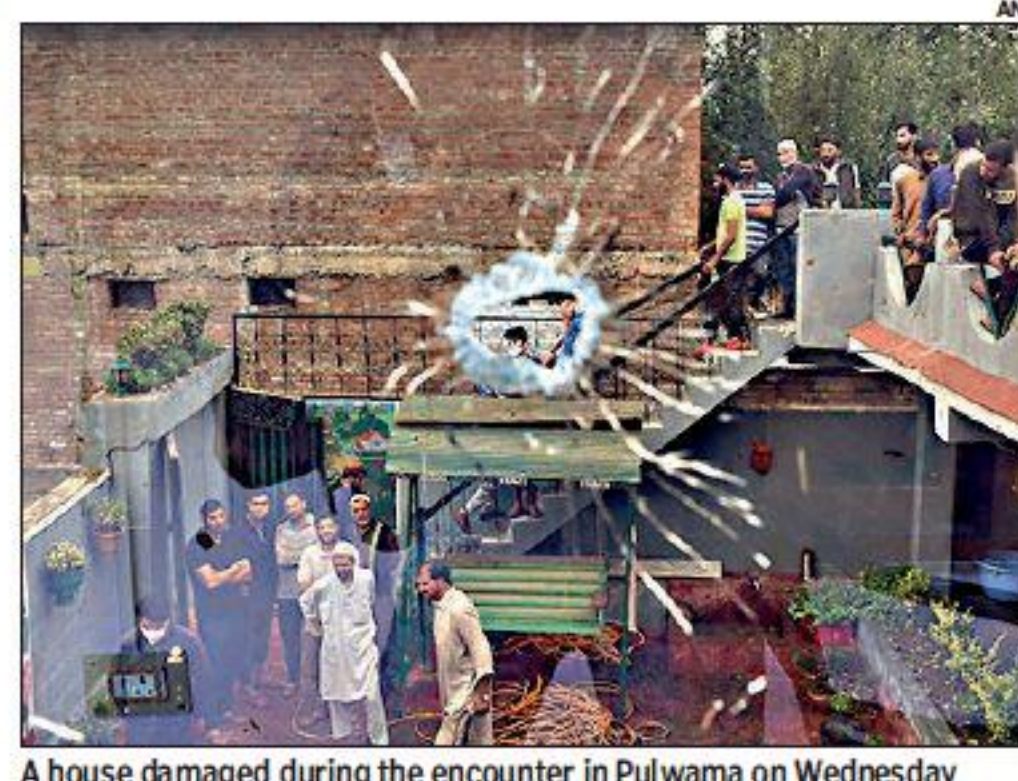
"Aijaz, who was wanted in a string of terror-related cases, was instrumental in luring Kashmiri youth into picking up arms, besides planning and executing terror attacks in the

area, including those on police and security establishments," IGP (Kashmir Range) Vijay Kumar said. The other two were also involved in terror crimes and civilian atrocities, police said.

A joint team of the Army, CRPF and J&K Police had launched a cordon-and-search operation late Tuesday in the area and they gave the ultras an opportunity to surrender. The holed-in terrorists, however, opened fire at the search party, triggering an encounter.

Drone returns to Pak after BSF firing

Jammu: Two weeks after a twin blast was triggered by drones at Jammu Air Force station, a suspected drone was sighted near the international border in Jammu late Tuesday, prompting BSF personnel to fire at it, forcing the unmanned aerial vehicle to return to the Pakistani side, reports Sanjay Khajuria. This is the sixth instance of a drone hovering over the Jammu area after two explosions rocked the IAF station, located some 14km from the international border, on June 27. Two IAF personnel had suffered minor injuries in the attack, following which 10 J&K districts banned the sale and use of drones for commercial and personal purposes. A BSF spokesperson on Wednesday said that a blinking red light was observed at a height of about 200m on the Indian side of the border in J&K's Arnia sector on Tuesday night.



A house damaged during the encounter in Pulwama on Wednesday

Hurriyat patriarch Geelani gets notice in 19-yr-old forex case

Srinagar: The Enforcement Directorate has issued a notice to separatist Hurriyat patriarch Syed Ali Shah Geelani for a penalty of Rs 14.4 lakh in a 19-year-old case relating to alleged illegal possession of \$10,000, reports Saleem Pandit. Geelani, 93, had been first issued a penalty notice on March 20, 2019, based on a case lodged against him after the income-tax department seized \$10,000 from his house in Srinagar in 2002.

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NOTICE is hereby given that Shri Mukesh Popatlal Shah, Smt. Jyotsna Mukesh Shah and Shri Karan Mukesh Shah, all residing at Flat No. (7A) 701, 7th Floor, "B" Wing, Dhiraajkunj, Bajaj Road, Vile Parle (West), Mumbai-400 056, have agreed to sell and/or transfer the below mentioned Flat No. 701 with the Shares of the Society to our client free from all encumbrances, liens, mortgages, litigations and with marketable title. Any person or persons having any claim to or against the said Flat No. 701 or any part thereof or on the Shares of the Society by way of tenancy, sub-tenancy, license, lease, sub-lease, sale, exchange, mortgage, equitable mortgage, gift, trust, inheritance, bequest, possession, lien, charge, maintenance, limited liability partnership, association of person, partnership, joint venture or any person is in possession of the said Flat No. 701 or any part thereof or otherwise, howsoever is hereby required to make the same known in writing with the documentary proof thereof to the undersigned at his office 205(22A), 2nd Floor, Sir Yusuf Building Condominium, Veer Nariman Road, Flora Fountain, Fort, Mumbai-400 001 within 14 days from the date hereof otherwise the sale and/or transfer shall be completed without any reference to such claim or interest and the same, if any, shall be deemed to have been waived to all intents and purposes. THE DESCRIPTION OF THE SAID FLAT NO. 701 AND THE SAID SHARES: An ownership Flat No. 701 numbered as Flat No. 701 on the 7th Floor in the "B" Wing of the building known as Dhiraajkunj measuring 1000 sq. feet carpet area situated at Final Plot No. 17, C.T.S. No. 853, 853/1 to 4, Bajaj Road, Vile Parle (West), Mumbai-400 056 together with Five Shares of Rs. 50/- each bearing distinctive Nos. 56 to 60 comprised in Share Certificate No. 12 in the Dhiraajkunj "B" Wing Co-operative Housing Society Limited registered under No. BOM/W/K-E(HSG)/TC/4723 dated 01.03.1990 and also together with all the advantages and benefits under the Agreement dated 3rd February, 2005 and Agreement for Sale dated 11th April, 2007. Dated this 15th day of July, 2021

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Advocates & Solicitors for the Purchaser

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HC asks CBSE to decide on exam fee refund in 8 wks

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Delhi high court on Wednesday directed Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to take a call in eight weeks if it will refund the examination fees taken from students for class X and XII board examinations that were cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Justice Prateek Jalan asked CBSE to consider as representation a petition by Deepa Joseph, mother of a Class X student studying in a CBSE-affiliated school, who had paid Rs 2,100 as examination fee.

The CBSE's decision would be open to challenge if Joseph is not satisfied, the court clarified as it disposed of the petition.

Claiming that the expenditure incurred by CBSE to conduct board examination, as well as its role in the process, was less, the plea pointed out that as per the new policy, "schools were uploading the marks". The court, however, disagreed and wondered how the role of the board can be reduced. "If CBSE is not doing anything, you take the marksheets from schools and go," it told the petitioner.

CBSE said it was a self-financing body and its expenditure was principally funded by the examination fees collected from students appearing in boards.

MP: Classes 11 & 12 to start from July 26

Bhopal: Chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Wednesday declared that schools in Madhya Pradesh will reopen in a phased manner from July 26, beginning with classes 11 and 12 at 50% capacity, reports **Ramendra Singh**. Chouhan said that studies and school activities of children have been affected by the pandemic. "Learning is on via online and virtual processes, but its effectiveness is yet to be assessed. Children are getting frustrated after being stuck at home for a long time. The school administrations have their own problems. In these circumstances, and since corona infection is under control in the state at the moment, it has been decided to start school operations in a phased manner," the CM said. Classes 11 and 12 can start four days a week, he said.

Air ambulance traffic at Delhi, Mum airports more than doubled in 2nd wave

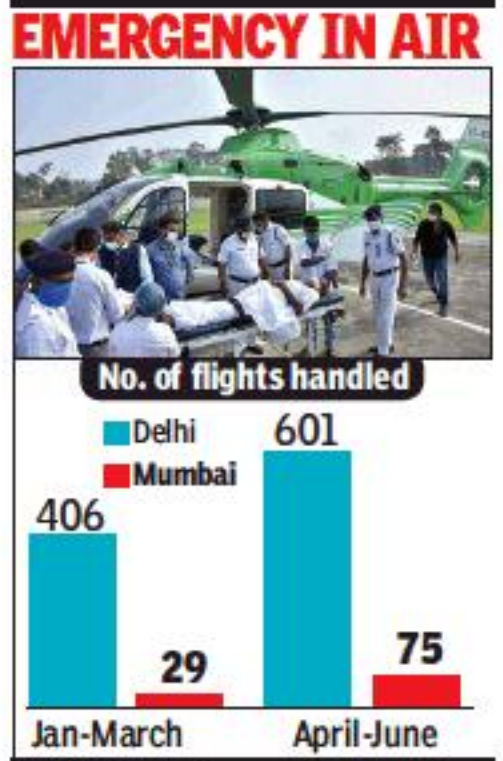
Manju.V@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Of all the manned aircraft that crisscross India daily, air ambulance flights arguably account for the slimmest stream of air traffic. Despite the pandemic, the demand for air ambulance flights — small aircraft with medical equipment, a patient and a doctor aboard — that is, in India, was rather tepid. But when the Covid second wave hit, air ambulance flights handled by Delhi airport — the big boss of charter flights — and Mumbai, more than doubled.

Data shared by the two airports show a wave in demand for

air ambulance flights coinciding with the second wave. In the three months from January to March, the Delhi airport handled 406 medical flights, but in the two months of April and May alone, the number went up to 482 medical flights. That is, an average of eight air ambulance flights per day, double the four flights in January; making it possibly the highest air ambulance traffic any airport in India would have ever witnessed. Delhi airport is home to the largest fleet of charter aircraft and is the top market for charter flights in India. Between April and June, Mumbai airport handled 75 medical flights, more than double the 29 flights between January and March.

"In case of Delhi, most Covid patients were flown out into tier-2 cities, and in case of Mumbai, most patients were brought in from non-metros," said Rahul Mucchal, of Accretion Aviation, an aggregator. "But the highest number of Covid patients were flown to Hyderabad and Chennai where beds were available in hospitals with ECMO machines," he said. Binay Singh of Jet Serve Aviation, a Delhi-based non-scheduled operator said: "Air ambulance flights from Delhi largely carried Covid patients to places like Calcutta, Raipur, Jabalpur, Ahmedabad."



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Sr. No.	Member Name	SEBI Regn No.	Date of declaration of defaulter	Date of expulsion
1.	Destiny Securities Ltd.	INZ000206835	July 13, 2021	July 13, 2021
2.	Star Share & Stock Brokers Ltd.	INB230771636/ INF230771636	July 13, 2021	July 13, 2021

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The claim can be lodged online on the Exchange portal <https://investorhelpline.nseindia.com/NICEPLUS/welcomeUser> where the relevant documents can be uploaded. A sample claim form and FAQ is made available on the Exchange website <https://www.nseindia.com/invest/details-to-be-provided-for-lodging-claims> for the convenience of the claimants.

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For National Stock Exchange of India Ltd.
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Place: Mumbai
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NiMo case: PNB pleads for release of assets with ED

Mumbai: The Punjab National Bank (PNB) on Wednesday moved three pleas before the special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) seeking release and restoration of properties attached by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the case involving fugitive businessman, Nirav Modi. PNB has sought the properties to be released to the liquidator of Modi owned Firestar Diamond International Private Limited, the Resolution Professional of Firestar International Limited and Recovery Officer.

The court has directed the ED to submit its replies to the pleas. Last year, under the Fugitive Economic Offenders (FEO) Act, a special court directed that properties of Modi — declared FEO earlier — be attached by the ED. However, it exempted from the list, properties secured to PNB and a consortium of banks either through mortgage, hypothecation or personal guarantee. **TNN**

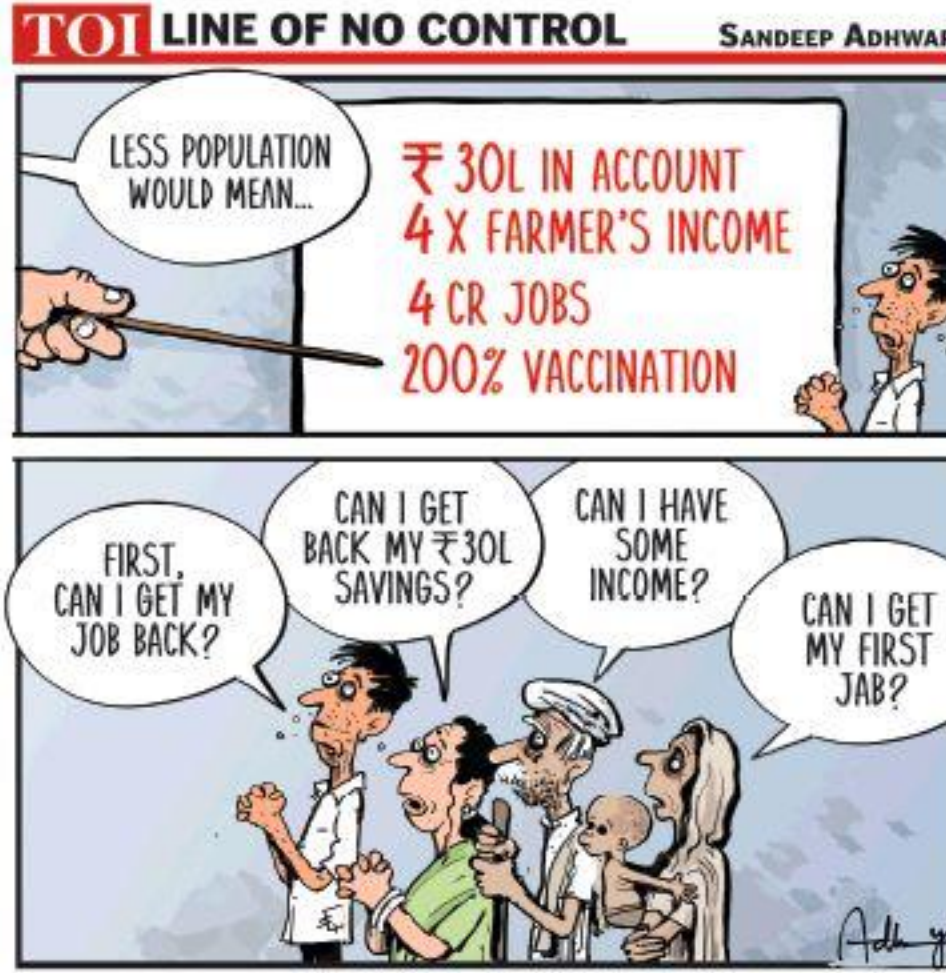
Hum do, humara ek: Minister of Cong-led Raj backs popn curbs

Joychen Joseph
@timesgroup.com

Jaipur: Taking a stance contrary to Congress's criticism of UP's new population policy, Rajasthan health minister Raghu Sharma on Wednesday appeared to come out in support of the Yogi Adityanath government's stringent proposals when he said time was ripe to replace the old slogan of "Hum do, humare do" with "Hum do, humara ek".

"Our growing population is a matter of concern. It is high time the country thought of controlling population growth so that future generations get better education, healthcare and other facilities," Sharma said. "I've been championing this cause on many platforms."

The draft of UP's popula-



tion policy, unveiled by CM Yogi earlier this week, states that those who have more than two children will cease to be eligible for government jobs and

certain other facilities. Congress and other opposition parties have attacked BJP for provisions that they claim targets minorities. The BJP-led

BJP opposed family planning, says Baghel

Chhattisgarh chief minister Bhupesh Baghel on Wednesday remarked that laws alone won't help regulate population, and reminded BJP that it had opposed the family planning policies of the Congress-led Centre in the 1970s. Baghel was on his way to Nagpur when mediapersons sought his reactions to the move by the BJP-led governments in Uttar Pradesh and Assam to enact population control laws. **TNN**

government in Assam, too, has proposed to implement a strict population policy focused on immigrant Muslims. Amid Sharma's support to the population-control initiative, fellow minister and state Congress chief Govind Singh Dotasra termed the UP population bill a "diversionary tactic".

Son of Sonipat farmer gets ₹67 lakh/year job at Amazon

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Rohtak: The 22-year-old son of a Sonipat farmer who had to pay his BTEch fees by taking home tuitions has landed a job with Amazon at an annual package of Rs 67 lakh.

Avnish Chhikara of Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram University of Science and Technology (DCRUST), Murthal, in Sonipat, is the son of a farmer-cum-driver of Krawari village.

Talking to the media, Avnish referred to the challenges he faced given his family's limited resources. "There were times when I had no money to pay my university fees, but I managed somehow, partially by taking tuitions," he said.

Avnish said he used to study 10 hours after his engineering classes every day and had applied for an internship at Amazon during the pandemic at a monthly stipend of Rs 2.40 lakh. He said once his internship ended, he was offered a package of Rs 67 lakh per annum by the American giant, which may go up to Rs 1 crore after a year.

Congratulating Avnish, university vice-chancellor Prof Anayath said he was proud that a student from a modest background had achieved so much by consistent effort. He also expressed the hope that Avnish's struggle and determination would inspire other students.

Centre directed to file counter affidavit in 3 wks

► From P 1

The court then directed the Centre to file its counter affidavit in three weeks and adjourned the hearing to August 11.

The bench made the observations on a plea moved by Digital News Publishers Association, challenging the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. The association sought an interim order restraining the Centre from taking any action under the rules.

It cited issues with provisions including Rule 16, which gave power to the secretary of the Union ministry of information and broadcasting to block public access to any digital information. Carnatic singer TM Krishna's plea, that the rules of his right as an artist and a cultural commentator is also pending before the court.

'Accurate narrative' about plaques at Haldighati soon

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Jaipur: The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) will remove its plaques at Raktai Talai in Rajsamand that states Maharana Pratap's forces retreated from the battle of Haldighati and Badshahi Bagh, which was named after Mughal emperor Akbar.

The battle was fought between Pratap and Akbar in 1576. The decision to remove the plaques was taken following demands by Rajput organisations in the state. The ASI has directed its state unit to replace the controversial plaques with an "accurate narrative" of the battle. Rajsamand MP Diya Kumari and Rajsamand MLA Deepthi Maheshwari had raised the demand with former Union minister of tourism and culture Prahlad Singh Patel. Union minister of state for culture Arjun Ram Meghwal told TOI, "The order removing the plaques have been issued. It is based on historical facts."

ASI circle (Jodhpur) superintendent Bipin Chandra Negi confirmed they had received directions to remove the plaques. "The plaques have factual inaccuracies such as wrong date of the battle and some debatable or controversial statements. It will be removed soon," said Negi.

The ASI office has written to Rajasthan tourism department about the development.



Statue commemorating the Battle of Haldighati

TIMES VIEW: History can have several versions. But it is the job of historians to write them. Communities should not be left to decide on what is a historical fact. It is regrettable that the ASI has bowed down to such a demand.

Both the sites were under the state government and the plaques were placed by the state tourism department in 1976 during the visit of Indira Gandhi. The monuments were taken over by ASI in 2008.

Negi said they had prepared a note to be inscribed on the plaques and will be sent to the headquarters for approval. NCERT books mention the date of the battle of Haldighati as June 18, 1576, while the date mentioned on the plaques is June 21, 1576.

WhatsApp message forged & fabricated, firm tells apex court

► From P 1

On April 28, 2017, A2Z entered into another agreement with Quippo Infrastructure (now Viom Infra ventures) for carrying out a part of the contracted work and it was agreed that all monies received by A2Z would be deposited in an escrow account from which payments would be made to parties.

On May 28 last year, A2Z terminated the contract agreement and Quippo moved the Calcutta HC on September 14 for appointment of an arbitration panel on certain issues relating to the contract agreement with A2Z. The parties agreed for an arbitrator on January 14 this year. A single judge bench of the Calcutta HC was told by Quippo counsel about a WhatsApp message of March 19, 2020 in which A2Z purportedly admitted payment of Rs 8.18 crore due to Quippo. Quippo also showed an email of the year 2018 in which A2Z had agreed to deposit all money received from SDMC in an escrow account. A2Z told HC that the WhatsApp message was forged and fabricated.

But, the HC directed A2Z to "deposit all the money received by them in future from South Delhi Municipal Corporation in connection with the work covered by the Master Service Agreement in the escrow account subject to further direction in this behalf by the arbitral tribunal or the arbitral award that may be passed."

Appearing for A2Z before the SC on Wednesday, senior advocate Ranjit Kumar said though the agreement was terminated and the dispute stood referred to arbitration, it was incomprehensible why the HC ordered all receivables from SDMC be deposited in the escrow account. "I will not be able to pay workers engaged in the collection and transportation of solid waste management in Delhi. Why

'WHY SHOULD HC BELIEVE WHATSAPP'

should the HC believe a WhatsApp message when we have disputed it as forged and fabricated." For Quippo, senior advocate Ritin Rai said that the escrow account was created on the basis of an agreement for equitable distribution of the money between the parties. However, the SC bench led by CJI Ramana said that once the matter has been referred to arbitration, why should a party that terminated the agreement deposit the receivables in an escrow account?

Qaeda module: ATS nabs 3 for aiding operatives

Lucknow: The Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) of the UP police on Wednesday arrested three persons on charges of helping the arrested terror accused, Minaz and Masruddin, in procuring country-made pistol and explosives used for making the improvised explosive device (IED) in form of a pressure cooker bomb. All the three accused were arrested from Lucknow.

According to ATS, Minaz and Masruddin were operatives of terror outfit Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind, an auxiliary unit of Al-Qaeda. **TNN**

Ghosh's tweet hints at his exit as Bengal BJP chief

Kolkata: A tweet by Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh has grabbed eyeballs in political circles. On Tuesday evening, Ghosh uploaded on his official Twitter handle a photograph of sunset from Durgapur Expressway with the caption: "Sometimes it is important to cherish the sunset because it is only when the sun sets that we see a new dawn."

The tweet and caption have fuelled speculation about a "sunset" and the rise of a "new dawn" in Bengal BJP with Ghosh's exit as state unit president, a post he has held since 2015. **TNN**

'Social media has given wings to right to free speech'

► From P 1

The petitioner said the five-judge Constitution bench of the SC's 1962 judgment in the Kedar Nath case upholding the validity of sedition provision was rendered in an era when the apex court was conservative in interpreting the ambit of fundamental rights.

He said the fundamental rights, especially the right to free speech and right to life, have been given a wide meaning in many subsequent landmark judgments.

Vombatkere, who supported the agitation by farm unions against agricultural laws, said the right to free speech and expression got wings with the advent of social media, allowing citizens to freely express their opinion for and against the government.

The SC never had an opportunity, in the era of transparency and openness, to examine the constitutional validity of Section 124A of IPC, which is now often used to silence dissent, he said.

Vombatkere had also unsuccessfully challenged the validity of Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016

TIMES VIEW: The PIL is noteworthy because dissent is an intrinsic part of democracy. Recently, an SC judge too had observed that a student from a modest background had achieved so much by consistent effort. He also expressed the hope that Avnish's struggle and determination would inspire other students.

being passed as a Money Bill by Parliament.

"The SC, in Kedar Nath case, upheld the validity of the impugned provision and ruled that the very existence of the state will be in jeopardy if the government established by law is subverted. The impugned provision, however, was read down to mean that only those expressions that either intend to or have the tendency of causing violence are punishable. Despite the reading down, the continued employment of the charge of sedition to silence dissent continued undeterred and has been taken judicial notice of. This prompted the SC to reiterate the Kedar Nath law in 2016 in Common Cause case, directing all authorities to scrupulously follow the Kedar Nath dictum," he said.

TIMES TRIBUTE

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SAD DEMISE

Mr Rajesh Vardhilal Shah
Age: 70 yrs
In grief :-
Son of late smt. Savitaben and Shri Vardhilal Manilal Shah
Husband of Nutan shah
Father of Miten, Pooja and Dr. Bhumita
Father in law of Komal, Shane and Shashank
Grandfather of Aidan, Riaan and Jayraaj
HIGH VOLT ELECTRICALS PVT LTD

DEATH ANNIVERSARY

1st Death Anniversary

Neil (Ujan) Miranda
DOD : 15th July 2020

Not a single moment goes by without you in our thoughts. Life only gets liveable knowing and believing you are watching over us always. Forever in our hearts.

Deeply mourned by
Mother Emilia
Wife Anita
Daughter's - Valentina, Vinny, SIL - Glenn.
Granddaughters - Cathy, Kyra, Brothers - Anthony, Gordon, Desmond
Sister Shirley and The Miranda family

4th Death Anniversary

Mrs Leela Santdas Hingorani

Much Loved
Much Missed
Forever in our Hearts
Maa, Hingorani and Bhagia Families

REMEMBRANCES

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Pearly D'Souza
Born: 1st June, 1946
Died: 15th July, 2020
Aged 74 years

Come to Me

God saw you getting tired, and a cure was not to be, so He put his arms around you and whispered, "Come to me."

With tearful eyes we watched you, and saw you pass away, and although we loved you dearly, we could not make you stay. A strong heart stopped beating, hard working hands at rest. God broke our hearts to prove to us, He only takes the best.

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul rest in peace. Amen

Survived by her daughter Karen C. D'Souza

SAD DEMISE

SHRI M R RAMAN
(Dombivli)
attained the lotus feet of the Lord on 06th July 2021.
Deeply mourned by
Smt. Vanaja Raman (Wife), family, relatives and friends.
Contact no. 9323831463

SAD DEMISE

VIPUL HARKANT RAI MEHTA
17/06/1936 - 12/07/2021
It is with immense grief we announce the demise of Shri Vipul H Mehta, H/o Gargi Mehta on 12.7.2021.
Deeply mourned by family and friends.

Mihir & Ratna Mehta
Aparna & Parag Tijoriwala
Garima & Priyanshu Mehta
Ojas - Vedant - Rahul

+91-98206-21953
mehtam2000@gmail.com

SAD DEMISE

NELSON SOARES
19.11.1962 - 13.07.2021

Husband of Teresa Soares
Father of Kristen Soares
S/o Natheline & Late Leo Soares
B/o Loraine/Iqbal Nasser & Neil/Lubaina Soares
Son-in-law of late Mary & Theodore Monteiro
BIL of Vincent Monteiro, Flossy/Merwyn Dcosta, Priscilla/Dyrrel Fernandes, Joyce/Desmond Souza & Sujita Monteiro
Uncle of Anika & Aaran Soares, Bevin/da/Bosco Ferrao, Beulah Dcosta, Amit & Rohit Fernandes, Nathan & Johann Souza

SAD DEMISE

A. S. DEVARAJAN
[Retd DGM (Fin) MTNL Mumbai]
Passed away peacefully in Mumbai on 11/7/2021

You will live in our hearts forever
Vijayalakshmi & Suresh (Daughter, Son-in-law)
Rammohan & Priya (Son, daughter-in-law)
Deeptha, Ananya, Sakshi & Vedhanth (Grandchildren)

Contact - 9820799480

REMEMBRANCE SHARING MEMORIES

19th Death Anniversary In Ever Loving Memory of
MRS. ASHA PRAFUL PANDIT
Fondly remembered by Niranjan Rupa & Tej.

20th Death Anniversary
VISHWAS J. SHETTY
Birth 06.01.1980
Last Breath 15.07.2001

We Long to Hold your Hand one more time. We Long to Tell you again, What you always

Wished to Hear:
We Loved You Then, We Love You Now and We will Love You Forever.
Vijay Jayarama Shetty & Family
Poolja Wines, Andheri (W).

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Remembrance 10th Death Anniversary

Chuhar (Ajoobhai Ajbani)

Fondly Remembered by Family & Friends.

First Death Anniversary

Bhavna Manish Malaviya
22.8.1969 - 15.7.2020
You were as warm & radiant as the sun, always leaving your aura wherever you go. The caring soul of many, and your heart was full of love, kindness and innocence. You were a happy person who lived her life to the fullest by spreading positivity everywhere. And yes, Taru Dhyan Rakhe

Remembered by :-
Malaviya, Shah Family & Friends

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To place an Obituary announcement or Remembrance ad

Mr. Ashok Bijlani
He left for his heavenly abode on 13-07-2021 at 3.30 a.m.

We will always cherish his loving memories and he will be missed immensely.

No Condolences/Marka

Fondly remembered by:
Mona Nachaney-Bijlani (Wife)
Sister, Nieces & Nephews
Bijlani & Nachaney Families
Relatives & Friends

To place an Obituary announcement or Remembrance ad

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India, China to seek 'mutually acceptable solution' to LAC row

Jaishankar, Wang Agree To Hold Early Meeting Of Military Commanders

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Indian and Chinese foreign ministers agreed to convene an early meeting of military commanders to "seek a mutually acceptable solution" to the outstanding issues on the LAC in the western sector while refraining from any unilateral action that could escalate the military stand-off.

During Wednesday's meeting, foreign minister S Jaishankar told his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi that troops should complete the disengagement at the LAC "at the earliest" and that the unsettled situation has cast a negative light on the entire bilateral relationship.

After an hour-long meeting between Jaishankar and Wang Yi in Dushanbe on the sidelines of an SCO meeting on Afghanistan, the Indian minister tweeted, "Highlighted that unilateral change of status quo is not acceptable. Full restoration and maintenance of peace and tranquility in border areas is essential for development of our ties."

The reiteration of the Indian position, despite the Chinese reluctance to complete disengagement in Ladakh, was reaffirmed by an official statement by the MEA which said,



Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi and S Jaishankar met on Wednesday

No LAC talks, Rahul leaves def panel meet

The meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on defence on Wednesday saw Rahul Gandhi making demands to discuss "more serious" matters like Taliban gaining ground in Afghanistan and the LAC situation. When Gandhi's request was turned down, he left after a few minutes and did not wait for the meeting to get over, sources said. "He did not walk out. He just left early," a source said.

"There was also an understanding that both sides will continue to ensure stability on the ground and neither side will take any unilateral action that could increase tension."

The situation remains tense in several areas in eastern Ladakh, particularly at Patrol Points 15 and 17a. There is also the "legacy" issue of the Depsang plains where Indian troops have been prevented from patrolling on points 10 to 13.

Restore Parl access: Scribes urge Speaker

New Delhi: Representative bodies of journalists including the Press Club of India, Press Association, the Editors Guild of India, Delhi Union of Journalists, and the Working News Cameramen's Association have written to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla seeking restoration of access to all media persons to cover the proceedings of the monsoon session of Parliament.

Following a two-day deliberation, the media bodies wrote to Birla saying that media was restricted from covering parliamentary proceedings during the budget session of Parliament in 2020, in order to stop the spread of coronavirus. TNN

Goyal gets a step-up, appointed Leader of House in Rajya Sabha



Goyal was the deputy leader when Gehlot, who has been appointed as governor of Karnataka, was the leader of the House. Prior to becoming a minister in 2014, Goyal was BJP treasurer, a post held by his father VP Goyal. He was also engaged in poll management activities and for managing logistics during the elections. He has been deputed to various states, including Uttar Pradesh in the 2017 assembly polls.

Congress to reach out to opposition parties

Congress will reach out to other opposition parties to forge a common ground to corner the BJP government in the monsoon session of Parliament starting Monday, with the party giving the task of coordination to Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge. The focus of the outreach will particularly be TMC which is likely to play an active role in Parliament. TNN

As deputy leader of the House of Elders, Goyal has been an effective floor manager and played a role in passage of key legislations including the contentious ones for which support of other parties was required. TNN

Puri talks to UAE minister, conveys India's oil-price worry

Sanjay.Dutta@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Barely a week into his new job as India's oil minister, Hardeep Singh Puri has jumped into the rough and tumble of international oil diplomacy in search of market calm as fuel prices soar at home.

On Wednesday, Puri called up Sultan Ahmad Jaber, the head of Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and industry minister of UAE, the rising star of OPEC that has

caused a split in the grouping by challenging Saudi Arabia's supremacy and sent oil prices racing.

But unlike in the past, the former diplomat was measured in conveying New Delhi's concerns over the recessionary impact of high oil prices on global economic recovery and demand, which will ultimately hurt producers. "Conveyed my desire to work closely with UAE and other friendly countries to bring a sense of calm, predictability and realism among other suppliers in the energy market to make it more affordable for consumers," Puri tweeted.

D-55



ODISHA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION ADVERTISEMENT NO . 06 of 2021-2022 RECRUITMENT TO THE POSTS OF ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS IN DIFFERENT STATE PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES UNDER THE ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WEBSITE - <http://opsc.gov.in>

Online applications are invited from the prospective candidates for the posts of Associate Professors in different State Public Universities of Odisha. This recruitment covers across 50 subjects comprising total vacancies across subjects at 320 (119-W). The online registration shall start from 23.07.2021.

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION:

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 - A minimum of seven publications in the peer-reviewed or UGC-listed journals.
 - Total research score of Seventy five (75).
- Application fee- Rs. 400/- for candidates other than SC, ST and PWD candidates.
 - Last date for online registration and payment is 23.08.2021.
 - Last date for submission online application is 31.08.2021.
 - For details the prospective candidates are requested to visit OPSC Website <http://opsc.gov.in>.

N.B. - The online application form is automated & system driven and will guide the candidate seamlessly in filling the application. The requisite options shall be enabled and information shall be asked as per data furnished by the candidate. Before filling up the information ensure that accurate information is fed, for edit option is limited and on confirmation there is no scope for further edit even if wrongful entry has been made while filling up application.

Sd/-

SECRETARY

ODISHA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CUTTACK

CUTTACK
DATE : 14.07.2021

OIPR - 12002/11/0033/21-22



पिंपरी चिंचवड महानगरपालिका, पिंपरी-18

जलनिःसारण विभाग

निविदा नोटीस क्र.3/1/2021-22

शुद्धीपत्रक क्र. 1

जलनिःसारण विभागाकडील राष्ट्रीय नागरी सुधारणा अंतर्गत केंद्रशासनाच्या अमृत योजने अंतर्गत पिंपरी चिंचवड मनपा हद्दीतील मलनिःसारण व्यवस्था व मैलाशुद्धीकरण केंद्र उभारणे व पुढील 5 वर्षाकरिता देखभाल व दुरुस्ती करणे प्रकल्प राबविणे (अमृत योजना) कामाची निविदा प्रसिद्ध करणेत आलेली आहे. सदर निविदेची निविदा स्वीकृती दि.15/07/2021 रोजी दु.3.00 वाजेपर्यंत आहे. परंतु काही तांत्रिक कारणास्तव निविदा स्वीकृतीस मुदतवाढ देणे आवश्यक आहे. त्याचा तपशिल खालिलप्रमाणे-

निविदा स्विकृती दिनांक व वेळ	दिनांक-30/07/2021 वेळ- दु. 3.00 वाजेपर्यंत
निविदा उघडणेचा दिनांक व वेळ	दिनांक-03/08/2021 वेळ-दु. 3.00 वाजेपर्यंत

निविदापुर्व बैठकीतील मुद्द्यांचे स्पष्टीकरण (Common set of Deviation) अलहिदा प्रसिद्ध करणेत येईल.

सही/-
सह शहर अभियंता
जलनिःसारण विभाग
पिंपरी चिंचवड महानगरपालिका
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National Testing Agency

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(An Autonomous Organization under the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Govt)

Public Notice

Dated: 15.07.2021

Online Application Form for

National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test [NEET(UG)]- 2021

The National Testing Agency is inviting Online Application for NEET (UG) - 2021 for admission to all seats of undergraduate medical courses in all medical institutions.

As per Section 14 of the National Medical Commission Act, 2019, NEET (UG) has to be conducted as a common and uniform National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) for admission to undergraduate medical education in all medical institutions, including those governed under any other law in force.

NEET (UG) - 2021 will be conducted in 13 languages i.e. English, Hindi, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu.

In order to ensure that the candidate data is submitted fast, the Application Form for NEET (UG) - 2021 has been divided into Two Sets/Phases. The first set of information needs to be filled up before the last date of submission of the Application Form online. The second set of information needs to be filled up by the candidates before the declaration of the Result/ downloading of Score Card during the period that would be notified separately through NEET (UG) Portal in due course. All candidates shall fill up each set of information of the Application Form at the respective time of availability. In the absence of filling up of any of the set of information, his/her candidature will be cancelled.

The NEET (UG) - 2021 shall consist of one Question Paper containing 180 Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) from Physics, Chemistry, and Biology (Botany and Zoology). The schedule of examination activities, are as follows:

Online Submission of Application Form	13 July 2021 to 06 August 2021 (upto 11:50 pm)
Last date of successful transaction of application fee	07 August 2021 (upto 11:50 pm)
Correction in Particulars of Application Form	8 August 2021 to 12 August 2021
Announcement of the City of Examination	20 August 2021
Downloading of Admit Cards from NTA website	To be released 3 days before the Examination
Date of Examination	12 September 2021 (Sunday)
Duration of Examination	180 minutes (03 hours)
Timing of Examination	02:00 pm to 05:00 pm

The Information Bulletin containing detailed information regarding the test, syllabus, pattern of the examination, eligibility criteria to appear/admission, age, reservation, categorization of seats, examination fee, cities of examination, State Code of eligibility, etc. is available on website <https://neet.nta.nic.in/>

The Candidates are advised to keep visiting the official websites of NTA (www.nta.ac.in) and (<https://neet.nta.nic.in/>) for the latest updates. For further clarification related to NEET (UG) - 2021 the candidates can contact on 011-40759000 or email at: neet@nta.ac.in

(Dr. Sadhana Parashar)
Senior Director, NTA (Exams)

davp 21354/11/0001/2122

Executive Engineer
Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana
Maharashtra Rural Road Development Association,
Nandurbar

E-Tender Notice No. Nandurbar - 01 /2021-22

E-Tenders are invited Percentage Rate Tender for Upgradation and 5 Year Maintenance of PMGSY - III- Batch-I Road Works in Nandurbar District, Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana for 6 Packages (6 Works, Total Estimated Cost Rs. 3046.16 Lakh).

Detailed Tender Notice will be available on web site <http://www.pmgstenders.gov.in> from Date - 26.07.2021

E-Tender Notice No.	Total No. of Works	Total Estimated Cost.
01/2021-22	6	Rs. 3046.16 Lakh

Sd/-
(S.S. Sangle)
Executive Engineer, PMGSY, MRRDA,
Nandurbar

WESTERN RAILWAY - RATLAM DIVISION

W/623/5/1 **ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT** Date: 09.07.2021
E-TENDERING NOTICE

The Divisional Railway Manager (WA) RATLAM for and on behalf of the President of India invites "Open Tender" through e-tender on website www.irops.gov.in the details are as under:-

Sr. E-Tender No.	Name of Work	Approx. Quantity	Approx Value
1	RTM/2021-22/67 Ratlam Division:- Providing Subway (RUB) to eliminate manual Leveling crossings nos. 21 (Km:492/20-22), LC No. 26 (Km: 499/00-02), LC No. 41 (Km:529/28-30), LC No. 49 (550/24-26), LC No. 96 (Km: 677/24-26) (Total=05 Nos.) in GDA-NAD section by inserting relieving girder and laying the box(es) by pushing the box below the relieving girder.	As per tender schedule	₹ 15,90,38,640.11

Earnest Money to be Deposited in Rs.: Nil Completion Period: (18) Month
Similar Type of Work: Construction of any type of rail bridge under a running railway line. **Date of Uploading on Website:** 09.07.2021 **Date of Opening & Time at:** 04.08.2021 Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria and terms and conditions are available at Website www.irops.gov.in

ANJ/5/1/90
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Divisional Railway Manager (W/A)
Ratlam Division, Western Railway

FORM NO.63
{SEE RULE 148(1)}
IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU
(ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
IN THE MATTER OF COMPANIES ACT, 1956
AND
IN THE MATTER OF M/S. DTS DIAMOND TOOLS SEA PRIVATE LIMITED (In liquidation)
COMPANY PETITION NO.34/2010
ADVERTISEMENT OF NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND WORKMEN TO PROVE THEIR CLAIM

Notice is hereby given to the creditors and workmen of the above named company that they are required to submit to the Official Liquidator of the Court proofs of their respective debts or claims against the above named company by delivering at the Office address mentioned below on or before the 06.08.2021 or sending by post to the Official Liquidator so as to reach him not later than the said date, an Affidavit proving the debt or claim in the prescribed form duly drawn on a non judicial stamp paper of Rs.20/- with their respective names, addresses and particulars of debt or claim and any title to priority U/s 529A/530 of the Companies Act, 1956 in Form No.66 or 67 (as the case may be). Any creditor who fails to submit his/her affidavit or proof within the time limited as aforesaid will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution of dividend before his debt is proved, or, as the case may be, from objecting to such distribution. Any creditor who has sent in his/her proof, if so required by notice in writing from the Official Liquidator, shall either in person or by his Advocate, attend the investigation of such debt or claim at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice and shall produce such further evidence of his debt or claim as may be required.

Dated at Bengaluru this 14th day of JULY, 2021

Sd/- (M. JAYAKUMAR)
OFFICIAL LIQUIDATOR, HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA,
"Corporate Bhavan", No.26-27, 12th Floor, Raheja Towers,
M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. Telephone No: 080-25598672/25598673

SHERIFF'S NOTICE
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
ORDINARY ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION
CHAMBER SUMMONS (L) NO.1 OF 2019
WITH
CHAMBER SUMMONS (L) NO.902 OF 2019
IN
EXECUTION APPLICATION NO.581 OF 2010
National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) Claimant
Versus
Swarup Group of Industries & Ors. Respondents

Pursuant to the Order dated 24th April, 2019 and Order dated 6th June, 2019 passed by His Lordship Shri Justice G.S. Patel of the Hon'ble High Court, Bombay, Order dated 30th March, 2021 passed by the Hon'ble Division Bench comprising of Their Lordships Shri Justice S.J. Kathawalla and Shri Justice Milind N. Jadhav of the Hon'ble High Court, Bombay and pursuant to the Order dated 8th July, 2021 passed by His Lordship Shri Justice A.K. Menon of the Hon'ble High Court, Bombay, the offers are invited for purchasing all the following 21 units situated at Mega Mall, Goregaon, Pahadi Village, Oshiwara, Goregaon (W), Mumbai, alongwith Demand Draft / Pay Order in the sum of **Rs.2,00,00,000/- (Rupees Two Crores only)** as Earnest Money Deposit drawn in favour of Sheriff of Mumbai, payable at Mumbai, so as to reach the Sheriff's office on or before **28th July, 2021 by 5.00 p.m.** All the aforesaid units will be sold in one lot. The area of the said 21 units is **49,028 sq.ft.**

Sr. No.	Unit No.	Floor	Area in Sq. Ft.
1	A-1	1st	4000
2	A-2	1st	4000
3	A-3	1st	2000
4	A-1	2nd	3000
5	A-2	2nd	3000
6	A-3	2nd	4000
7	1	3rd	7831
8	2	3rd	1526
9	3	3rd	2196
10	4	3rd	2267
11	5	3rd	2681
12	6	3rd	1066
13	7	3rd	1290
14	11	3rd	1881
15	12	3rd	1082
16	13	3rd	1693
17	14	3rd	784
18	15	3rd	773
19	16	3rd	675
20	18	3rd	1435
21	19	3rd	1848
Total area			49028

The sale of aforesaid units will be held in one lot on "As is where is basis and as is what is basis".

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has fixed the reserve price of the above 21 units at **Rs.64,00,00,000/- (Rupees Sixty Four Crores only)**.

The offers will be opened before the Hon'ble Chamber Judge of the Hon'ble High Court, Bombay in Court Room No.21, First Floor, High Court, Bombay on **Friday, the 30th July, 2021 at 2.30 p.m.** when the offerers may remain present and increase their offers, if they so desire. The inspection of the said property will be given to the intending offerers from **20th July, 2021 to 23rd July, 2021 (excluding Government Holiday)** between 1.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. The Hon'ble High Court, Bombay reserves his right either to accept or reject any offer without assigning any reason therefore. A copy of terms of conditions of the sale and undertaking to be executed by the offerer will be available in Sheriff's office situated at Old Secretariat Building (City Civil Court Building), Ground floor, Next to University of Mumbai, K.B. Patil Marg, Mumai - 400 032, on any working day during the office hours on payment of Rs.500/- (Non refundable / non adjustable).

Dated this 12th day of July, 2021.

Dy. Sheriff of Mumbai
For Sheriff of Mumbai

WHEN NEWS CONCERNS YOU, IT'S PERSONAL.

Issues that are personal to you, are personal to me too. Be it a national blunder, local negligence or incompetent governance. That's why I do The Urban Debate - to ask the tough questions, to get the right answers and to seek solutions to issues that affect you. After all, this is not my show, it's yours.

**THE URBAN
DEBATE**

**WEEKNIGHTS
8 PM**

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Check 'blatant violation' of Covid norms, MHA to states

Points To Rise In 'R Factor' In Some States

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The home ministry has written to all states and Union Territories expressing concern over "blatant violation" of Covid norms in several parts of the country and consequent increase in "R" factor (reproduction number) in some states. The home secretary has asked states to issue strict directions to the local authorities to regulate crowded places, take action against violators as per law and ensure that concerned authorities and officials are held accountable in case of any laxity in enforcement of Covid appropriate behaviour.

MHA expressed special concern over crowds violating norms in hill stations and market places. In his letter,

Slow pace of vaccination at private sites worries Centre

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Even as the government is aiming to ramp up Covid vaccination coverage, a slower pace at private centres is causing "serious worry" with the Centre advising states to closely work with hospitals and manufacturers to facilitate procurement and administration of jabs at such centres.

In a meeting with representatives from 15 states, Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan suggested states and Union Territories to conduct daily review of the status of private centres and ensure indents for doses are quickly placed with the vaccine manufacturers.

Pointing at issues, Bhushan said many private Covid Vaccination Centres (PCVCs) have not placed any indent for the earmarked quantum of vaccines. In many cases while the indent for the jabs has been placed with the state government, payment has not been made for the entire amount of indented vaccines. In some cases, no payment has been made for the entire indented quantity. State governments and PCVCs have been advised to ensure that the gap between the indented quantity and payment towards their procurement is reduced to zero.

In some states, the quantity of vaccines paid for has not been physically lifted by the states or private centres. Besides, wherever vaccine doses have been lifted by private centres, the actual administration of vaccines is seen to be less than the vaccine quantity lifted.

States and PCVCs have been advised to review this and ensure that the balance of unutilised vaccine doses are quickly administered.

Senior health officials of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Odisha, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat, West Bengal, Delhi, Punjab and Haryana participated in the meeting through video-conference.

Woman stops epilepsy drugs after Covid jab, slips into coma

Petlee Peter & Sunitha Rao R | TNN

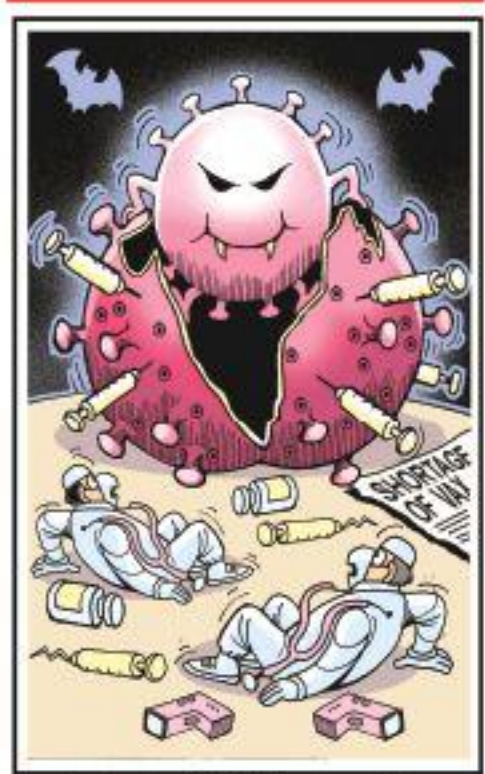
Bengaluru: A 23-year-old woman under treatment for epilepsy and depression allegedly slipped into coma a day after she availed her first dose of Covid-19 vaccine and temporarily stopped

3-mth-old dies day after pentavalent vaccination

Kolar: A day after being administered the pentavalent vaccine, a three-month-old girl died in Bevalhalli village in Karnataka's Kolar district early Wednesday. While her kin alleged a vaccine mix-up, health authorities associated with Gudipalli PHC said the infant might have died of "aspiration" after her mother breastfed her at midnight. TNN

ped regular drugs reportedly on advice at the vaccination site. The woman lives in Wilson Garden with her domestic help mother and works in a garment factory in the city.

JUST LIKE THAT AJIT NINAN



Third Wave?

home secretary Ajay Bhalla said while with the decline in number of active cases, states and UTs have started 'unlocking' in a gradual manner, the process should be carefully calibrated. He also cited the June 29 order by MHA for implementation of targeted and prompt actions for Covid-19

management.

"However, blatant violations of Covid norms have been observed in several parts of country, especially in public transport and at hill stations. Massive crowds are also thronging the market places, violating norms of social distancing. Consequently increase in R factor (reproduction number) in some of the states is a matter of concern," he said. The letter emphasised that the second wave of Covid is not yet over.

MHA said states must be aware any increase in R factor above 1.0 is an indicator of the spread of Covid-19. "Therefore, it is important that the authorities concerned shall be responsible for ensuring Covid appropriate behaviour in all crowded places, such markets, restaurants, bus stations, railway platforms, public parks, banquet and marriage halls, sports complexes and all areas identified as hotspots for transmission of the virus," Bhalla said.

Mandaviya rejects charges of vax shortage

New Delhi: Health minister Mansukh Mandaviya dismissed allegations by some states that vaccines were falling short, saying the states are given advance

visibility on stocks which should be used for planning sessions and avoiding inconvenience to people. Around 13.5 crore doses of Covid vaccines are expected to be available to states in July, averaging around 50 lakh doses per day, officials said indicating improved supplies even as daily vaccinations suffered in the initial week led by disruptions in Covaxin supply. In a series of tweets on Wednesday, Mandaviya said statements by some opposition government are not based on facts and intended to create panic among the people. TNN

HOW 2 STATES PLAN TO HANDLE KANWAR YATRA

Garh Mukteswar in UP may host lakhs of pilgrims

Meerut: The tiny town of Garh Mukteswar in Hapur district, about 119-km from Delhi, is likely to host lakhs of kanwar pilgrims if the UP government comes good on its promise to allow the yatra. With Haridwar out of bounds after the Uttarakhand administration called off the pilgrimage for this year citing threat from the pandemic, Garh Mukteswar is slowly emerging as an alternative destination for the Shiva devotees, reports Sandeep Rai.

The UP government, which had earlier requested Uttarakhand to let the pilgrims pass en route for Haridwar, from where they collect water from the Ganga, has asked all those participating in the yatra to carry a Covid-19 negative certificate. The yatra is likely to begin from July 25 unless there is a change of plans. Apart from UP, kanwariyas from Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and even Himachal take part in the yatra. The administration, after mulling several alternatives, has zeroed in on the ancient Garh Mukteswar town which hosts pilgrims throughout the year but not on a large scale. The Ganga river and NH-24 criss-cross the town.

Divisional commissioner of Meerut, Surender Singh, told TOI, "We are ready for the yatra and have already started preparations for the security and overall management. Now that Uttarakhand has cancelled it, we have to find another destination from where kanwar pilgrims can fetch Ganga water. For instance, devotees in eastern UP bring the holy water from Prayagraj and Varanasi. In the western region, one such site could be Garh Mukteswar in Hapur. But our options are open and we are working in this direction." District magistrate of Hapur, Anuj Singh, said that the administration will be able to hold the kanwar yatra in the town as the numbers will be less this time due to the Covid-19 situation. "The possibility of using Garh Mukteswar ghats for the kanwar pilgrimage is being explored as religious fairs take place throughout the year here."

Ukhand to seal borders, in talks with other states

Dehradun: A day after Uttarakhand cancelled the annual kanwar yatra, but Uttar Pradesh said it would go ahead with it, the hill state on Wednesday decided to seal its borders to keep kanwariyas from entering. The administration also said it is holding talks at the government level with neighbouring states in an attempt to "scrap the yatra at the source", report Kautilya Singh & Gaurav Talwar.

Crores of kanwariyas or Shiva devotees converge at Haridwar to carry water from the Ganga during the fortnight-long pilgrimage. Most of the pilgrims arrive from UP, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi and Himachal Pradesh. State government spokesperson Subodh Uniyal told TOI on Wednesday that it might be difficult to manage kanwariyas once they start out, so Uttarakhand is trying to connect with neighbouring states to stop them. "Our priority is to save lives. We are in discussion with neighbouring states to stop the yatra at the source. Looking at the present situation, it is not possible to allow the yatra."



TIMES VIEW: The Prime Minister has spoken of the need to be careful to avoid a third wave. The Uttarakhand govt has been wise in cancelling the Kanwar yatra. Given this backdrop, it defies logic and common sense that the Uttar Pradesh government is insisting on the yatra, potentially a super spreader. The Supreme Court has rightly taken note of the issue and one hopes that the right decision would be arrived at before it's too late.

Such a decision has been taken in the past and this time as well a lot of consultations were held," he said. Last year, former CM Trivendra Singh Rawat had barred the yatra. After that the Tirath Singh Rawat government, too, announced its cancellation in June. But soon after Pushkar Singh Dhami took charge as the new chief minister earlier this month, UP CM Yogi Adityanath had a telephonic conversation with him following which the former called a meeting with senior state officers and asked them to look afresh into the possibilities of allowing the pilgrimage.

Assam cabinet approval for e-sale of liquor in Guwahati

Kangkan Kalitai @timesgroup.com

Guwahati: The Assam cabinet on Wednesday took several significant decisions, including approval to sell liquor through an online platform in Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC) areas amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

"During Covid time we have seen a huge rush in front of liquor shops in the evening or at the time of closure. Showing respect to Supreme Court and Madras high court's take away orders in this regard, our cabinet has given approval to sell liquor online," cabinet minister Keshab Mahanta said in a news conference.

He said the plan is for one month and the online sale will be an experiment initially. "Only if it works without problems, it will continue," he said. A formal government notification will be published soon, Mahanta said, adding that the detailed guidelines will be finalised by the state excise department. "Our cabinet, on principle has decided to give assent to online sale of liquor," he added.

Not just Covid, mRNA vaccines could cure cancer in a few years

Covid Was Only The First Step — More Than 150 mRNA Vaccines Are Now Being Developed For Diseases Ranging From The Flu To HIV

Abhilash.Gaur@timesgroup.com

When governments, universities and investors gave up on mRNA technology years ago, Katalin Kariko hung on. The biochemist, who moved from Hungary to the US in the 1980s, has done more to prove mRNA's worth than anyone else. She told Stephen Buranyi of Wired in March she had always believed mRNA could fix anything, "whatever it was, a disease, baldness even."

The Covid pandemic gave Kariko and other mRNA believers the first opportunity to demonstrate its powers to the public. Chinese scientists published the Covid virus's genetic sequence on January 11, 2020, and "Moderna's mRNA vaccine recipe was finalised in about 48 hours," Derek Thompson writes in The Atlantic. By late-February, it was ready for clinical trials.

The new technology was not only lightning fast but also incredibly effective — mRNA Covid vaccines from both Moderna and Pfizer hit the bull's-eye in terms of efficacy. But what's the future of this technology, will it be used to fight other diseases after the pandemic?

The next mRNA miracle might be closer than you imagine. More than 150 new mRNA vaccines and therapies are being developed, says Buranyi. BioNTech, which developed Pfizer's coronavirus vaccine, has seven in the pipeline; Moderna has nine.

Body's Code Language

Speed aside, why is mRNA technology so effective? Thompson says it's because it uses the human body's enormous capability to make new proteins: "Just about any protein under the sun."

There's a protein for every bodily function, and your body makes trillions of them every day. If you could somehow tell it to make a specific protein to beat a virus, or cure a disease, it would do so on its own. mRNA or 'messenger ribonucleic acid' made in the lab makes it possible to send instructions to the protein factory in our cells.



PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKE: In 2013, actor Angelina Jolie got both her breasts removed as she carries a faulty BRCA1 gene that increases the risk of breast cancer. mRNA vaccines for cancer will spare people such difficult choices

Fighting The Big C

Cancer is no longer an incurable disease but it's still damaging and dreadful. However, the protein-factory approach of mRNA vaccines could eventually defeat it. In a recent National Geographic article, Stacey Colino writes some of the mRNA

vaccines for "melanoma, non-small cell lung cancers, gastrointestinal cancer, breast cancer, ovarian cancer, and pancreatic cancer, among others" are now readying for clinical trials.

While most vaccines are preventive — they protect you from future infections — those for cancer are mostly "therapeutic", Colino says. They are given after the onset of disease, but are not "drugs" as they work by goading the immune system into a fight.

She mentions Molly Cassidy, a late-stage head and neck cancer patient who had planned her funeral before she was drafted into an mRNA cancer vaccine trial at the University of Arizona Cancer Center last year. She took nine shots over 27 weeks. "By the time the treatment concluded in October 2020, Cassidy's CT scans were clean. There was no evidence of cancer in her body."

Stroke caused 7L deaths in India in 2019: Study

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New Delhi: The share of non-communicable and injury-related neurological disorders such as stroke, headache disorders, and epilepsy to the total disease burden has more than doubled — from 4% to 8.2% — in India between 1990 to 2019, whereas the contribution of communicable neurological disorders reduced during this period by three-quarters, a new scientific paper published in the Lancet Global Health shows.

The paper highlighted ageing as one of the main factors behind increasing burden of non-communicable neurological disorders.

The paper is a collaborative effort between the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) and a number of other organisations. Stroke (37.9%), headache disorders (17.5%), and epilepsy (13.3%) are the leading contributors to neurological disorders burden in India, the paper underlined.



The share of non-communicable and injury-related neurological disorders such as stroke, headache disorders, and epilepsy to the total disease burden has more than doubled — from 4% to 8.2%

with stroke having caused 699,000 deaths in India in 2019, which was 7.4% of the total deaths in the country. Stroke also caused 68% of deaths due to neurological disorders, followed by Alzheimer's and other dementias (12%), and encephalitis (5%).

The total burden of neurological disorders due to non-communicable disorders is 82.8%; 11.2% is due to communicable and 6% is injury-related disorders, the paper says.

MLAs in MP to get a handbook on 'unparliamentary' words

Ankur.Sirothia @timesgroup.com

Bhopal: 'Pappu' is off Madhya Pradesh legislators' lexicon. So is 'Peku'. They have been listed as "unparliamentary" in a dictionary of sorts that MLAs here will be given to make them aware of what words to avoid if the coming monsoon session goes on the boil.

Within a fortnight, MLAs will undergo two days of mandatory training on avoiding unparliamentary language in the House, Speaker Girish Gautam said. The handbook — the first such in MP — is ready and will be given to legislators any day. The monsoon session begins on August 9.

"Often, MLAs use unparliamentary words in the House, which have to be expunged from their address. The purpose of this exercise is



Speaker Girish Gautam said the MLAs will also have to undergo two days of mandatory training on avoiding unparliamentary language in the House

to inform members of the words they must not use in assembly," Gautam said. There are approximately 300 words in the handbook. Among the printable ones are "murkh, chor, nalayak and bewakoof".

Interestingly, "hooth" (die) is also considered unparliamentary. Officials said it took three

high blood pressure, air pollution, dietary risks, high fasting plasma glucose, and high body-mass index as the leading contributors to neurological disorders.

"The rise of non-communicable disease related risk factors, as leading contributors to neurological disorders and resultant disability in India, is not a surprise. It reflects the demographics, socio-economic and nutrition transitions that have steered the shift in our epidemiological profile over the past 30 years," Public Health Foundation of India president K Sri-nath Reddy said.

While communicable diseases contributed to the majority of total neurological disorders burden in children below 5 years age, non-communicable neurological disorders were the highest contributor in all other age groups.

Communicable neurological disorders include encephalitis, meningitis, and tetanus, whereas injury-related neurological disorders include traumatic brain injuries and spinal cord injuries.

Maharashtra teen raped in Gandhinagar

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: A 16-year-old handball player from Amravati in Maharashtra was allegedly raped by a 20-year-old athlete from Haryana in a hotel in Gandhinagar twice in January and March this year, according to an FIR filed with Sector 21 police of Gandhinagar. The girl alleged in the complaint that the accused Ravi Dhandhas raped her, shot video of the act and threatened to make it go viral if she did not yield in to his demands of having sex with her whenever he would ask for.

Fight over Krishna waters lands in SC

Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday moved the Supreme Court over the "unjust usage" of Krishna river water by upper riparian state of Telangana "in contravention of the directions" of the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB), reports Srikanth Aluri. The AP government also said in its petition that Telangana was "violating" the water allocation by Bachawat Tribunal. With the AP government moving the top court, the dispute between two Telugu states is back to square one. Telangana had agreed to withdraw its plea in the SC seeking formation of a new tribunal for fresh allocation of water.

Sister Lucy argues own case in Kerala HC

Kochi: Sister Lucy Kalappura, the nun who came under the spotlight for protesting against rape-accused Bishop Franco Mulakkal, on Wednesday argued her own case before the Kerala high court against the move to evict her from the convent. Sr Lucy approached the HC after the supreme appellate authority of the Catholic Church of Vatican rejected her appeal against expulsion from her congregation, Franciscan Clarist Congregation (FCC). She has now sought police protection against her eviction. TNN

US will come to regret Af pullout, warns ex-coalition commander

Malware emails sent to army officers, hunt on for spy

Srijana Mitra Da

The withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan is a mistake that the US "will come to regret", according to General David Petraeus, who served as the commander of coalition forces and headed the US central command in the war-ravaged country in 2011. He added that without the assurance of American support, Afghan forces would do "what some have already done — desert their posts, flee the Taliban or surrender".

Petraeus, also a former director of the CIA, told TOI that Kabul's journey in the absence of American forces and thousands of contractors would likely be a painful one. "I fear the decision to withdraw has consigned Afghanistan to a bloody civil war, and is likely to produce millions of refugees, cause extensive damage to critical infrastructure and foment an ultra-conservative theocratic



The American withdrawal, and the likely strife with the Taliban taking control of more areas, will make it difficult for India to carry out diplomatic activity, warned Gen David Petraeus

worse, the veteran warned. "Frankly" Petraeus said, "I would have thought that a sustained and sustainable US commitment in terms of 'blood and treasure' expended would have been preferable to what will follow our withdrawal."

On security implications for the US in the event of Afghanistan descending into chaos, Petraeus said this could mean contending with more than just the surge of the Taliban. "I expect we will see al-Qaida and the Islamic State affiliate in the Af-Pak region, the Khorasan Group, seek to establish sanctuaries in Taliban-controlled territory — just as al-Qaida established its sanctuary in eastern Afghanistan, when most of the country was under Taliban control in the late 1990s, and planned the 9/11 attacks."

The general, however, said he didn't expect either al-Qaida or IS to "pose a significant threat to the US homeland in

the near-term, because of how much our operations have degraded their capabilities and significant improvements in US intelligence".

The general also had a word of caution for India. "The American withdrawal, and the likely strife with the Taliban/Haqani network taking control of more areas, will make it increasingly difficult for India to carry out diplomatic activity, development and other assistance."

The one country to lose some ground could be Pakistan, Petraeus said. "I suspect US dependence on Pakistan in the Af-Pak region will be reduced; the US will be much less dependent on ground lines of communication from the port in Pakistan through the Torkham Gate in southern Afghanistan and the Khyber Pass in eastern Afghanistan. That said, the US will seek to maintain a constructive relationship."

Russia: India a big player in Af, must decide extent of role

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New Delhi: Calling Taliban the current reality in Afghanistan, Russia on Wednesday said it is for India to decide to what extent it wants to be involved in the country. Responding to queries on the current security situation in Afghanistan, the Russian embassy here said after the US withdrawal from the war-torn country, there can be no military intervention by any foreign power.

"It is up to India to analyse the situation and go ahead as per current realities. India is a big player in Afghanistan and has always been supportive of the government in Kabul," said Babushkin.

He was joined by Russian ambassador Nikolay Kudashev who said both India and Russia are supportive of intra-Afghan talks based on commitments of the parties to ensure that the future government is inclusive.

"It's important to support Afghans in making their country independent, sovereign, united and democratic. After the Western troops started their speedy withdrawal, regional efforts are becoming even more important," he said, adding the SCO meeting in Tajikistan and the upcoming connectivity conference in Uzbekistan offered opportunities to address the situation.



"Taliban is a current reality in Afghanistan. It is a party in the intra-Afghan talks which we believe should be a solution for normalisation and establishment of an inclusive government that should be involving all major ethnic groups," he said.

He also said there was no need for any foreign military involvement to deal with the situation. "At least, we're not considering it. Military activities without a political process are worrying as instability can easily cross the borders," he said.

Civilians will be slaughtered, says ex-US prez George Bush

Former US President George W Bush on Wednesday criticised the withdrawal of Nato troops from Afghanistan and said civilians were being left to be "slaughtered" by the Taliban.

"I am afraid Afghan women and girls are going to suffer unspeakable harm... They are going to be left behind to be slaughtered by these brutal people and it breaks my heart," he told German broadcaster Deutsche Welle. Asked whether he thought the withdrawal was a mistake, Bush replied, "Yes, I think it is."

He said, "I have spent a lot of time with Afghan women and they are scared. I think about all the interpreters and people that help not only US but Nato troops too."

The former President, who sent troops to Afghanistan in

2001 after the September 11 attacks on New York's World Trade Center, said he believed German chancellor Angela Merkel "feels the same way".

US and Nato forces began withdrawing from Afghanistan in early May and are due to completely pull out by September 11, almost 20 years after they arrived.

Most of the 2,500 US and 7,500 Nato troops who were in Afghanistan when US President Joe Biden detailed the final withdrawal in April have now gone, leaving Afghan troops to fight an emboldened Taliban seemingly bent on a military victory.

The country is facing a crisis as the insurgents snap up territory across the countryside, stretching government forces and forcing many to flee their homes. AFP



Fgn min seeks steps to ensure neighbours not hit by Af extremism

► From P 1

With the US withdrawal near complete, SCO is seen as playing an increasingly important role in ensuring a stable and peaceful Afghanistan at a time when the Taliban have made worrying advances against a national government that is struggling to retain territory.

Participating in the meeting earlier, foreign minister S Jaishankar called for efforts to ensure that neighbours are not threatened by terrorism, separatism and extremism. He also called for an end to violence and terrorist attacks against civilians and state representatives, for settling conflict through political dialogue, and for respecting interests of all ethnic groups.

With India concerned about extremism imposed from beyond Afghanistan's borders, he said the challenge was to act seriously and sincerely because "there are forces at work with a very different agenda". India remains concerned about the Taliban's links with Pakistan's ISI and India-specific terror groups like LeT and JeM.

Importantly the meeting was attended by Pakistan, China and Russia and other member states besides India. Significantly, reports from Beijing said Wednesday that China had also asked Taliban to "make a clean break" from all terror groups, especially the al Qaida-backed Uyghur Muslim militant group ETIM fighting for Xinjiang province's independence. According to an agency, foreign minister Wang Yi stressed that further spread of the war in Afghanistan, especially an all-out civil war, should be avoided and called for restarting intra-Afghan negotiations and "prevention of all kinds of terrorist forces from gaining ground".

The SCO statement expressed deep concern over the growing tension in the northern provinces of Afghanistan.

Scribe 'who leaked info to China' sent to judicial custody

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Wednesday sent freelance journalist Rajeev Sharma to judicial custody for 14 days in a money laundering case related to alleged passing of sensitive information about India's defence and strategy to Chinese intelligence agencies.

Additional sessions Judge Dharmender Rana sent Sharma to jail after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) did not further seek his custodial interrogation.

Sharma was arrested by the ED on July 1. The court had sent him to ED custody for seven days, which was further extended till July 14.

The ED also sought more time to file its reply on his bail plea, after which the court adjourned the matter to July 16. The bail plea, filed through senior advocate Adish C Aggarwala and advocates Amish Aggarwala and Aditya Singh, claimed that prima facie no case of money laundering was made out against Sharma and mere allegations of cash deposits do not bring the case under its preview.

CENTRAL RAILWAY

PAY AND PARK
Tender No. BB/C/289/P&P/TDR/02a/tes/2021. Date : 13.07.2021. Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Mumbai Division, CSMT Mumbai, Central Railway invites e-tenders on behalf of President of India for Allotment of Pay and Park sites at Panvel (W) site "E" and Roha for a period of three years on Mumbai Division. Details are as under : **Name of station :** Panvel (W) site "E" and Roha. **Type of contract :** Pay and Park. **Reserve Price per annum :** Rs. 39,87,984/- and Rs. 3,26,125/- respectively. **Earnest Money Deposit :** Rs. 2,39,300/- and Rs. 19,600/- respectively. **Cost of Tender Document :** Rs. 3,000/- and Rs. 2,000/- respectively. **Date and time for submission of Tender Document :** Up to 15:00 Hrs on 12.08.2021 through online at www.irops.gov.in. **Date of opening of Tender :** 15:30 Hrs on 12.08.2021 through online mode at www.irops.gov.in. **Period of contract :** Three Years. **Payments of Earnest Money Deposits (EMD) and Cost of Tender document (CTD) in respect of e-tender shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. Offer shall be summarily rejected if any other mode adopted for submission of Earnest Money Deposit or Cost of Tender Document. Further Addendum /corrigendum, time extension, clarification etc. if any, in connection with the subject tender, will only be uploaded in the website. Bidders should regularly visit the website to keep themselves updated. Railway reserves the right to accept the work in full or part or reject the tender in full or part without assigning any reasons. Conditional offers will summarily be rejected.** 286
RailMadad Helpline 139

Neta surrenders after 17 years for 'killing' cop

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Agra: A BSP leader, who had been evading arrest in the murder of a police station in-charge for the last over 17 years, on Wednesday surrendered before a court in Farrukhabad, even as police had begun the process to attach his property. According to police, Anupam Dubey is facing at least 41 criminal cases including that of murder and attempt to murder. He has also been booked under Goonda Act, Arms Act, Gangster Act and NDPS Act.

Back in 1996, he was booked for the murder of police inspector Ramnivas Yadav on-board a train. Yadav was in-charge of Gurshaiganj police station of Kamauj. Police had filed a charge-sheet against Anupam for the murder in July 1996. Besides Anupam, his uncle Kaushal Dubey and one Nem Kumar were also named as accused in the case.

WESTERN RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM TO e-AUCTION SALE PROGRAMME
MATERIAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
E-Auction Sale Programme scheduled to be held in the month of JULY-2021 at SBI Depot on 23.07.2021 has been cancelled and 2nd round & 3rd round auction programme rescheduled on 19.07.2021 & 26/07/2021. All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged. Please visit Western Railway website of Material Management Department i.e. www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in as well as on www.irops.gov.in e-auction portal for further information.
No. SIII/Auction Programme-4/July-2021, Dated: 12.07.2021.
D-0261 Dy. CMM/Sales For PCMM
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GNRL Oil & Gas Limited, operating Oil & Gas Development Fields in Gujarat, India, invites Expressions of Interest from reputed Indian and international suppliers and service providers for Pre-Qualification to participate in the bidding process under International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures for drilling of development wells along with relevant equipment, materials & services. Interested Suppliers & Service providers are advised to visit our website www.gnrl.in for further details and submit EOI by July 31, 2021. Address: 3rd Floor, 'A' Wing, Gopal Palace, Nr. Nehrunagar, Satellite Road, Ahmedabad - 380015, India Tel: 91-79-4002-9806/7, email : contracts@gnrl.in

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Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata
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Tender No.: SMPK/KDS/CIV/T/2592/30 dated 14.07.2021 for "Design, fabrication, supply, test and delivery of one no. Main Pontoon of size 30.00m X 9.25m X 1.60m (average depth) fitted with all fittings, fixtures and fenders all complete at approved location at Kolkata Dock system for K.P.Docks. Estimated Cost: Rs.1,34,73,460.00. Last date of Submission: 04.08.2021 up to 3.00 P.M. For details of this tender and all other tenders below Rs.1 crore, please visit www.smpportkolkata.shipping.gov.in and <https://kopf.enivida.in>

BITES LIMITED
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NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
The General Manager (T&E), BITES Ltd., invites online bids on Single Packet System for the following work: NIT No. BITES/T&E/IT/2021, Name of Work: "EMPANELMENT OF IT (INFOTECH) CONSULTANT FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS FOR PROVIDING IT SOLUTION SERVICES TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY FOR REVAMPING/MODERNIZATION OF IT SYSTEM". Last time and date submission of bid: 11:00 Hrs on 28.07.2021. Bid Security Declaration to be submitted along with the Bid Documents as Earnest Money Deposit (Bid Security). The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website <https://tenders.gov.in/e-procure/app>. Addendum/Corrigendum, if any, shall be hosted online only.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Buildings (C&M) Circle, Madurai-625 002.
Notice Inviting Tenders Pre Qualification (Two Cover System)
Tender Notice No: 1SE/Buildings (C&M)
Circle/Madurai/2021-2022/Date:13.07.2021
For and On behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, sealed Tenders are invited from the contractors registered in Public Works Department in the appropriate class & the office of the Superintending Engineer, PWD, Buildings (C&M) Circle, Madurai.
Tender Schedule Available Date : 15.07.2021 to 29.07.2021 Up to 5.45 PM.
Tender Schedule Receiving Date : 30.07.2021 - Up to 3.00 PM.
Tender Opening at : 30.07.2021 at 3.30 PM.
Total No. of Works : 3 (Three)
PQ Tender System : SI.No.1 to 3
Tender system : Pre Qualification Tender (Two cover system)
Total Approximate Value of Works : Rs. 5162.00 Lakh.
For further details and tender documents visit the website : www.tenders.tn.gov.in and www.tntenders.gov.in
DIPR/2055/Tender/2021
Superintending Engineer, (I/c) PWD, Buildings (C & M) Circle, Madurai

O-445
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, KENDRAPARA-JAJPUR.
AT/PO-Nayabazar, Cuttack -753004, Tel No. 0671-2444488, Email-serw_kpd@yahoo.com
No. Tender Number RCK-14/21 Letter No. 1721 Date: 14.07.21
e-Procurement NOTICE
The Additional Chief Engineer, R. W. Circle, Kendrapara-Jajpur on behalf of Odisha State Rural Road Agency invites the percentage rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of roads and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the districts of Kendrapara for 14 (Fourteen) numbers of packages with estimated cost totalling to Rs. 42.18 Cr (Approximately) including their maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors registered with State PWD / CPWD / MES / Railways. The registered bidder of outside Odisha, can also participate in this process, but shall have to subsequently undergo registration with the appropriate authority of the State Govt. preferably within a month of the deadline for bid submission, but prior to signing of the contract. Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: dtd 19.07.2021
Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and should be submitted online in www.pmgstenders.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security declaration and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4b (a) (ii) of ITS with Additional Chief Engineer, R. W. Circle, Kendrapara-Jajpur on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bid shall be declared non-responsive. Summary for key dates is provided below:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding	Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender		
		From	To	Technical Bid	Financial Bid	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Additional Chief Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara-Jajpur	Tender Online RCK-14/21	19.07.2021 at 11.00 A.M.	09.08.2021 to 5.00 P.M.	09.08.2021 up to 1.00 P.M.	10.08.2021 at 11.30 A.M.	Will be intimated later

Date of Submission of original documents such as Bid Security Declaration, Cost of Bid document an Affidavit: Dt 11.08.2021 at 11.30 A.M. to 13.08.2021 at 3.00 P.M.
Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in
Sd/-
Additional Chief Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara-Jajpur
OIPR-25129/11/0011/21-22

Govt. of Bihar
Bihar Sharif Smart City Limited
CIN : U93000BR2018SGC038181
Registered Office - First Floor, Administrative Building, Bihar Sharif Municipal Corporation, Nalanda
Email - biharsharifsmartcitylimited@gmail.com, Mob - +91-6112-232272
BIHARSHARIF SMART CITY LIMITED
National competitive bidding invitation no. NIT No.-02/BSSCL/2021-22

1. Designation and Address of Advertiser:	Chief Executive Officer, Bihar Sharif Smart City Limited First Floor, Administrative Building, Bihar Sharif Municipal Corporation, Bihar Sharif, Nalanda-803101 (Bihar)
2. Last Date and time of submission of RFP/Tender Document	: 06.08.2021 upto 3.00 p.m. : https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in
3. Place of sale of RFP	: 21.07.2021 upto 3.00 p.m. on https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in or ceo-biharsharif@bihar.gov.in
4. Submission of queries only on	: 23.07.2021 at https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in by Chief Executive Officer
5. Reply to queries on	: 26.07.2021 at 12.30 p.m. at Conference Hall, Bihar Sharif Municipal Corporation, Bihar Sharif, Nalanda-803101 (Bihar)
6. Date, Time & Place of Pre-Bid meeting	: 09.08.2021 upto 3.00 p.m. at Bihar Sharif Smart City Limited, Bihar Sharif Municipal Corporation, Bihar Sharif, Nalanda-803101 (Bihar)
7. Last date & place of submission of Hardcopy of EMD, Tender Fees & RFP documents	: 09.08.2021 at 5.00 p.m.
8. Date & Time of opening of Technical Bid	
9. Details of Works :	

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount of Earnest money (in Rs.)	Cost of RFP (non-refundable) (Rs.)	Bid Processing fee of eproc2.bihar.gov.in (Rs.)	Time of completion of work (in month)
1.	Construction of Road by covering drain on entire stretch from Bhattu Seth (Mogal Kuan) to Laheri Thana at Bihar Sharif.	1.14 Cr. (Rupees One Crore Fourteen Lakh only)	75000.00 (Rupees Seventy Five Thousand only)	As applicable	18 months (Eighteen months)

10. Any Company registered in the Companies Act, 1956/2013 (Details as per RFP) may give the tender.	
11. Earnest money EMD can be only in the form of Bank Guarantee (B.G.) from any Scheduled Bank, B.G. as duly endorsed/pledged to Managing Director, Bihar Sharif Smart City Limited. The above B.G. shall be issued on/after the start of uploading of bid documents by the employer and before/up to the stipulated last date of uploading the bid by the bidder, shall be applicable. It should be valid for not less than 165 days and it should be fully endorsed/pledged to the Managing Director, Bihar Sharif Smart City Limited, Bank Guarantee should be valid for 165 days from the last date of uploading of tender documents.	
12. Other details can be seen in RFP downloaded from website of or on the notice board of undersigned office or by meeting the undersigned on any working day in working hour.	
13. The undersigned has right to extend or cancel the tender without declaring any reason.	

For further details please visit website www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar
Chief Executive Officer
Bihar Sharif Smart City Limited
PR. No. 003570 (Ni.Ni) 2021-22
नोबल कोरोना का संख में विलुप्त जानकारी पर सद्यो हेतु Toll Free No.: **104** पर संयक कर सकते हैं।



A thought for today
*Politics is the art of the possible,
the attainable – the art of the next best*
Otto von Bismarck

Neighbourhood Watch

India's diplomatic skills are being tested in South Asia more severely than any time in recent past

India's neighbourhood is in ferment. Expansionist China is everywhere and America is withdrawing from Afghanistan. The wider impact of these aside, domestic politics in Nepal – which just witnessed another change in government – Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the Maldives present different challenges for India. And Pakistan, partly thanks to the Afghan situation, is even more of an uncertain entity now. This moment perhaps calls for rewriting some of the old rules of the South Asian game.

In Afghanistan, India's long-held position to support the national government must be finessed by starting work on establishing some sort of understanding with the Taliban. Plus, and in different ways, India should engage with Iran and Pakistan while it tries to solve the Afghan conundrum. Similarly, Nepal's revolving door governments mean India should be looking at a smart neutral approach and deal with whoever is in power – not play favourites, as it sometimes has, and not always with happy consequences. It has already partly made this realpolitik shift in Sri Lanka, where the Rajapaksa family is now firmly entrenched.

The case in Bangladesh is different, as the current government is one of India's most valuable allies, and its economy is a success story. Politics in the country, like in India, is deeply polarised and just like in India, there is a vaccine shortage. In fact, New Delhi's good image has taken a bit of battering because it hasn't supplied as many doses as Dhaka would have liked. The challenge here is to maintain influence in tricky times, and decide what to do with BNP, which has long wanted an audience with New Delhi. It is even trickier in the Maldives, where jailed ex-president Abdullah Yameen wants India's help, but Yameen's Beijing tilt when in power complicates matters. Here cold realpolitik calls may have to be made depending on China's next moves.

China, India must remember, doesn't care who is in power in countries it is interested in. And that applies to Afghanistan as well. India has one advantage now, though. Pakistan's determinedly uncritical policy on debts to China aside, questions about China's approach are growing. Bangladesh's decision not to allow Chinese investments in deep-sea ports is a good example of this. Sri Lanka is another country where India can use ambivalence about Chinese state investment to good strategic use. India's resources are far less than China's. That's why its diplomacy has to be much smarter.

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Ease Some Burden

Inflation is high. Fuel prices are distorting consumption. Taxes need to be cut

The southwest monsoon fully covered India on July 13, late by five days. Rainfall patterns in July and August are most crucial for the kharif agricultural season. Early indicators are bothersome, since rain delays influence sowing. On July 9, year-on-year comparison showed that this year there was a reduction of 5.8 million hectares, or 10.4%, in the area sown. It's still early days and this may eventually not be material to farm supply and future food prices. But current trends in food prices are no longer something to be dismissed.

India's consumer inflation trajectory has been rising for two years. Retail inflation, CPI, averaged 5.9% in 2014-15 and then trended downwards for four years. It was 3.4% in 2018-19. Since then, it has reversed direction to average 4.8% in 2019-20 and 6.2% last year. Food prices have pushed up retail inflation and over the last six months there has been a steady increase. Strangely, core inflation, which strips out food and fuel, has been hovering around 6% even though aggregate demand remains weak. Like most central banks, RBI believes the current trend is temporary, driven by supply disruptions across the world.

India's economy today is defined by the undesirable combination of high inflation and weak growth. RBI has to continue prioritising economic growth and will keep interest rates low. But GoI can ease the situation for India's battered consumers. Fuel prices are going through the roof because of increasing crude prices and sky high taxes. Data collated by SBI shows that fuel prices are crowding out discretionary consumption. A large sample of the bank's credit card spending pattern shows that expenditure on oil has cut into spending on grocery items. GoI needs to cut fuel taxes partially to mitigate the impact from inflation and limited economic opportunity. Consumers need a break.

Bot rot!

Has Customer Interface wiped out the human race?

Bachi Karkaria



Help! There's a robot in my Helpline. Jeff Bezos will soon follow Richard Branson and Sirisha Bandla, another appropriated Indian-American, into outer space, but our cyberspace has been taken over by invisible aliens. When did you last see a real, live person when you wanted to make a complaint? Reality has virtually disappeared. Every service tomtoms that it is improving its 'customer interface'. Really? Then why not give us an actual human face? Not a 'humanoid robot', not even the pioneering Sophia whose features combined those of Queen Nefertiti, Audrey Hepburn – and its creator's wife.

Junk me not as an obsolete fogey; I'm as much of an online-junkie as the next retail 'therapee'. And, I was one even before the coronavirus ordered every conventional activity into the cloistered convent of 'FH'. First we made the Faustian pact of giving up personal data for convenience, now we've given up persons. The price we pay for not wanting to battle queues and traffic. Click is itself the bait.

It is bad enough when Customer Care is a call centre executive with programmed responses who thanks me profusely and adds, 'Can I be of any other service?' Like he's been of any at all. When the problem isn't resolved, you get a canned message saying, 'Let's do this the old-fashioned way.' You whoop in the hope of finally getting an actual person who can actually sort it out. But it's only a postal address, the final festering place of all complaints.

Worse is the latest. Calling my milk supply, instead of the usual human, full-of-A2-goodness lady, I got this AI msg on my screen: 'Hi I'm Ria, your WhatsApp buddy!' 'Her' idea of helping was an interminable series of numbered questions. My patience dried up before my problem showed up. Thanks, I can do without the ilk of non-human kindness.

The final straw came this week. My bank informed me that I now have a 'virtual relationship manager'. What's that? The commercial version of 'Tinder'? Even if 'his/her/its' responses don't transport me to some cloud nine, I hope I'll be spared that ironic ignominy: Declaring on every date that, 'I am not a robot.'

Alec Smart said: "Racism should get the penalty. And be shot."

K Ganesh



There is a lot of buzz around startup IPOs lined up in Indian bourses. And questions abound. How should Indian retail investors assess and value the investment opportunity? Aren't valuations of loss-making startups unreal?

For me, one of the biggest aspects of the IPOs is potential for Indian investors to participate in the wealth creation. So far, most of the startup success and resultant capital gains have gone to foreign investors.

Now, with the IPOs, Indian investors will benefit from the rise and scale of these companies – similar to companies like Infosys and Wipro that created huge wealth for Indian investors.

Globally technology platforms are getting stronger, all pervasive and growing exponentially. This is due to the disruptive power of digital technology in our everyday lives. Irrespective of the sector, technology is making things easier to scale, convenient to use and cheaper to service consumers.

Reaching Bharat

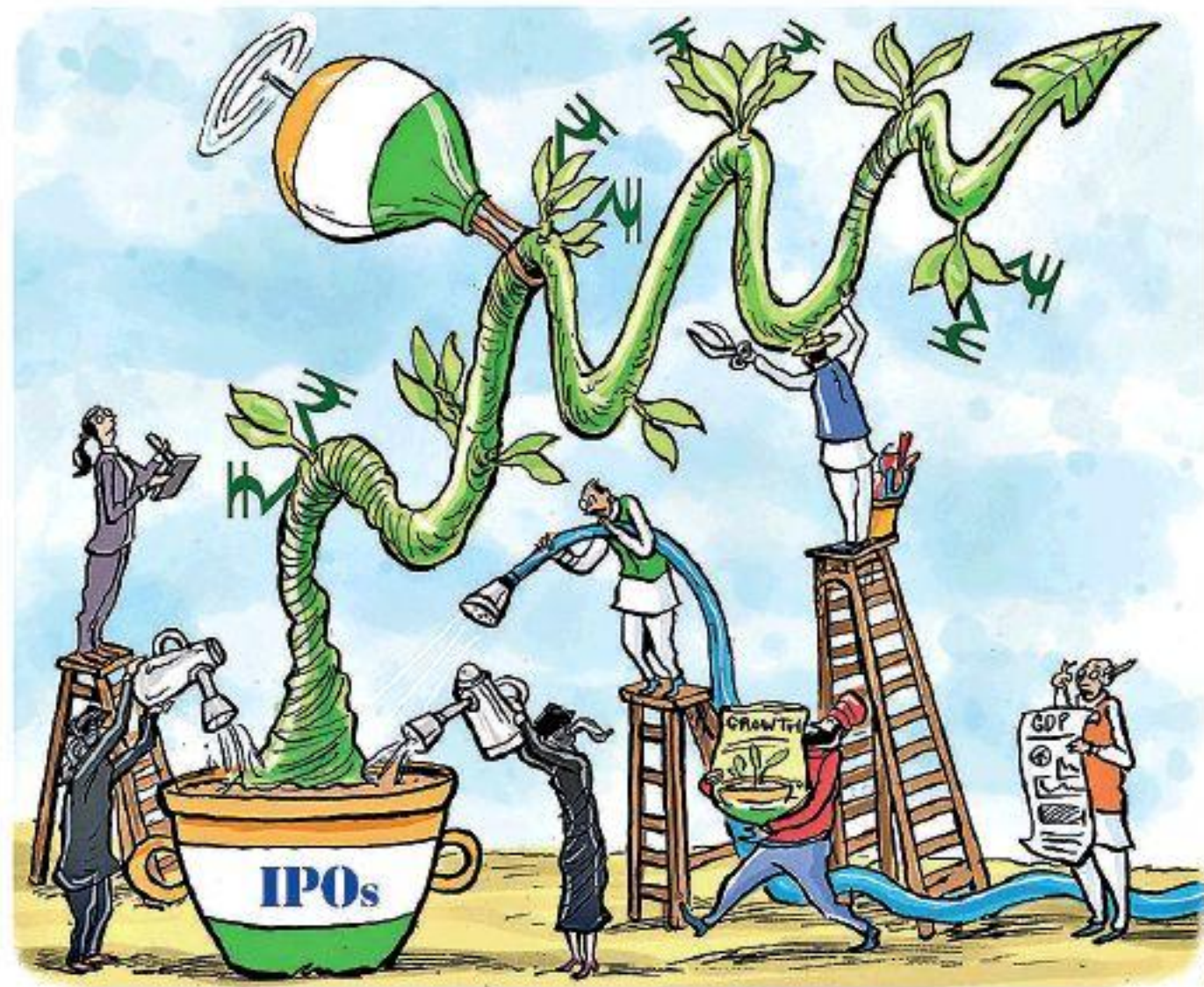
And it is just beginning – we have seen the benefits of Internet, smart-phones, apps, geo-tagging, digital transactions and payments already. Newer technologies like crypto, blockchain, AR/VR, AI, and fields like genetics and robotics are yet to play out.

Technology makes even more sense in India as the country is large, there is not enough capital to build offline businesses across the vast country. The future is technology and Covid has only accelerated this.

Just look at the international examples – how Amazon, Google, Apple, Facebook, Tencent and Alibaba have scaled and created value for shareholders.

India is a huge market – the third largest consumer market in the world. It is an underserved market due to its vast size and distributed population.

Most of the people beyond top cities



Chad Crowe

don't have access to top brands. It is inefficient for traditional brick and mortar businesses to serve them. But e-commerce, technology-enabled delivery, digital payments, new logistics and reverse logistics platforms, as well as social media to reach, educate and transact – all of this has changed the game and levelled the playing field.

Learning for investors

Indian market analysts are used to traditional yardsticks of price/earning multiples, earning per share, and guidance on profit and revenue growth. New Age companies have completely different levers and metrics they need to be judged on.

They are valued for their scalability, ability to dominate the market. They become stronger as they grow. Not linearly but exponentially. This is called the flywheel effect or a virtuous cycle.

Take, for instance, Uber or Ola, where lots of drivers and immediate

In the US, technology companies account for more than 30% of S&P 500. This will happen in India in the coming years – startups will have a big share of Sensex and Nifty. It's a great opportunity for Indian retail investors to ride the upside, as US investors have done

availability and attractive prices make consumers choose the service over other alternatives. Lots of consumers attract more drivers to join the platform as they earn more through more rides and less idle time, consumers get better prices as the drivers and the vehicle are better utilised.

Such a model is possible only with technology, smart devices and all related

A healthcare system that prioritises treatments over outcomes, is not really centred on patients' wellbeing

Sandeep Bansal



It is very telling that 80% of deaths in India from Covid have occurred in those already suffering non-communicable diseases (NCDs) like diabetes. Currently there are 70 million Indians living with diabetes, however that number is set to rise to over 100 million by 2030 with another 200 million living with pre-diabetes and its risk factors and other chronic conditions according to WHO.

The most alarming observation is that while non-communicable diseases are present in individuals 55 years or older in many developed countries, their onset in India is seen a decade earlier (>= 45 years of age).

The World Economic Forum has suggested that India will have had an economic loss of \$4.6 trillion due to NCDs between 2012-30. How do we, as a nation, avert such ruination? First we need to know how the current and traditional healthcare model delivers care to us.

End Conflict of Interest

It takes a fee for service, rewarding for quantity of services provided. This provides caregivers and systems incentives for higher number of visits, procedures, diagnostics and treatment with medications – which might not necessarily be in line with an individual's health and wellness.

This is evidenced by a recent study in Madhya Pradesh in which 10% of the population was found to be using medication inappropriate at any given point in time. This number jumped to nearly 50% for those over 65.

There is also a lack of transparency when it comes to outcomes; with ill-defined or non-existent metrics to analyse these even in place. For example, do you know the outcomes of the surgeries done at the hospital where you are looking to get your or your relative's surgery done?



We have financial consultants, why not health managers?

Incentivise Disease Prevention

The current system is not incentivised to prevent us all from getting disease, but to treat us when we do have a disease. There is a place for this of course as we will inevitably get ill and need treatment at some stage, but how do we create a system which is incentivised to attempt to keep us at our healthiest and happiest? A system that could prevent millions getting diabetes?

This is where 'value-based healthcare' comes in. This is a quality-based system in which fees are paid for the outcome of the treatment or indeed for preventing disease.

Control Unnecessary Costs

Patients and individuals are kept at the centre of care, their wellbeing aligned with business outcomes, preventing excessive treatment or diagnostics. Reimbursements are linked with meeting particular performance criteria, like the outcomes patients or consumers have after the treatment.

The Indian healthcare system is not too dissimilar to that of the US and in 2009 it was found that the US spent an extra 33% on superfluous healthcare costs

such as unnecessary services, excess administration costs and inefficient systems.

Imagine Proactive Doctors

At present the system is very reactive. You only interact with doctors and the healthcare system when you have a problem or you are ill. But imagine if along with a doctor, you have an entire healthcare team that is proactively looking out for your health and wellness, to help you achieve your goals and be the best version of you.

When it comes to shopping, we have shopping assistants and clever algorithms to help us identify the clothes we would want to purchase. When organising a wedding, we have a wedding planner to help us bring all the elements together. We even have bank managers and staff to help manage our finances.

So why, when it comes to health, do you have to navigate such a fragmented system and one where you are not sure and have to question if something is in your best interest and seek second opinions?

Integrate Outcomes and Insurance

Imagine having a team helping you with integrated care, providing appropriate guidance every step of the way, making sure that you get the best management options in the most cost-efficient manner.

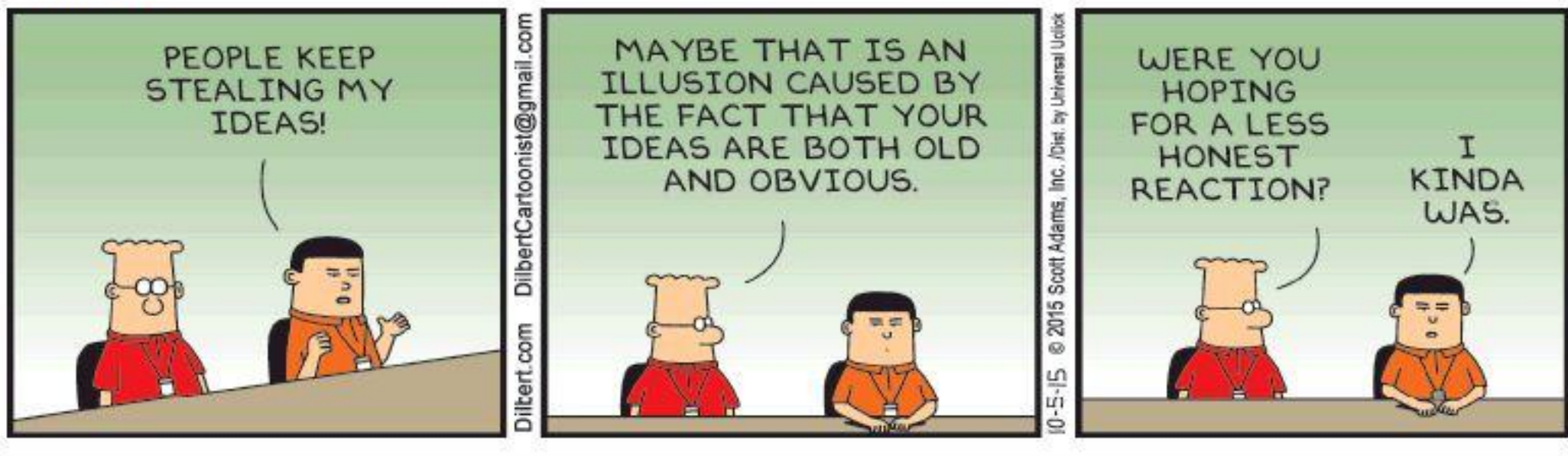
Now imagine this sort of system being embedded into your insurance, which, during Covid, we have seen can be critical. The financial incentive for this healthcare system is to improve the health of its customers as its payments are directly related to their health outcomes.

Goodbye to the fragmented healthcare system. There will be standardised outcomes and cost of care. Organisations producing the best outcomes will get the best payments, ideally from an insurer.

But if we stay on the current path, we could see those living with chronic conditions in India rise by another 200 million in the next 9 years and then (try to) treat them. Instead of living with disease, let's live in health.

The writer is faculty at Baris and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry

dilbert



In Nature, There Is No Such Thing As Waste

Namita Devidayal

The word 'garbage' has a distinctly dirty feel to it. It instantly evokes a foul odour and a desire to turn the other way. Yet, garbage and dirt are an inevitable part of our lives – in our homes, in our environment, across this fine place we call earth. And in nature, there is no such thing as garbage. There is an extraordinary organic recycling mechanism in place. Nothing is useless.

At a very basic level, almost 70% of the garbage that comes out of an Indian home is wet waste – vegetable and fruit peels, dead leaves – which, if treated thoughtfully, can be incredibly useful. I have watched the magic of my smelly kitchen waste slowly compost into powdery, aromatic fertiliser that helps my balcony plants flourish and dazzle.

In nature there is no waste. Fallen leaves do not need to be swept into a

dustbin because they become the mulch that nurtures trees. Whether a lion or a spider, it kills only what it needs to eat. And, when life is over and breath becomes air, even human beings seamlessly merge into the earth. Hindus and Sikhs are cremated and the ashes dissolve into the elements; Christians, Muslims and Jews are buried. Parsis offer their dead back to the animal kingdom. The Bible speaks of dust to dust, ashes to ashes. The saint poet Kabir sang about how we are all clay pots moulded into different shapes and forms, coming from the earth and going back to earth; physics teaches its students that matter cannot be created or destroyed – it merely takes different forms.

So how did garbage get such a

terrible reputation? Bad waste as we know it in its horrifying spread – choking the earth and oceans – is entirely man-made and comes from our consumption patterns. It is the paper, plastic, thermocol and electronics that have infiltrated our lives. But, funnily, given our natural tendency towards repurposing, even most of this flows into an extraordinary underground recycling network operated by an ant factory of waste workers – raddiwalas, kabaadiwalas, loaders, transporters – and is sent into little factories where it is refashioned into new products. Long before terms like 'recycling' and 'slow fashion' became hip, people across India transformed old saris into gorgeous quilts and made their walls from the dung of cattle; more recently, innovators are making

benches from tetra packs and bricks from discarded masks.

It is an unfathomable paradox that, while applauding environmental consciousness, we treat with contempt those who handle our waste.

If we appreciate how close we are to 'garbage', literally a last breath away, would things change? We might mitigate the hubris that deludes us to believe we are any different from the earth we come from. Because, no matter how pure, clever or rich, everyone excretes the same waste. And becomes the same 'waste matter'! That clay pot, which we believe to be our amazing powerful self, is going to disintegrate one day in the near future. And maybe it will recycle into an un-amazing powerless person this time; or reappear as an antelope in a land where all are equal. Or, maybe it will be the mud in which a lotus blossoms.

Sacred space

Message For Youth

Decide your future – while you possess the energy of youth, not when you are worn out and jaded ... There are greater works to be done than aspiring to become something. A far greater work is this sacrifice of yourselves for the benefit of your race, for the welfare of humanity.

Swami Vivekananda

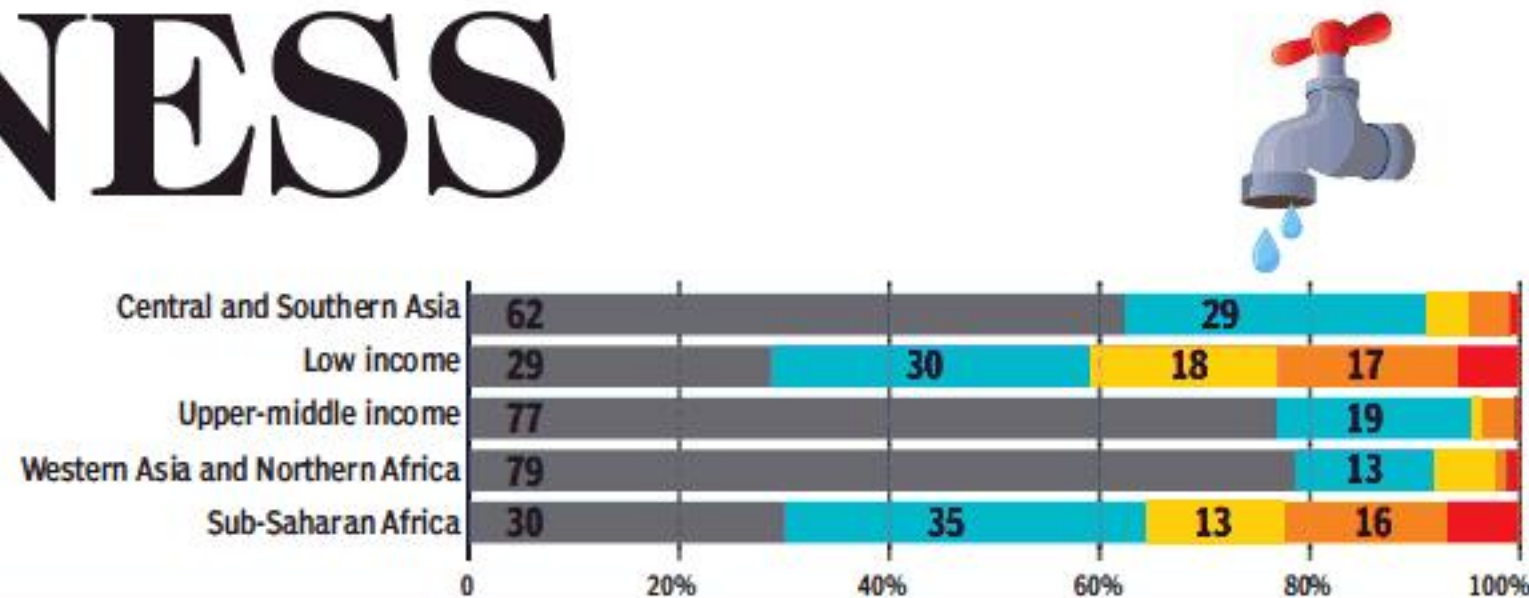
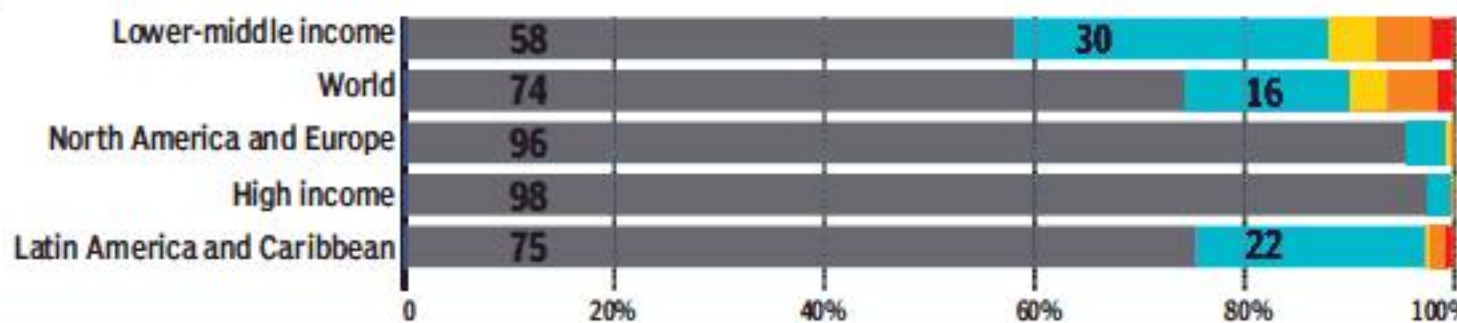
How Access To Safe Drinking Water Is A Growing Worry

Data shows that one in four people don't have access to clean and safe drinking water and the situation is unlikely to change soon. Compared to the rest of the world, sub-Saharan Africa has the worst access to safe drinking water, according to WHO/UNICEF

Source: World Economic Forum

Share of the population with access to drinking water facilities, 2020

- Safely managed
- Basic
- Limited
- Unimproved
- No access (surface water only)



MF investors have final say in scheme's closure: SC

At Present, Trustees Alone Can Decide To Wind Up A Fund

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The Supreme Court on Wednesday empowered investors in a mutual fund scheme to have the final say on its closure after trustees who manage it give a "reasonable nod" for winding it up. Under present rules, trustees alone have the right to decide on the closure of a scheme.

The landmark verdict came in the case relating to the winding-up of Franklin Templeton MF's six debt schemes. In April 2020, Franklin Templeton MF's trustees had agreed to close down the schemes due to a severe liquidity crunch in the debt market after a Covid-induced lockdown. The SC also upheld the validity of Sebi's mutual fund regulation under which these schemes are being closed down. The court held that Sebi can look into the decision of the trustees in

EMPOWERING INVESTORS

► The SC upheld the validity of Sebi's mutual fund regulations

► It pointed out that Sebi has the power to step in during the closure of a scheme

► It also said the markets regulator had the power to

adjudicate upon trustees' decision about a closure

► But the SC also said investors should vote to decide closure after a fund house's trustees have given a reasoned opinion about its winding up

case of a closure of a scheme.

The SC judgment came on an appeal filed by Franklin Templeton MF against a Karnataka high court order that had asked the fund house to get the consent of its investors by a simple majority to its decision to wind up the six schemes. Some aggrieved investors had also moved SC challenging the validity of Sebi's MF regulations.

In their 77-page order, Justices S Abdul Nazeer and Sanjiv Khanna dealt with the interpretation of Sebi's rules and re-

gulations related to the issue of winding up of a scheme and the process followed. They also said that to start the winding-up process, the trustees should give a public notice in newspapers to disclose circumstances leading to their decision to close the scheme.

Justice Khanna said that they had "reservations on the said observations (of Karnataka HC) for the simple reason that if there is a violation of the regulations...by the trustees or AMC, it is open to Sebi to proceed in accordance with the law".

The apex court said that Sebi had the powers to pass directions under Sections 11 and 11B of the Sebi Act which deal with the protection of investors' interests. SC, however, said that trustees need not take prior approval of Sebi while deciding to close a scheme.

On February 12, the SC had allowed the e-voting process for winding up of six MF schemes. In December last year, the investors had voted their consent to the decision to close down the six schemes but the final results of the voting was not disclosed till February 12 under the apex court's order.

The SC had also allowed disbursement of funds to investors in these schemes under the supervision of SBI MF. According to the disbursement schedule, by the end of the week nearly Rs 21,100 crore would have been distributed to the investors of the six FTFMF schemes.

WPI dips to 12.1% in June, double digits for 3rd month

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Wholesale price inflation eased marginally in June but remained in double digits for the third consecutive month, highlighting the price pressures in the economy against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Data released by the department for promotion of industry and internal trade (DPIIT) on Wednesday showed inflation, as measured by the wholesale Price Index (WPI), eased to 12.1% in June, slower than the

Powell backs full eco recovery

Washington: US monetary policy will offer "powerful support" to the economy "until the recovery is complete," Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said on Wednesday in remarks that portrayed a recent jump in inflation as temporary and focused on the need for continued job gains. REUTERS

12.9% in May. In the same period last year, it had posted a deflation of 1.8%.

The latest data comes close on the heels of the retail inflation numbers holding steady at 6.3% as price pressures across food, fuel and some services segments remained firm.

The WPI data showed that inflation in the food segments slowed to 3.1% in June, lower than the 4.3% in the previous month. Vegetable prices slowed for the seventh month in a row but onion prices shot up an annual 64% during June. The inflation in the fuel and power segment was at 32.8%, easing from 37.6% in May. Economists have said they expect the RBI to continue with its pause on interest rates.

Marico buys 60% in Apcos, parent co of 'Just Herbs'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Homegrown FMCG major Marico has acquired a 60% stake in Apcos Naturals, which owns the 'Just Herbs' brand of Ayurvedic hair & skin products, for an undisclosed consideration.

Marico said the equity stake will be acquired over a period of two years through primary infusion and secondary buyouts. The investment is in line with Marico's strategy to accelerate its digital transformation journey through building scalable digital-first brands, either organically or inorganically, as well as to premiumise its play in personal care.

The acquisition is a strong indicator that the demand in the 'naturals' space is only going strong and is here to stay. The growth trend in naturals, which started a few years ago with Patanjali launching a range of personal care products, prompted Hindustan Unilever to launch Ayush and acquire Indulekha. Colgate-Palmolive (India) too entered the space with 'Vedashakti'.

Apcos Naturals is co-founded by CEO Arush Chopra and brand director Megha Sabhlok.

Infy Q1 best in 10 yrs with revenue up 17%

Raises Guidance For Entire Year To 14-16% On Back Of Clients' Focus On Cloud & Data

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Infosys continues to make a remarkable recovery from the depths of the pandemic a year ago. The company's revenue was up 16.9% in constant currency for the quarter ended June 30, making it its best first quarter in a decade. The growth is slightly better than TCS's 16.4%, but considering that TCS's revenue had fallen much more than Infosys's in the year-ago quarter — which was the height of the pandemic — the latter's numbers this quarter are on top of that relatively more solid base.

The performance and future visibility around orders encouraged Infosys to raise its revenue guidance for the full year to 14-16%, from 12-14% it made just three months ago. The company's ADRs on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) were up 2% in morning trade. The impact on its shares on the BSE will be seen on Thursday.

On a dollar basis, the company's revenue was up 21.2% to \$3.8 billion. Net profit was up 26.2% to \$704 million.

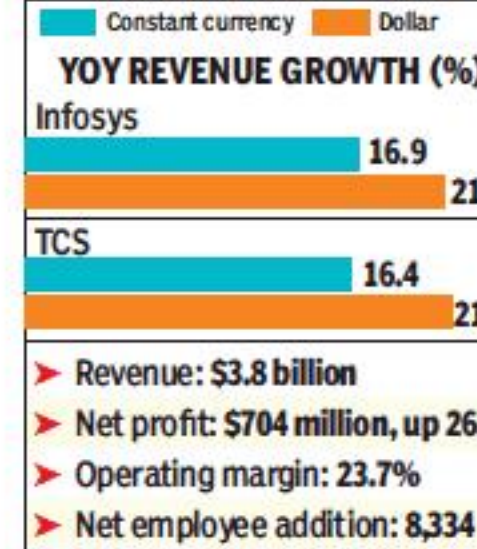
"It's landmark first quarter with robust YoY growth of 16.9% and sequential 4.8% in constant currency terms. This is the fastest growth we've seen in 10 years. We continue to gain significant market share, with this growth being essentially

organic and especially in the area of digital transformation. The strong momentum in the quarter, deal wins and a healthy pipeline gives us confidence to increase our revenue guidance," CEO Salil Parekh said.

nine were in the BFSI space, suggesting that growth in the broad and butter sector is getting back to normal.

We remain confident of delivering on the margin guidance, underpinned by our

REMARKABLE RECOVERY



It's a landmark first quarter with robust YoY growth of 16.9% and sequential 4.8% in constant currency terms. This is the fastest growth we've seen in ten years. We continue to gain significant market share, with this growth being essentially organic and especially in the area of digital transformation. **Salil Parekh** | CEO, INFOSYS

IT companies in general are seeing a smart recovery from the pandemic, on the back of their clients' desire for digital transformation through cloud and increased focus on data and analytics.

Infosys's digital deals, which lie at the heart of the sustained growth over the last few quarters, was up 42% to \$2 billion in the first quarter. The company signed 22 large deals worth \$2.6 billion, out of which 14 are from North America and five in Europe. The financial services business was up 22.6%, retail 22.2%, and manufacturing 18.5%.

Out of the 22 large deals,

comprehensive cost optimisation programme, despite increasing cost headwinds arising largely from compensation review, talent acquisition and retention," said chief financial officer Nilanjan Roy.

To hire 35k fresh engg graduates this year
Infosys will hire about 35,000 engineering graduates from colleges globally this year. IT companies are drawing up robust hiring plans for the second year on a trot, as digital deals continue to flow in and customer projects are ramped up. TCS said last week it plans to hire more than 40,000 from campuses this year.

Jhunjhunwala, others settle insider trading case

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Billionaire investor Rakesh Jhunjhunwala, wife Rekha and eight others have settled insider trading charges brought against them by markets regulator Sebi for Rs 37 crore. The case relates to trading in shares of Apteich in which Jhunjhunwala is the promoter with about 48.5% holding.

Sebi on Wednesday said that the Jhunjhunwala couple, along with eight others including Ramesh S Damani and Utpal Seth, have agreed to settle the charges through the regulator's settlement mechanism. Under this process, the people against whom the charges are framed by Sebi agree to pay a monetary penalty without accepting or denying the charges.

According to Sebi orders against these 10 entities, Rakesh Jhunjhunwala has already paid about Rs 9.5 crore as settlement amount, nearly Rs 5.9 crore as disgorgement charges and another Rs 3.1 crore as interest on the same. Other nine people have also paid all the three charges to settle their respective charges.

The case relates to trading in shares of Apteich, a computer education company, in 2016. Sebi, in its show-cause notice, had alleged that on September 7, 2016, after the market hours, Apteich announced that the company was foraying into the preschool segment. The information was considered as unpublished price sensitive information (UPSI) and the relevant period was between March 14 and September 7 of 2016. Sebi had alleged that Utpal Seth and Rakesh Jhunjhunwala were in possession of the UPSI and communicated the same to other applicants. On the basis of the UPSI, the entities were alleged to have traded in Apteich shares during the relevant period. Accordingly, Sebi had initiated proceedings against the entities, subsequent to which the settlements with these entities were reached.

Zomato IPO fully sold on Day 1 in retail rush

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

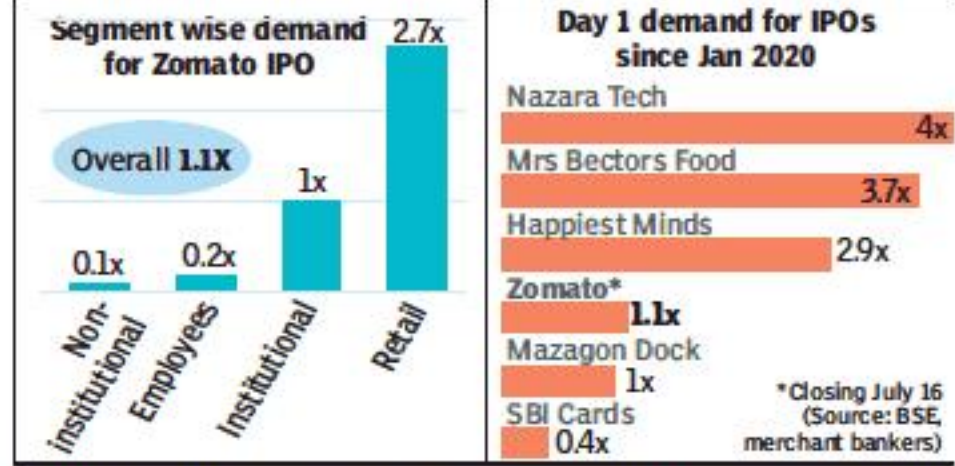
Mumbai: Retail investors lapped up the shares of food delivery major Zomato on the first day of bidding in its Rs 9,375-crore IPO.

While the retail portion of the offer was subscribed 2.7 times, the institutional part was nearly subscribed fully, the high net worth (non-institutional) part 13% and the part reserved for employees 18%, data on the BSE showed. Overall the total IPO was subscribed 1.05 times. The issue, being offered at a price of Rs 72.76 per share, will close on Friday.

On Tuesday, Zomato had offered 55.2 crore shares to a group of foreign and domestic investors for about Rs 4,200-crore.

Data relating to those who applied on Day 1 in the Zomato IPO was pointing to some shift in investor profile, Paytm Money, one of the

FIRST-TIMERS FLOCK COUNTER



tech-driven broking houses, said. Data analysed by the broking house showed that more than one in five investors in the IPO were first timers. Other than top cities like Delhi, Bengaluru, and Mumbai, first time participation was seen from smaller towns like Kodinar in Gujarat, Tuensang in Nagaland and Rangapara in Assam.

It also showed that 60% of the IPO investors on its platform were under the age of 30

years and 27% were under 25 years. Earlier, about 55% of the IPO investors were under the age of 30 years. The analysis also showed that average investment in Zomato IPO on Day 1 was 20% higher than the average investment in previous IPOs on Paytm Money platform.

Paytm Money is the first broking house that allowed its investors to apply in the Zomato IPO ahead of the opening of the offer.

Cabinet extends tax rebate scheme for garment cos

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Ending months of uncertainty, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the extension of Rebate of State and Central taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) for garments and made ups, while leaving the rates unchanged.

"The scheme will be applicable until March 2024 and is meant to ensure continuity in government policy so that businesses can work to boost exports. The rates have therefore been left unchanged," textiles secretary U P Singh told TOI after the Cabinet decision.

Based on a "conservative" 5% export target of \$42 billion for the current financial year, the government may end up refunding levies of around Rs 7,000 crore in 2021-22.

The decision also paves the way for the notification of rates under Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme, which has been pending for six months, creating tremendous uncertainty and hardship to non-textiles sector exporters.

RATES LEFT UNCHANGED

Textiles sector products beyond the three sectors, that are covered by RoSCTL, will also be included under RoDTEP, where one of the key problems is inadequate budgetary allocation to cover all products.

"It will refund all embedded taxes and make our products globally competitive. The scheme will go a long way

in bringing back positive sentiments and helping the Indian textile value chain attain \$100 billion annual exports in next three years," said A Sakthivel, chairman of the Apparel Export Promotion Council. Textiles secretary Singh said that a boost for investment also augurs well for generating jobs in a sector that is amongst the top employers in the economy.

"It is a globally accepted principle that taxes and duties should not be exported, to enable a level playing field in the international market for the exporters. In addition, import duties and GST which are generally refunded, there are various other taxes/duties that are levied by central, state and local government, which are not refunded to exporters.

Ford in talks with Ola for contract mfg

Nandini.Sengupta@timesgroup.com

Chennai: Ford is looking to wrap up its Indian manufacturing operations and may take a call on its Maraimalainagar and Sanand factories later this year.

The American automaker has been in talks with various car companies for both contract manufacturing and/or sale of its Indian factories, the latest being with Ola, which could use Ford's factories to build electric cars.

An Ola spokesperson refused to comment, while Ford India's spokesman said: "We would not like to comment on speculation. We continue to assess our capital allocations in India and expect to have an answer in the second half of this year."

Ford went slow with their contract manufacturing discussions for

two years because "talks were at an advanced level with Mahindra & Mahindra", said a source.

The source said it was looking at "cross-badging and new product alliance plans with the Indian partner would take care of Ford India's 4,00,000-units-per-annum capacity at Maraimalainagar and Sanand".

SHUTTING DOWN MFG OPS IN INDIA

After the talks with M&M fell through in January, Ford initiated the process all over again to identify partners, including MG, Changan and Great Wall. Changan and Great Wall, though evinced preliminary interest, dropped its India plans (for now) because of geopolitical tensions at the Indo-China border.

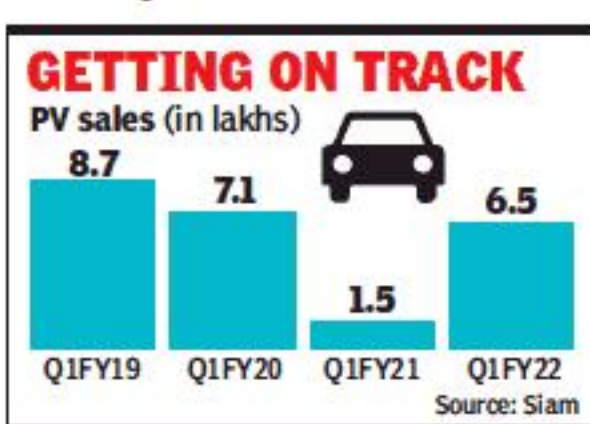
Pricey fuel to affect auto recovery: Siam

Pankaj.Doval@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The auto industry has raised a red flag over the spike in fuel prices and said that expensive petrol and diesel will hit demand for cars and two-wheelers, while leading to strong inflationary trends as freight costs go up.

The concern comes at a time when the industry grapples with uncertainties around the coronavirus pandemic, and possibility of a third wave.

Kenichi Ayukawa, the CEO of Maruti Suzuki who is also the president of industry body Siam, said that with petrol retail prices staying over Rs 100 in many parts of the country and diesel upwards of Rs 90, the sales of cars and two-wheelers will be hit. "Unfortunately, with the fuel prices going up, we will be getting a negative impact on our industry... Historically, whenever there is a rise in fuel



prices, there has been a slowdown in demand. We have to be cautious of this phenomenon, and monitor the market trend," Ayukawa said.

He said that the upward trend in fuel costs may dissuade people from using vehicles frequently. "We have to carefully watch the demand in the market because automatically (with the) fuel prices going up, people will hesitate to use vehicles. That is a big concern for us."

Disappointed with RBI move, says Mastercard

► From P 1

While it is banks and finance companies that issue cards, they partner either Mastercard, Visa or RuPay for network usage. Whenever a card is swiped, the processing takes place on the payment network cloud. Mastercard has been directed to advise all card-issuing banks and non-banks to conform to these directions. The RBI said the order will not impact existing customers of Mastercard.

"Mastercard is fully committed to our legal and regulatory obligations in the markets we operate in. Since the issuance of the RBI directive

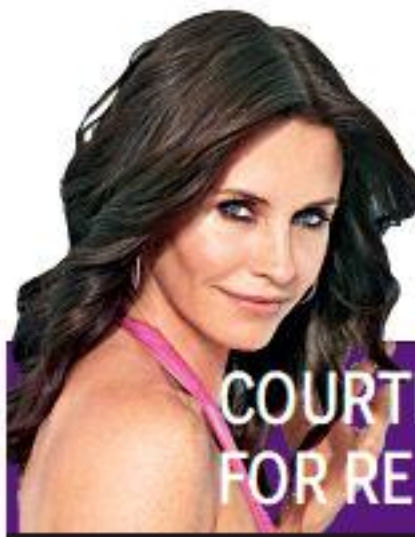
requiring on-soil storage of domestic payment transaction data in 2018, we have provided consistent updates and reports regarding our activities and compliance with the required stipulations. While we are disappointed with the stance taken by the RBI in their communication dated July 14, we will continue to work with them to provide any additional details required to resolve their concerns," the company said.

In terms of the number of employees, India ranks second among all markets for Mastercard. The company has invested \$1bn in India and has announced plans to invest \$1bn more. "Building on our

considerable and continued investments in India, we remain committed to working with our customers and partners in advancing on the government's Digital India vision," the statement added. Mastercard is the third US company to face an RBI ban after American Express and Diners Club, which faced similar restrictions in April. Amex has said that while it is not accepting fresh applications, it is committed to complying with all regulations.

Banking sources said that Visa has complied with the data-localisation norms, which is why the payment network was not subject to any strictures.

Full report on www.toi.in



COURTENEY COX BAGS FIRST EMMY NOMINATION FOR 'FRIENDS' FOR REUNION EPISODE, ALMOST 20 YEARS AFTER SHOW ENDED



'SPICE GIRL' EMMA BUNTON MARRIES PARTNER JADE JONES IN A LOW-KEY CEREMONY FOLLOWING 15-YEAR ENGAGEMENT

Nine Chinese among 12 killed in Pak bus blast; China seeks punishment

Omer Farooq Khan | TNN

Islamabad: At least 12 people, nine of them Chinese nationals and two Pakistani soldiers, were killed and several others injured in a blast on a bus carrying 41 workers to a hydroelectric project on the Indus in a remote Kohistan region of northern Pakistan on Wednesday Beijing said it was a bomb attack but Islamabad said the blast was due to vehicle failure. The explosion occurred at 7.30am when Chinese



The wreckage of the bus in Kohistan

se workers and accompanying Pakistani staff were headed to their workplace for an ongoing hydroelectric project in Dasu area of Kohistan district in the northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

China's embassy in Pakistan confirmed that nine of its nationals died. It termed the explosion a bomb attack but did not give more details. An embassy statement said: "Recently, personnel of a project of our company in Pakistan have been attacked... The Chinese

embassy in Pakistan urgently reminds Chinese citizens, enterprises and projects in Pakistan to pay close attention to the local security situation, strengthen the safety of project personnel, take strict precautions, and do not go out unless necessary." Condemning the attack, China's foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian urged Pakistan to "severely punish the perpetrators" and "earnestly protect the safety of Chinese nationals, organisations and projects" in the country.

Initially, there were conflicting reports with some officials saying that the bomb was planted in the bus while others describing it as a roadside explosion. However, the Pakistani foreign office contradicted reports of an attack, saying that the bus "plunged into a ravine after a mechanical failure resulting in leakage of gas that caused a blast". The FO put the death toll at 12, including nine Chinese nationals.

The Dasu hydroelectric project is part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. "This is clearly an act of terrorism that has been carefully planned and was supported by information," said an editorial in Global Times, a Chinese tabloid run by the ruling Communist Party's official People's Daily, calling it the most serious attack on Chinese nationals in recent years. (With inputs from agencies)

Taliban 'capture' key town in Kandahar, Pak seals border

It's Af's 2nd Busiest Entry Point



People wave Taliban flags as they drive through the Pakistani border town of Chaman on Wednesday after the insurgents claimed they had captured the Afghan side of the border crossing of Spin Boldak

Omer Farooq Khan | TNN

Islamabad: The Taliban on Wednesday claimed to have captured a key town in the southern Kandahar province that serves as Afghanistan's major border crossing with Pakistan's restive Balochistan province. Pakistani authorities sealed the Chaman-Spin Boldak border crossing for all kinds of trade and travel after the Taliban captured the area, border security officials said.

In a video shared with TOI, an Afghan insurgent leader called it a "peaceful" takeover of the border post in Wesh town of the southern Afghan province and claimed that 50 border guards had joined them. The video shows Pak-Afghan

flags being hoisted over a building in the background. Zabihullah Mujahid, a spokesman for the militant group, said an important road linking to the Wesh-Chaman border crossing with Pakistan was now under their control.

Afghan troops, locals in the border areas said, surrendered the key trade route following a fierce battle with the insurgents. In a Twitter post, Mujahid reassured locals that the Taliban would maintain security in the area and that cross-border trade would resume once an agreement has been reached with Pakistan.

The post is the second-most important crossing on the border of landlocked Afghanistan with Pakistan, linking the south-

China to Taliban: Make a clean break from all terrorist forces

Beijing: In a significant policy statement on the Taliban, China has asked it to make a "clean break" from all terrorist forces, especially the al-Qaida-backed Uighur Muslim militant group ETIM fighting for the volatile Xinjiang province's independence. During a joint press conference with Tajik foreign minister at Dushanbe, Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi stressed that further spread of the war in Afghanistan, especially an all-out civil war, should be avoided and pitched for restarting of intra-Afghan negotiations to realise political reconciliation and prevention of all kinds of terrorist forces from gaining ground in Afghanistan.

The Taliban, as a major military force in Afghanistan, should realise the responsibilities it bears for the nation, make a "clean break" with all terrorist forces and return to the mainstream of Afghan politics, Wang said on Tuesday. He also praised the Afghanistan government — which often accuses Beijing's "all-weather ally" Pakistan of harbouring the Taliban militants — saying that the government has done a lot of work for national unity, social stability and improvement of people's livelihood. Wang said that post the US troop withdrawal, China expects Afghanistan to establish a broadly inclusive political arrangement, pursue a solid Muslim policy, resolutely combat all terrorism and extremist ideologies, and be committed to friendly ties with all neighbouring countries. Observers say Wang's comments indicate that China is not buying the Taliban's recent overtures stating that it considers Beijing as a "friend".

hern Afghan city of Kandahar to Pakistani ports. Afghan government data shows about 900 trucks cross the Chaman-Spin Boldak frontier every day. The militants seized control of the post a week after Afghanistan's main trade gateways with neighbouring Iran and Turkmenistan in the western Herat province had fallen to the Taliban.

Rioting, looting go on in SA after Zuma arrest; over 70 dead, 1,200 held

Durban: South Africans rallied on Wednesday to protect their property after days of looting and destruction, as President Cyril Ramaphosa considered sending more troops onto the streets. More than 70 people have been killed in the unrest, the worst in South Africa for years, and hundreds of businesses wrecked. Food and fuel supplies are running short. Triggered by the jailing of ex-president Jacob Zuma, protests have widened into an orgy of looting and an outpouring of anger over the hardship and inequality in the country.

Shopping malls and warehouses have been ransacked or set ablaze in several cities, mostly in Zuma's home in KwaZulu-Natal province, especially in cities of Durban and Johannesburg. But in signs of a public backlash, residents in some areas on Wednesday turned suspected looters into police, blocked entrances to malls and in some cases armed themselves as vigilantes. In Vosloorus, Johannesburg, minibus taxi operators, many of whom have guns, fired bullets into the air to scare off looters. Citizens armed with guns blocked off

India raises concerns over attacks on PIOs

India's foreign minister S Jaishankar spoke to his South African counterpart Naledi Pandor about unrest in South Africa that has seen violence against Indian-origin people too, official sources said, adding that it was said to be a "cordial and open conversation". Separately, sources said, MEA secretary Sanjay Bhattacharya met the high commissioner of South Africa to India, Joel Sibusiso Ndebele, and expressed reservations about the issue. "South African side assured that their government was doing its utmost to enforce law and order... They expected the situation to improve soon," said a source on condition of anonymity. "Regarding reports of arson and looting against Indians and Indian-origin South Africans, the South African side conveyed that opportunistic elements were taking advantage of the situation to engage in violence," he added. TNN

streets in Durban. Security forces say they have arrested more than 1,200 people. REUTERS

After a 24-yr hunt, man finds his kidnapped son

A man has finally reunited with his abducted son after a 24-year hunt across China, handing out missing-person flyers, that burned through his savings and left him with massive debts. Guo Gangtang, 51, began searching for his then 2-year-old son after he was kidnapped in 1997 from their home in a village in Shandong.



Guo Gangtang has an emotional reunion with his son, who was kidnapped as a toddler, in Liaocheng

Guo travelled China on a motorcycle with a flag attached bearing his lost son's image and carrying a bag full of flyers. Guo's journey of around 5,00,000 km took him to most of China's provinces. He also went through 10 motorcycles. Guo's son was found after the ministry of public security launched a nationwide campaign this January to solve cold cases involving child abduction.

Police in June tracked down a man fitting his son's description in Henan. After a DNA test confirming the relationship, a family reunion with his son Guo Xinzheng, 26, now a teacher, was arranged on Sunday. "I've found my son, and I want to get back to normal life as soon as possible," Guo said in a TikTok video on Tuesday.

Guo's story inspired the 2015 hit film "Lost and Love". REUTERS

Covid cases rise in NYC as Delta variant spreads

Fuelled by the Delta variant, daily coronavirus case counts in New York City have climbed in recent days, even as the city seems determined to turn the page on the pandemic. Just a few weeks ago, there were only 200 new cases a day across the city on average, the lowest level since the early days of Covid-19. But in the past week, the city had a stretch of several days of 400 or more cases. And the test positivity rate has doubled: from below 0.6% on average to about 1.3%. Officials have said the vast majority of those testing positive have not been fully vaccinated.

With some 64% of adults in the city fully vaccinated, epidemiologists say it remains unlikely that the Delta variant will create conditions as

devastating as the past two virus waves. Still, Denis Nash, an epidemiologist, calls the uptick "concerning." The Delta variant was detected in a few cases in New York City in February during the second wave. By the end of May it accounted for about 8% of the cases sequenced by the city, and by mid-June, over 40%.

"The metrics to keep a close eye on are hospitalisations and deaths," said a professor of epidemiology. The seven-day average number of daily hospitalisations this week has stayed under 20. The city has recently seen four or five Covid deaths a day on average.

Los Angeles, meanwhile, recorded its fifth day in a row with over 1,000 new cases, with officials attributing the rise to Delta's spread. NYT

AROUND THE WORLD

EU unveils tough climate rules, eyes tax on foreign cos

The EU unveiled sweeping new legislation on Wednesday to help meet its pledge to cut emissions of the gases that cause global warming by 55% over this decade, including a controversial plan to tax foreign companies for the pollution they cause. The legislation presented by the EU's executive branch, the European Commission, encompasses about a dozen major proposals, ranging from the de-facto phasing out of gasoline and diesel cars by 2035 to new levies on gases from heating buildings. They involve a revamp of the bloc's emissions trading programme, under which companies pay for carbon dioxide they emit, and



FRANCE MARKS BASTILLE DAY France cautiously celebrated Bastille Day on Wednesday amid fears of Delta surge. The number of onlookers was limited and each person had to show pass proving they had been vaccinated

introduce taxes on shipping and aviation fuels for the first time. Most of the proposals build on existing laws that were designed to meet the EU's old goal of a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 1990 levels — and must be endorsed by the 27 member countries and EU lawmakers. AP

Russia's most aggressive ransomware group REvil disappears... mysteriously

Just days after President Biden demanded that President Putin of Russia shut down ransomware groups attacking American targets, the most aggressive of the groups suddenly went offline on Tuesday. The mystery is who made it happen. The group, called REvil, short for "Ransomware evil," has been identified by US intelligence as responsible for the attack on one of largest beef producers, JBS.

Two weeks after Biden and Putin met in Geneva last month, REvil took credit for a hack that affected thousands of businesses around the world over the July 4 holiday. That latest attack led to Biden's ultimatum in a call on Friday to Putin. Later, Biden said "we expect them to act," and when asked by a reporter later if he would take down the group's servers if Putin did not, the president simply

said, "Yes." He may've done exactly that. But that is only one possible explanation.

There were three main theories about why REvil — which reaped huge ransoms, including \$11 million from JBS — suddenly disappeared. One is that Biden ordered the US Cyber Command to bring the group's sites down. The second theory is Putin ordered the sites taken down. If so, that would be a gesture toward heeding Biden's warning. A third theory is that REvil decided that the heat was too intense, and took the sites down itself to avoid becoming caught in the crossfire between the US and Russia.

The disappearance, however, is not necessarily new. Vanishing acts are common in the ransomware world, where gangs tend to disappear and rebrand when they begin attracting too much heat. NYT

No. Z-28016/72/2016-PMSSY-III
Government of India
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
Ref No. ID-P291
Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI)

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India (GOI) is setting up of an All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Madurai, Tamil Nadu. The project is funded by a loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The Project proposes to hire a Consulting firm for providing Consulting services for setting-up of AIIMS, Madurai, Tamil Nadu including procurement of Hospital Medical Equipment (Package CS-1). Expression of Interest is invited from eligible and interested National and International Consultants in Health Projects having experience of working as Project Consultants in similar assignments. For more details, please visit PMSSY, MoHFW website i.e. <http://pmssy-mohfw.nic.in>.

Deputy Director (Administration), AIIMS Madurai
C/O Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
PMSSY Division,
3rd Floor, IRCS Building,
New Delhi-110001

DAVP 17102/11/0020/2122

A-293
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
ANANDAPUR BARRAGE PROJECT, SALAPADA
(E-mail id : cecabp@gmail.com/loabpbbsr@gmail.com)
E-procurement Notice No. CCEABP-03 of 2021-22

E-Procurement Notice No.	Name of the work	Bid No.	Tender cost in Lakhs (Approx)	Bid security Declaration	Cost of Bid Document (online)	Class of contractor	Period of completion	Availability of tender online for bidding		Date of opening of technical Bid (Cover-1)
								From	To	
Chief Construction Engineer A-293 Project, Salapada	Extended protection work to D/S of Anandapur Barrage from RD 1600m to RD 2500m on the Right Bank of Baitarani river.	ABP-ABD-01/01 of 2021-22	5320.00	Bid Security Declara tion	10,000/-	Super Class	09 (Nine) calendar months	19.07.21 11.30 AM	09.08.21 5.00 PM	10.08.21 11.30 AM

Further details can be seen from the Govt website www.tendersorissa.gov.in/www.downdorissa.gov.in
Addendum/ corrigendum/ cancellation if any required will be published in Govt. website only.

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
Anandapur Barrage Project
Salapada
OIPR - 32180/11/0004/21-22

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
NABARD & Rural Roads Circle, Chengalpattu
TENDER NOTICE
Tender Notice No.02 / 2021-2022 / SDO / Dt. 13.07.2021

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu item wise tender through online only will be received upto 18.08.2021, 15.00 hours by the Superintending Engineer (H) NABARD & Rural Roads, Chengalpattu Circle for One bridge work in respect of Cuddalore (H) NABARD & Rural Roads Division under NABARD RIDF XXVI - 26 Bridge works 2020-2021 and One bridge work in respect of Vellore (H) NABARD & Rural Roads Division under NABARD RIDF - 5 Bridge Works 2020-2021.

Details of Name of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from 20.07.2021 onwards in the Government website <https://ntenders.gov.in>. If any changes / corrections / amendments etc to the tender, it will be published on the above Government website only.

Superintending Engineer (H)
NABARD & Rural Roads Circle, Chengalpattu-1
DIPR/2042/Tender/2021

WESTERN RAILWAY-RATLAM DIVISION
E-TENDER NOTICE
No. W/623/NIT/1, Date: 12.07.2021. The Divisional Railway Manager (W/A) Ratlam invites 'Open Tender' through e-tender on website www.irops.gov.in. The details are as under- E-Tender No.: RTM/2021-22/65 Name of Work: Ratlam-Execution of various works under jurisdiction of DEN works Ratlam in connection with Ratlam division-Mission Raftar-Platform length extension for accommodating 1 Engine+24 coaches total 600 meters. (Balance Work) (1) Ratlam-Extension of passenger platforms at station. (2) Barnagar- Extension of platform no. 1 & 2. Approx. Value: ₹1,22,87,547.09/- Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹ 00 Completion Period: 12 Months Similar type of work: Any Civil Engineering work Date of uploading tender on website: 12.07.2021 Date of tender opening: 10.08.2021. Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria and terms and conditions are available on website: www.irops.gov.in.
Divisional Railway Manager (W/A),
WB-5/1/92 Western Railway, Ratlam
Like us on: www.facebook.com/WesternRly

भारत सरकार Government of India
परमाणु ऊर्जा विभाग Department of Atomic Energy
क्रय एवं भंडार निदेशालय Directorate of Purchase & Stores
संघर्ष/Ref : DPS/CPU/09/D1/1279/19-20/242 Date : 13-07-2021
e-Tender Notice

भारत के राष्ट्रपति के लिए और की ओर से निदेशक, क्रय एवं भंडार द्वारा निम्नलिखित ऑनलाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं / Online tenders are invited by Director, P&S for and on behalf of the President of India for the following :

क्र. सं. S. No.	निविदा संख्या Tender Number	संक्षिप्त विवरण Brief Description	निविदा प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तारीख/ Due date of submission UPTO 2.30 pm
1	DPS/CPU/04/D3/2591/PT	(NbTi) Low temperature superconducting insulated wire	20/07/2021
2	DPS/CPU/04/MED/37188/PT	INJECTION INTRAVENOUS AMPHOTERICIN B 50 MG	02/08/2021
3	DPS/CPU/10/D2/4649/PT	N-BUTANOL IN TANKER	04/08/2021
4	DPS/CPU/04/D3/2627/PT	NITROGEN AND OXYGEN DETERMINATOR	09/08/2021

संपूर्ण निविदा दस्तावेज वेबसाइट <https://etenders.dpsdae.gov.in> पर देखे जा सकते हैं तथा वहाँ से डाउनलोड भी किए जा सकते हैं। निविदा में भाग लेने के लिए एनरोलमेंट अनिवार्य है। निविदाएं केवल ऑनलाइन प्रस्तुत करनी हैं। तकनीकी सहायता के लिए संपर्क 020-25315555 EXTN No.6, विक्रेताओं को हमारे उपरोक्त पोर्टल पर एनरोल करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया जाता है। Complete tender documents can be viewed and downloaded from website <https://etenders.dpsdae.gov.in>. Enrolment is mandatory for participating in Tender. Tenders are to be submitted online only. For Technical assistance, CONTACT 020 25315555 EXTN No.6 mail to support.dpsdae@nextenders.com. Vendors are encouraged to enroll on our above sifted portal.

जल संसाधन विभाग
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
बाढ़ नियंत्रण प्रमंडल-1, झंझारपुर
पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या - 02 SBD / 2021-22
(राष्ट्रीय / राजकीय स्पर्धा)
(केवल ई-टेंडर पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

शुद्धि पत्र-

इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 746 दिनांक 14.06.2021 द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं 02 SBD / 2021-22 जिसका PR No-02338 (WRD) 2021-22 है, में निम्नांकित संशोधन किये जाते हैं :-

- क्रमांक 1 में कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि 17 माह के स्थान पर 21 माह पढ़ा जाय ।
- क्रमांक 3 में अंकित निविदा कागजात डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड करने की अवधि दिनांक 05.07.2021 से दिनांक 11.07.2021 के स्थान पर दिनांक 05.07.2021 से दिनांक 13.07.2021 पढ़ा जाय ।
- क्रमांक 5 में तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि 13.07.2021 के स्थान पर दिनांक 15.07.2021 पढ़ा जाय ।
- क्रमांक 14 (ख) में अग्रघन की मूलप्रति एवं online mode में जमा किये गये अग्रघन की राशि का UTR/Transaction की प्रति जमा करने की तिथि 13.07.2021 के स्थान पर दिनांक 15.07.2021 पढ़ा जाय ।
- निविदा अभिलेख (SBD) के clause 10cc एवं schedule 'F' में अंकित clause 10cc " Not Applicable " के स्थान पर " Applicable " पढ़ा जाय । उपरोक्त शुद्धियों के अनुसार निविदा अभिलेख को यथा स्थान संशोधित समझा जाय । शेष सभी नियम एवं शर्तें पूर्ववत् रहेंगे ।

(ई0 अख्तर जमील)
कार्यपालक अभियंता
बाढ़ नियंत्रण प्रमंडल-1, झंझारपुर
मो नं 7463889833
PR. No. 003444 (WRD) 2021-22
नोवल कोरोना के संघर्ष में विरल जनकरी एवं सहयोग हेतु **104** पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।

A-295
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER
SUBARNAREKHA & BUDHABALANGA BASIN
AT/PO : LAXMIPOSI, DIST. - MAYURBHANJ
Government of Odisha "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid Identification No. 06/21-22 of CEBM, SBB, Laxmiposi

- Name of Works : Construction of Baisinga Branch Canal from RD 58.00 KM to RD 62.02 KM including all structures with Cement Concrete Lining and Service road (Package No. XXVI)
- Estimated Cost (Lakh) : Rs. 2268.90 Lakh
- Period of Completion : 24 (Twenty Four) Calendar Months
- Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal : 16.07.2021 at 10 AM
- Last date/time for receipt of bid in the portal : 10.08.2021 up to 5 PM
- Name & Address of the O.I.T : Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, O/O the CE&BM, Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal "<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>".

Sd/-
Chief Engineer & Basin Manager
Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin
Laxmiposi
cebmsb2019@gmail.com
OIPR - 32074/11/0005/21-22

A-296
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER
SUBARNAREKHA & BUDHABALANGA BASIN
AT/PO : LAXMIPOSI, DIST. : MAYURBHANJ
Government of Odisha "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid Identification No. 05/21-22 of CEBM, SBB, Laxmiposi

- Name of Works : Construction of Baisinga Branch Canal from RD 54.00 KM to RD 58.00 KM including all structures with Cement Concrete lining and SeVice Road, (Package No. XXV)
- Estimated Cost (Lakh) : Rs. 2702.65 Lakh
- Period of Completion : 24 (Twenty Four) Calendar Months
- Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal : 15.07.2021 at 10.00 AM
- Last date/time for receipt of bid in the portal : 12.08.2021 up to 5.00 PM
- Name & Address of the O.I.T : Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, O/O the CE&BM, Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal "<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>".

Sd/-
Chief Engineer & Basin Manager
Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin
Laxmiposi
cebmsb2019@gmail.com
OIPR - 32074/11/0006/21-22

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-Tender
E-Tender No - 2021/WP/Mech/JUDW/WT-19 (Open)
For & On behalf of President of India, Dy. CME-I/WP/Patna invites e-tender for the following works as detailed :-

- Name of the work and location : Composite Works (Civil, Electrical, Mechanical) involving construction of Industrial sheds, other ancillary buildings, Track works, Drainage system, Electrification and illumination works, Procurement and commissioning of specified Mechanical Machineries & Plant (EOT crane etc.) in connection with LHB coach POH enhancement & Wagon Bogie Shop Extension at Jagadhari Workshop, Northern Railway.
- Estimated cost: Rs. 18,87,51,719.04.
- Date & Time for closing of tender : 24.08.2021 up to 13.00 hrs., 4. Website particulars and notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and downloaded : Tender can only be downloaded and Bid from IREPS website: www.irops.gov.in for any other information please contact office of CAO/ Workshop Projects/Indian Railways, Chamber Bhawan, 3rd floor J.C. Road, Patna - 800001.
- Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer-I Workshop Projects/Patna PR/503/WPO/MECH/T/21-22/40



BOLT DESCRIBES ONLINE RACIST ABUSE OF THREE ENGLAND PLAYERS AS 'HORRIBLE' AND 'UNFAIR'

ITALY'S EURO 2020 HERO, GOALKEEPER GIANLUIGI DONNARUMMA BIDS ADIEU TO MILAN, JOINS PSG



GRAPPLING WITH ADVERSITY

Paralysed 3 years ago, wrestler Sonam now aims for Oly glory

Hindol.Basu@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Late in 2017, it seemed that she would never be able to take to the mat again. A nerve-related twinge on her right shoulder, that also affected the right arm, left young grappler Sonam Malik paralysed on her right side. Her world came crashing down. After all, she was fresh from winning gold at the World Cadet Championships in Athens, Greece.

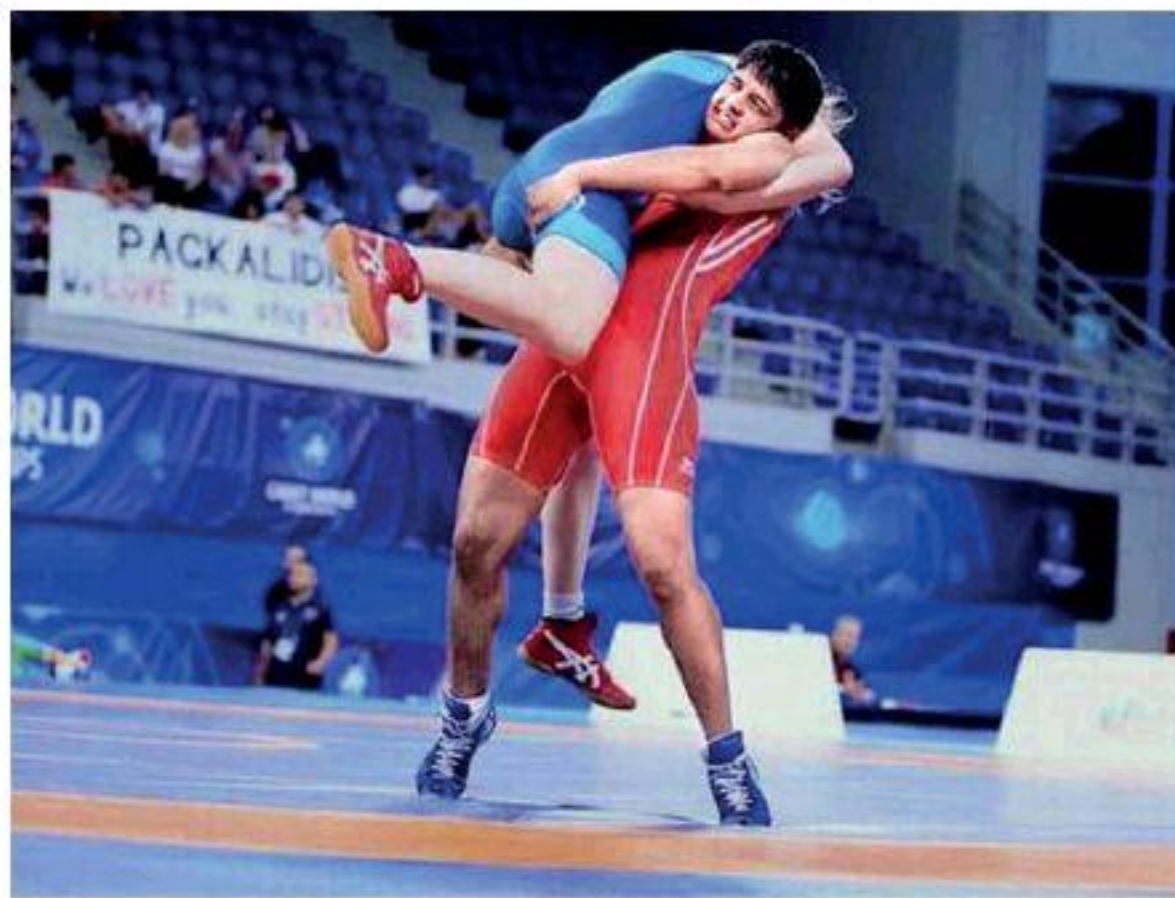
Cut to present... Sonam, 19, has booked her berth for the upcoming Tokyo Olympics in the 62kg category and is gunning for glory at the showpiece event.

After suffering from the paralysis, Sonam was out of action for six months. "She couldn't hold her arm up. She wasn't able to grip anything with any strength. The diagnosis was that the nerves in her shoulder were simply not transmitting any impulses down to her arm. The doctor told her to forget about wrestling and think how she would live from there onwards," Ajmer Malik, Sonam's coach, told TOI.

Sonam, who hails from Madina village in Haryana's Sonapat district, has been honing her skills under Ajmer at the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Sports Complex in Madina since 2014. "The doctor said if it was in Sonam's destiny, then she would recover," he added. Destiny ruled in Sonam's favour and she recovered.

Her father, Rajender Malik, who himself was a wrestler during his younger days and currently works as delivery man at a sugar mill in Madina, played a big role in her recovery. "Due to my limited earnings, I couldn't afford to get her treated by any renowned doctor in a big city. We used desi (ayurvedic) methods to heal her. I think God wanted Sonam to be on the mat again, that's why she recovered in just six months," recalled Rajender.

Her treatment, however, continued for a year. In 2018, Sonam was back on the mat and won bronze



GIFTED AND GRITTY: Sonam's coach Ajmer Malik feels the wrestler's greatest quality is her speed, flexibility and the ability to lift rivals on her shoulder with effortless ease and throw them down on the mat

medals at the Asian Cadet Championship and World Cadet Championship. In 2019, she won another World Cadet gold.

She graduated to the senior level.

BRAVEHEART

thereafter. Soon she started making waves and hit the headlines in early 2020 after defeating Rio Olympics bronze medallist Sakshi Malik at a national trial in Lucknow. From there onwards, Sonam has got the better of Sakshi three more times.

Earlier this year in April, Sonam became the youngest Indian woman wrestler to qualify for the Olympics by reaching the 62kg final at the Asian Olympic Qualifiers in Almaty, Kazakhstan. "She (Sonam) is very quick on the mat. She is very flexible and the most important quality she possesses is that she can lift opposition on her shoulder with effortless ease and throw her down on the mat," Ajmer tells when asked what makes Sonam stand out.

"The good thing about Sonam is

that she seldom takes any kind of pressure," Kuldeep Malik, the chief national women's coach, feels. At the Olympics, Sonam will be taking to the mat on August 4. "It gives me goosebumps to even think that I will be realising my dream (of competing at the Olympics). I saw Sakshi on TV when she won the bronze in Rio. The Olympic arena, the stage, the overall atmosphere. It's the ultimate event for a sports person."

"I know there is a lot of competition in my category. I know I am not one of the favourites to win, but on my day I can defeat the best. If any one takes me lightly, it'll be at their own peril," Sonam says with confidence. "I have studied the video footage of my competition and have made my plans accordingly."

In Sonam's category, the favourite to win gold is Aisuluu Tynybekova of Kazakhstan. Other contenders are: Yusein Taybe Mustafa of Bulgaria, Yuliia Ostapchuk of Ukraine, Yukako Kawai of Japan and Kayla Kiyoko of the United States.

Indian sailing team arrives in Tokyo

Sabi.Hussain@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Indian sailors, who became the first batch from the country's contingent to arrive in Tokyo for the Olympic Games on Tuesday, faced "no troubles" exiting the city's Haneda airport after clearing their testing and immigration process before checking into the Athletes Village situated in the picturesque Harumi waterfront district. The four-member sailing team comprised of Varun Thakkar, Vishnu Saravanan, Nethra Kumanan and Ganapathy Chengappa.

Vishnu, talking to TOI from Tokyo, said that it's been a great experience so far with the host nation Japan "efficiently" prepared for the Games. "Japan has been very efficient and there has been no troubles travelling. It's been a great experience so far, so athletes should enjoy their journey," he said.

It's been learnt that the sailors have been told by the authorities to remain off social media until after the Olympics primarily to focus on their campaign. The sailing competitions will begin on July 25 and will be held at the Enoshima Yacht Harbour on the Enoshima Island.



READY FOR VITAMIN SEA: Indian sailors Varun Thakkar (from left), Ganapathy Chengappa, Vishnu Saravanan and Nethra Kumanan at the Tokyo airport

Vishnu, who was preparing in Malta for the Olympics, said that he would take the whole experience of participating in the Games as a "learning curve" for him, while expressing confidence that he will give his best shot. "We will go to the Games without any performance pressure. We have trained hard and know our boats. The experience in itself would be a great learning curve for us."

RIDING A WAVE

Vishnu will be sailing his speed boat in laser standard class while the pair of Varun and Ganapathy will compete in 49er class. Nethra, who was the first to make the cut for Tokyo and the first Indian woman sailor to qualify for the Games, will spearhead her campaign in laser radial class.

Since the sailors arrived in Tokyo from their respective training base in Europe they were exempted from undergoing three-day mandatory isolation period imposed on athletes arriving from India.

No mental baggage for judoka Sushila

Tridib.Baparnash@timesgroup.com

Chandigarh: A hamstring tear in 2018 left her depressed and out of the Asian Games, and by the time she bounced back for a shot at Tokyo Olympics qualification, the global pandemic played spoilsport to her chances, but judoka Likmabam Sushila Devi has eventually learnt to deal with adversities and emerge stronger.

Sushila, India's lone representative in the event in Tokyo, has qualified through the continental quota which is allotted on the basis of a judoka's ranking in the region. Asia has 10 quota slots and Sushila, with 988 points, is seventh on the list.

Having overcome the obstacles, Sushila is now keen to prove herself at the global stage, and with very few expecting a podium finish in the discipline, the 26-year-old is at ease, sans the tag of a

EAGER FOR ACTION

medal contender at the Games.

"Qualifying for the Olympics is a dream for any athlete, but the mental pressure of getting a medal can sometimes lead to an anti-climax. For me, thankfully I don't carry the mental baggage, but I know I am good enough for a medal," Sushila told TOI during a virtual interaction.

"I have been training day in and out, to cope with the loss in training time due to Covid-19 pandemic. Even the second wave of the pandemic hurt us big time, when many of the campers



HURT AND SOUL: Sushila Devi (L) has not let a serious hamstring tear affect her spirit

at the Indira Gandhi Stadium had tested positive, but that's past now. We can't live on excuses, we have to earn a medal," the Manipuri asserted.

Lack of training affected Sushila's performance in the Tashkent Grand Slam 2021 held at the Humo Arena in March. While she edged past her Russian opponent Anastasia Pavlenko in the first round of the women's 48kg category, the Indian lost to Mongolia's Urantsetseg Munkhbat by Ippon in the second.

In April, she was forced to pull out of the Asia-Oceania Olympic qualifiers, just a day before the official weighing-in after one of the team members had tested positive in Bishkek. And in June, the 2014 Commonwealth Games silver medallist

made a first round exit from the World Championships in Budapest after going down to Chile's Mary Dee Vargas Lee.

Earlier this week, she returned to Delhi for the pre-departure camp after a month-long training in Chateau Gontier in France, where the focus was on fitness and technical improvement under French coach Rodrigue Chenet.

"The second wave almost snatched our chances as we were forced to stay indoors, but thankfully the trip to France helped me get back into training mode once again, the focus was mainly on strength training and working on the technical glitches. This will keep me in good stead," she quipped.

COVID CLUSTER AT OLYMPIC HOTEL AS TOKYO CASES SURGE

A Covid-19 cluster at a Japanese hotel where dozens of Brazilian Olympic team members are staying raised new concerns about infections at the Tokyo Games, as the host city recorded its highest number of new cases for six months. Just over a week before the opening ceremony, the spreading infections highlight the risks of staging the world's biggest sports event during a pandemic even without spectators in sports venues.

Seven staff at the hotel in Hamamatsu city, southwest of Tokyo, had tested positive for the coronavirus, a city official said. But a 31-strong Brazilian Olympic delegation, which includes judo athletes, are in a "bubble" in the hotel and separated from other guests and have not been infected. The Russian women's rugby sevens team were also in isolation after their masseur tested positive as was part of the South African men's rugby team after a case on their inbound flight. Tokyo recorded 1,149 new cases on Wednesday, the most since Jan. 22. AFP

US TO SEND 2ND-LARGEST TEAM IN HISTORY

The United States will send the second-largest team in its history to compete at the Tokyo Olympics this month with women athletes

making up more than half of the delegation for a third straight Summer Games, the US Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC) said on Tuesday. The USOPC said in a statement that 613 athletes would take part in the Olympics, which open in Tokyo on July 23. Only the 648-member 1996 US Olympic team — when the Games were staged on home soil in Atlanta — was larger.

The 2021 team also includes 329 women, the third Summer Olympics in a row that female athletes have outnumbered their male counterparts. REUTERS

CHINA SENDING MORE THAN 400 ATHLETES

China will send 431 athletes to the Tokyo Games as part of a 777-member delegation, its largest at an Olympics outside China, the official Xinhua News Agency said on Wednesday. The team includes 298 female athletes, more than twice the 133 male competitors. They range in age from 14-year-old female diver Quan Hongchan to 52-year-old male equestrian rider Li Zhenqiang, Xinhua said.

"This is the largest ever Olympic delegation China has sent overseas," Gao Zhidan, deputy director of China's State General Administration



of Sport, was quoted as saying.

The delegation to the Beijing Games in 2008 was larger, with 1,099 people including 639 athletes. AFP

CHINA TT BOSS SAYS COVID RULES 'VERY DIFFICULT'

China's table tennis chief has bemoaned Covid-19 safety rules at the Tokyo Olympics, saying they are making life "extremely difficult" as his team looks to sweep the golds once again. China have won 28 of the 32 table tennis titles awarded at the Olympics, dominating a sport in a way that has rarely been matched. But the lead-up to the pandemic-delayed Games has thrown up several challenges, from inconsistent form among China's top players to new rules to stop the coronavirus spreading.

"We didn't expect some epidemic rules like not wiping the game table with your hand, or blowing (on the ball)," Chinese Table Tennis Association president Liu Guoliang told state broadcaster CCTV. "The preparation for this Olympic Games is actually extremely difficult," he added, in an interview aired Tuesday. AP

ACTIVIST ATHLETES READY TO TEST RULE BOOK
Fifty-three years after Tommie Smith and John Carlos's iconic medal podium protest in Mexico City, a new generation of activist athletes is poised to take centre-stage at the Tokyo Olympics.

While the duo is now celebrated

as civil rights heroes — the International Olympic Committee remains opposed to any kind of protest on medal podiums. It means that US athletes determined to use their platform to draw attention to racial injustice in the wake of George Floyd's murder last year are on a collision course with Olympic chiefs.

For years, the IOC has been guided by Rule 50 of its Olympic Charter, which dictates that "no kind of demonstration or political, religious, or racial propaganda" is permitted at Olympic sites. REUTERS

SINDHU TO OPEN AGAINST KSENIA OF ISRAEL

World champion PV Sindhu will open her campaign in the Tokyo Olympics against Polikarpova Ksenia of Israel on July 25. Sindhu, who had lost to Spain's Carolina Marin in the 2016 Olympics final, has been clubbed in an easy Group J, also comprising Hong Kong's Cheung Ngan Yi. Ngan Yi is ranked 34th in the world while Polikarpova is 58th.

World No. 7 Sindhu is seeded sixth in the tournament. In men's singles, B Sai Praneeth will face Misha Zilberman of Israel in his opening Group D match on the first day of competitions on July 24. The Indian is seeded sixth. Earlier on Wednesday she said she is taking the weight of expectations in a positive way and won't let them affect her.

The World No. 10 men's doubles pairing of Satwiksairaj Ranki Reddy and Chirag Shetty will take on Chinese Taipei duo of Lee Yang and Wng Chi-Lin in their opening Group A match. AGENCIES

DO-IT-YOURSELF MEDAL CEREMONY AT TOKYO GAMES

Tokyo: Olympic champions at the Tokyo Games starting next week can forget about having their medals hung around their necks as they stand on the podium, shaking hands with dignitaries and soaking up their success. Instead, the three medals will be presented on a tray to the athletes on the podium and they then have to hang them around their own neck in front of the empty

stands. There will also be no handshakes or hugs.

"The medals will not be given around the neck," International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach told a virtual media roundtable on Wednesday. "They will be presented to the athlete on a tray and the athlete will take the medal him or herself."

"The person who will put the medal on the tray will do it with disinfected gloves. Presenters and athletes will wear a mask. There will be no handshakes and hugs," he added. REUTERS



Maguire's father suffered rib injuries in 'stampede'

London: England defender Harry Maguire said his father was left with rib injuries and struggled to breathe after being trampled by fans during crowd disturbances at Wembley Stadium before the Euro 2020 final against Italy.

EXTRA TIME

Supporters clashed with each other and officials, breached security cordons and charged into the perimeter area of Wembley before the start of Sunday's game, which Italy won in a penalty shootout.

"I think he was involved in a stampede and suffered a couple of injuries to his ribs. I spoke to him, he said he was scared," Maguire later told The Sun.

Rashford could be out for three months post surgery
Manchester United forward Marcus Rashford could be

sidelined for up to three months after deciding to have surgery on a shoulder issue following Euro 2020, according to reports on Tuesday.

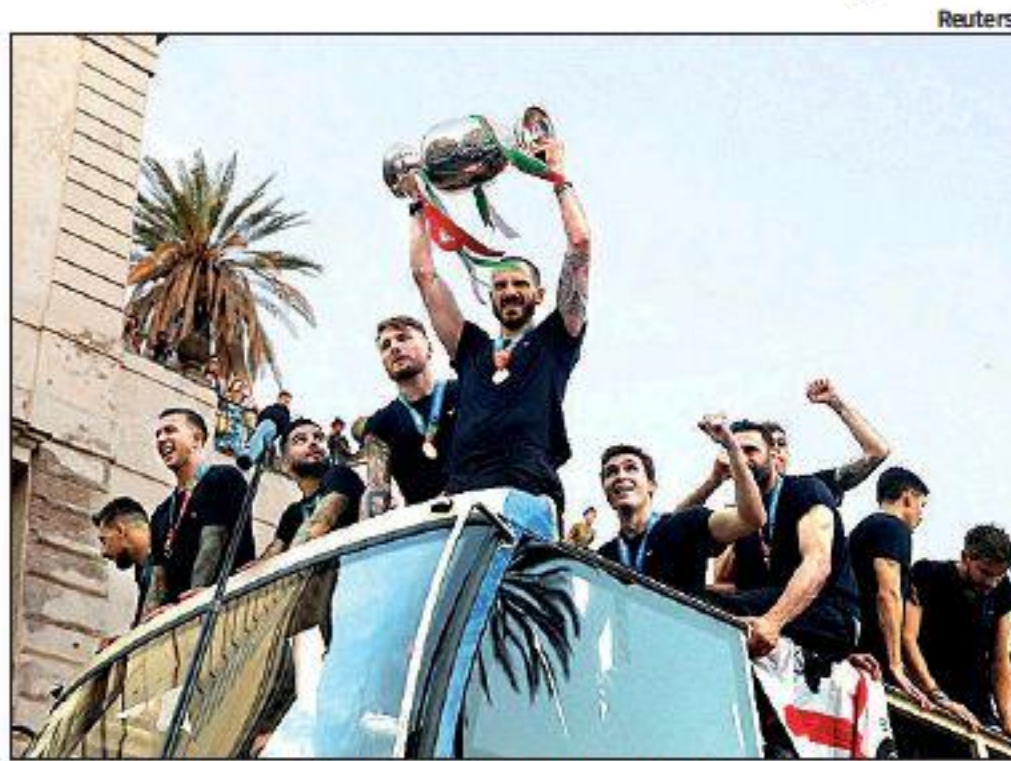
Rashford, 23, had a scan earlier in the day on the issue which has hampered the England striker since the end of the club season, the Daily Telegraph and the BBC reported.

He will only be able to have the operation at the end of July due to the surgeon's availability.

Messi to sign new five-year deal with Barca: Reports

Lionel Messi is set to extend his stay at Barcelona by signing a new five-year deal, with the Argentine talisman set to take a wage cut, La Vanguardia newspaper and ESPN reported on Wednesday.

Messi, Barca's all-time top scorer and appearance maker, technically ended his 21-year association with the club last month and is currently a



The Italy team drive through Rome on an open top bus tour after winning the Euros 2020, with Leonardo Bonucci holding up the trophy

free agent after his previous contract expired.

Row over Italians' open bus tour after Euro 2020 win

Italian team players overrode police objections in taking an open bus tour through the streets of Rome after their Euro 2020 victory, even though this had been forbidden for fear of spreading Covid-19

infections, the capital's prefect said.

Rome prefect Matteo Pianedosi, who is the top public security authority, said the Italian football federation had agreed to hold a controlled ceremony in one of central Rome's major squares, the Piazza del Popolo, but then changed its mind and reiterated a request to use open bus.

Leak of audio is Super League payback: Real boss

Old audio recordings of Real Madrid president Florentino Perez privately criticising some of the club's former players were publicly released as retribution for his involvement in the Super League, he said Tuesday.

The Spanish newspaper El Confidencial on Tuesday published an article saying Perez made several critical remarks about former stars Iker Casillas and Raul Gonzalez.

"I understand that the fact that they have been published now, so many years on from the time the conversations took place, owes to my involvement as one of the driving forces behind the Super League," Perez later said.

Wolves 'keeper Patricio is Mourinho's first signing

Portugal international goalkeeper Rui Patricio has signed a three-year contract with Serie A club Roma from Premier League side Wolverhampton Wanderers, the Italian club announced.

The 33-year-old becomes new Portuguese coach Jose

Mourinho's first signing in a deal which runs until June 2024 and is worth an initial 11.5 million euros (\$13.5 million) plus bonuses, the club said.

Stewards bribed, tickets forged at Wembley: Press

England fans allegedly bribed stewards and forged tickets to enter London's Wembley Stadium for the Euro 2020 final, causing chaos that defender Harry Maguire said had left his father injured.

The Guardian on Wednesday quoted an anonymous fan as saying ticketless fans used the messaging app Telegram to share advice on breaching security before and during Sunday's disturbances, adding to anecdotal evidence of a planned event. Around 300 supporters poured through disabled entrances, when they were opened, the source said. AGENCIES

Wimbledon matches probed for fixing

London: A probe by a German newspaper has revealed that two matches at this year's Wimbledon are under investigation for match-fixing. It also said that the investigation was launched after several specific and suspicious bets took place around the matches during the tournament.

According to the report by Die Welt, suspicions were raised over a men's doubles match in the first round. There were large live bets placed against a favoured duo at "irregular times". The pair won the first set, increasing the odds of their defeat. However, the duo ended up losing the next three sets.

In another match, extremely high bets were placed at the end of the second set on the exact score in the third set. There were also many 'special bets' on the maximum number of service in the entire match. Both bets ended up coming true.

The International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA), which fight corruption and match fixing in tennis, has not released any information surrounding the investigations. This year, the ITIA has received 34 alerts since January.

In its latest report on the second quarter, the ITIA said that they received a total of 11 match alerts between April and June this year through its Confidential Memoranda of Understanding with the regulated betting industry. Nine of those matches took place on the ITF men's and women's circuit while two matches happened in ATP 250 events.

The All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club said the "integrity of the sport" is of most importance at Wimbledon. "We continue to invest in additional measures to support the integrity operation onsite during The Championships." AGENCIES

With Covid cases rising in UK, BCCI sends team a reminder

Jay Shah's Letter Ensured Players Stayed Away From Euro 2020 & Wimbledon finals

K.ShrinivasRao@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: A three-week break for Indian cricketers is a rarity these days, given their packed schedules. However, members of the Indian team, including the coaching and support staff, managed just that post the World Test Championship final.

The entire unit enjoyed a long holiday in the United Kingdom for around 20-odd days before regrouping once again in London this week. They are now ready to start preparing for the first Test match against England starting

August 4.

The Indian team will leave London on Thursday and head to Durham, two-and-a-half-hours away from Trent Bridge, the venue for the first Test match against England, to play the two warm-up

INDIA IN ENGLAND

matches. The first is a four-day game scheduled against a combined county XI starting July 20, followed by an intra-squad game in the last week.

On July 30, the Indian team will travel to Nottingham.

During this window, the cricketers — who had received their first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine in India before flying out — also got their second dose in the UK earlier this month.

Given the recent spate of Covid cases in England, team members stayed away from attending the Euro 2020 final at Wembley and the Wimbledon final this Sunday. Despite having match-tickets for the England-Italy clash, the team decided to watch the game from the confines of the team hotel.

A good reason for doing so is also because of an email that BCCI secretary Jay Shah shot to the team members last week, asking them to ensure that all Covid-related protocols are being taken



and crowded places are being avoided at all costs.

"I trust you and your family members are doing well and enjoying the three-week break before the tour commences. I have been made aware of the existing coronavirus situation in the United Kingdom.

"While the vaccination drive is going ahead in full steam, there has been a sharp rise in the number of positive cases being recorded daily.

"BCCI's excellent working relationship with the ECB has enabled us to administer a second dose of the vaccine to you and your family members," Shah wrote.

However, he went on to add in the letter that while the vaccine

boosts one's "fighting capacity" against the virus, it does not guarantee total immunity or complete resistance.

"In fact, the new variant is spreading rapidly, and we are not out of the danger zone. You may be aware that the ECB was forced to field another team to play against Pakistan and even the white-ball series between India and Sri Lanka white-ball had to be postponed.

"In view of this, it is advisable that places of mass congregation, crowded shopping malls/stores and eateries and watering holes be avoided by you in the best interest of everyone," Shah wrote.

The email ensured that the Indian team stayed away from the Euro and Wimbledon and, in

general, from venturing out in public.

Follow protocols, players told
The BCCI has asked the team to "understand the gravity of the situation, follow protocols and stay within the team environment, which is a more controlled one".

"Also, barring the unfortunate injury to Shubman (Gill), all the remaining 23 members are available for selection, which is a good sign. What's also pleasing is the way Abhimanyu Easwaran is finding his feet within the team. He'll hit the nets starting the day after and we'll get to know a bit more about him from the perspective of this series," say those tracking developments.

ICC confirms new pts system: 12 for win and four for draw

Dubai: The ICC on Wednesday officially confirmed that teams will be awarded standardised 12 points for a win, four for a draw and six for a tie during the second World Test Championship cycle which kicks off with the five-match series between India and England in August. The ICC further said that percentage of points won will be used to determine standings in the 2021-23 cycle.

WTC

Earlier, each Test series carried a value of 120 points which led to certain inequality in the table as a team winning a Test in a two-match series got 60 points compared to five-game series where a Test win is valued at 24 points.

ICC acting chief executive Geoff Allardice said the changes were made to simplify the points system while taking learnings from the disruption



India and New Zealand played in the first WTC final in June

last year.

"We received feedback that the previous points system needed to be simplified. The cricket committee took this into consideration when proposing a new, standardised points system for each match. It maintained the principle of ensuring that all matches in a WTC series count towards a team's standing, while accommodating series varying in length between two Tests and five Tests," Allardice said in an ICC statement.

"During the pandemic we had to change to ranking teams on the points table using the percentage of available points won by each team, since all series could not be completed.

"This helped us determine the finalists and we were able to complete the championship within the scheduled time frame. This method also allowed us to compare the relative performance of teams at any time, regardless of how many matches they had played."

Apart from the India-England series, the Ashes later this year will be the only other five-match affair in the second cycle which will end in June 2023. Australia's tour of India next year is the only four-Test series in the upcoming cycle.

The nine Test teams will play a total of six series — three home and three away just like the previous edition. **PTI**

In-form Westwood confident of breaking duck at majors

Sandwich: It has been a decade since Lee Westwood was at the top of his game and the world rankings but the Englishman sees no reason why he cannot find the missing pieces of the puzzle to become a first-time major champion at this week's British Open.

After sinking to 125th in the world rankings in 2018, Westwood found a second wind to his career when he won his first title in four years at the Nedbank Challenge in South Africa.

BRITISH OPEN

Since then, Westwood won again in Abu Dhabi and was crowned the European Tour's order of merit winner in 2020 and remains a shoo-in for a place in Europe's Ryder Cup team.

Having briefly topped the leaderboard before finishing tied-35th at the Scottish Open last weekend, Westwood believes his game is in a good place heading into the final major championship of the year starting Thursday.

"Coming into this week, I've played here twice in the Open Championship, missed the cut both times," Westwood, 48, told a news conference on Wednesday.

"I had it in my head a bit of a mental block that I didn't



England's Lee Westwood has played 87 majors without winning one

like the golf course, but played it yesterday and really enjoyed it and loved the way it was set up.

"I'm positive and hoping I can find some form and get into contention. Like all links tournaments, you need a little bit of luck with the weather, and like golf, you need a little bit of luck, you need some good breaks."

At the age of 50, Phil Mickelson became the oldest man to win a major title at the US PGA Championship in May.

Westwood said it was a reminder to the rest of the veterans on the field that a golfer's prime can be extended, thanks to the advances in sports science.

"My generation, mine and

Phil's generation, are now reaping the benefits of the hard work for the last 20 years, analysing movements in the swing and working on injury prevention to those parts of the body that get injured," Westwood added.

Westwood has featured in every edition of the British Open since his debut in 1995 and will break the record for major appearances without winning one if he fails on his 88th attempt at Royal St George's.

"That's nice, that record," Westwood said. "It shows I've been a good player for a long, long time. There's not many people who have played in as many major championships as me." **REUTERS**

Ashwin warms up for Tests with six wkts

London: R Ashwin sounded a warning bell for the English batsmen ahead of the five-Test series with a superb match-turning spell of 6 for 27 as Surrey bundled out Somerset for 69 in their second innings of the English County Championship contest here. Looking to get some quality match practice ahead of joining the Indian in Durham on Thursday, Ashwin did more than enough with 58 overs under his belt and a match haul of 7 for 127.

COUNTY GAME

If the first innings was used towards about building bowling workload and hitting the good areas, the second innings was more about showing his skill-sets with the famous carrom ball bamboozling opposition batsmen.

In fact, the veteran off-spinner bowled 15 unchanged overs with the new Dukes and got able support from left arm spinner Dan Moriarty who took 4 for 20 as Somerset were all out for 69 in only 29.1 overs after scoring 429 in their first essay.

This was after Surrey were all-out for 240, adding only a single run to their overnight score of 239 for eight. Surrey now chase a 258-run target. **PTI**

SNAPSHOTS

Jaffer named Odisha coach

Former Test opener and domestic doyen **Wasim Jaffer** on Wednesday was named chief coach of the Odisha senior side for the upcoming domestic season. "He (Jaffer) will be the head coach. He has been given a two-year contract," Subrata Behera, Odisha Cricket Association CEO said. **PTI**

Loss to Eng unsettled team, says Misbah
Pakistan head coach Misbah ul Haq on Wednesday admitted that the 0-3 thrashing at the hands of a back-up England team in the ODIs has unsettled the team and left him "very worried". "This series has unsettled us. It looks like we are standing

from where we started," Misbah said. **PTI**

I like to keep everyone happy: Dhawan

Shikhar Dhawan's idea of leadership is all about keeping the flock together and in a good state of mind. The left-handed opener was handed the reins of the team after Virat Kohli and other key players were sent to England for the WTC Final. "My idea is to keep everyone together and happy that is the most important thing," Dhawan said. **PTI**

ACTION TODAY

BASKETBALL: NBA Finals: Milwaukee Bucks vs Phoenix Suns, Game 4, 6.30 am (Star Sports 1)
CRICKET: Aus vs WI, 4th T20I, 5 am (Streaming on FanCode)
CYCLING: Tour de France, Stage 18, 5 pm (Eurosport)
GOLF: British Open, 9.15 pm (Eurosport).

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